

Aylesbury United 1 Buckingham Town 0

AYLESBURY United retained the Buckingham Senior Cup at Ford Meadow on Thursday evening when a moment of Cliff Hercules magic produced the only goal of the game with only 12 minutes remaining.

But Buckingham gave them more than a run for their money during an enjoyable final and the Robins could count themselves a little unfortunate to finish empty handed.

Aylesbury looked the more accomplished footballing side during the opening exchanges and Hercules was soon causing problems for the Buckingham rear-guard. After 22 minutes he was unceremoniously halted in the penalty area but United's penalty appeals were treated unsympathetically by referee Jefcoate.

At the other end Buckingham also had reasonable chances to score — firstly when Kelloway misdirected a pass in midfield and Martin Smy crossed for Tom Pearson who hooked just wide of the target and then when Pearson, in the thick of the action again,

Buckingham Senior Cup Final Report by Chris Giblin

combined with Jon Blencowe only to see his powerful shot well saved by Dave O'Reilly.

The best goalscoring chance of the opening period however, fell to Aylesbury, when, after a right-wing move involving Nick Ashby and Hercules, the ball was squared to the unmarked Phil Heath. He shot hard and low but goalkeeper Paul Warnecki came to the Buckingham's rescue with an instinctive save.

The second half followed a similar pattern with both sides enjoying periods of control, although Buckingham continued to bridge the gap in class with some incisive soccer. When Jon Corbett split the Aylesbury defence with a clever diagonal pass, Andy Parsons again tested Aylesbury keeper O'Reilly with a firm shot. Aylesbury's Paul Benning then created a half chance for Graham Westley and although the normally dependable striker for once got beyond Buckingham defenders

Keith Knight and Ian Bowyer, an instant's hesitation allowed Smy to clear for a corner.

With extra time looking a distinct possibility, Aylesbury replaced Westley with substitute John Lawford after 77 minutes. He made an immediate impact as, with his first touch, his right wing cross set up a chance for Hercules. Although the opportunity was far from easy, the classy striker cleverly lifted the ball high into the net for the winning goal. He almost added another minutes later when his shot grazed the Buckingham crossbar after Heath had helped on skipper Andy Robinson's long through ball. A second Aylesbury goal at this stage though would have been an injustice to a plucky Buckingham side that had to settle for runners-up spot as skipper Robinson rounded off a traumatic season for the Ducks as he gratefully lifted the trophy for Aylesbury.

Aylesbury United: O'Reilly, Heath, Mallinson, Ashby, Benning, Cassidy, Robinson, Kelloway (Seabrook 46), Hercules, Westley (Lawford 77), Grenfell.

Attendance: 200

Wycombe — the champions of non-league football

Runcorn 1 Wycombe Wanderers 4

WYCOMBE Wanderers confirmed themselves as the undisputed champions of non-league football after becoming only the third team to complete the double.

Having already clinched the GM Vauxhall Conference title, they lifted the FA Trophy with a comfortable victory over Runcorn in front of a 33,000 crowd at Wembley on Sunday.

"I'm so pleased it's untrue," Wycombe boss Martin O'Neill said afterwards.

And Wycombe, assured of Division 3 status next season, were worthy winners. While never being at their fluent best, they proved too strong in every department for a

rugged Runcorn. Wanderers had the resilience in Andy Kerr, the craft in Steve Guppy and the guile in Steve Thompson up front.

Wycombe established a firm grasp on the match when they took a two-goal lead inside the first 20 minutes. Jason Cousins hammered home a 20-yard free kick in the second minute before Kerr spectacularly dived to head in Dave Carroll's free kick for the second.

Runcorn rallied bravely. They pulled one back when Ian Brady released Steve Shaughnessy to clinically finish in the 42nd minute.

The match was finely balanced until Thompson skilfully flicked home Guppy's corner in the 58th minute — Wycombe's third goal from a set-piece.

Not even two streakers could dis-

rupt the flow of Wycombe's game — but Runcorn almost did. Somehow goalkeeper Paul Hyde and the post combined to keep out a Ken McKenna header following Shaughnessy's cross in the 82nd minute.

This was Runcorn's last shot as Wycombe scored a fourth goal in the 90th minute. Runcorn 'keeper Arthur Williams spilled a swerving shot-cum-cross from Carroll and the ball agonisingly rolled into the net. The Wycombe celebrations were now complete.

Wycombe Wanderers: Hyde, Cousins, Cooper, Kerr, Crossley, Thompson, Carroll, Ryan, Hutchinson (Hayrettin), Scott, Guppy. Sub: Casey.