

Wanderers attempt to rekindle their Trophy hopes

Blues grapple with fixture headache

WYCOMBE Wanderers boss Martin O'Neill voiced concern this week that next week's fixture congestion could jeopardize Blues' Conference title hopes.

Wanderers visit Sutton this Saturday in the FA Trophy semi final, for a second-leg match, before travelling to Slough in the Conference next Tuesday.

They then face home league games with Runcorn and Altrincham, respectively next Thursday and Saturday, before travelling to Gateshead in the Conference on Sunday, April 18.

By **NICK GOODMAN**

All this could be compounded if Wycombe force an FA Trophy replay, which would be played at Enfield next Wednesday, with Blues facing the prospect of five matches in seven days.

"We could possibly play Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday — I wouldn't do that to dead horses," said O'Neill.

He feels if an FA Trophy replay is needed — Blues are 3-2 down from the first leg — perhaps the Slough and

Runcorn games ought to be put off until a later date.

O'Neill commented on the fixture backlog, saying: "It can affect the championship; of course it can."

Meanwhile, O'Neill sympathised with Sutton's decision to field an entire reserve side in their 7-0 Diadora Premier Division defeat at Chesham last Wednesday before unleashing an entirely different team against Wycombe on Saturday.

"Good luck to them, I understand it," remarked O'Neill on Sutton's desire to keep their best side intact and away from the threat of injury.

Diadora League secretary Clive Moyes warned that Sutton United could be in trouble for fielding a reserve side against Chesham.

Moyes said: "There is a ruling that a club should play the best side available to them. There would be the possibility of action if a complaint arose."

Sutton rested five of the side which won at Wycombe for their 5-2 home league win against Windsor on Monday — Phil Barton, Nigel Golley, Steve Browne, Paul Gates, and Peter Byrne were all apparently carrying knocks.