

CASH-STRAPPED Barnet and Fulham were handed money-spinning ties by today's second round draw for the Coca-Cola Cup.

Fulham hit the jackpot with a tie against four-times winners Liverpool, and the troubled Underhill side have an all-London derby against Premier League Queens Park Rangers.

Today's draw also paired holders Arsenal with Huddersfield, while Tottenham must travel to Turf Moor for the first leg of their tie with Second Division Burnley in the week beginning 20 September.

West Ham meet Chesterfield, Wimbledon face Hereford Utd, and Chelsea go to the Hawthorns for the first leg of a clash with First Division newcomers West Bromwich Albion.

Fulham come face to face with the side which condemned them to their heaviest ever defeat when the two last met in the competition. In 1986, the Merseysiders ran out 10-0 winners in a second round, first-leg tie at Anfield.

Ironically, at a time when a sell-out crowd would help to fund much-needed refurbishment at Craven Cottage, safety restrictions currently imposed on the ground will limit the gate to under 12,000.

But a two-legged tie with Gerry Francis's Rangers will be a godsend for the coffers of Barnet, whose surprise first-round victory over Southend - and former boss Barry Fry - will now guarantee another full house at Underhill.

Today's second round draw also produced other London derbies with all-First Division clashes between Watford and Millwall, and Crystal Palace and Charlton. League newcomers Wycombe will play Bobby Gould's Coventry City. Wanderers' manager Martin O'Neill said: "We'd have preferred to be at home for it - just in case we get slaughtered in the first match! But we are delighted."

Blues V Coventry

WYCOMBE Wanderers have been given a dream draw against Premiership giants Coventry City in the Second Round of the Coca Cola Cup.

The two-legged tie was made yesterday after Wycombe came through 3-0 on aggregate against Leyton Orient in the First Round.

The first leg will take place at Highfield Road on Wednesday, September 22.

The second leg at Adams Park, likely to be on Tuesday, October 5, will be a certain sell-out.

SECOND ROUND

FULHAM v Liverpool, Sunderland v Leeds, Newcastle v Notts County, Coventry v WYCOMBE, Blackburn v Bournemouth, West Brom v CHELSEA, Barnsley v Peterborough, WEST HAM v Chesterfield, Lincoln v Everton, Hereford v WIMBLEDON, CRYSTAL PALACE v CHARLTON, Burnley v TOTTENHAM, Huddersfield v ARSENAL, Swansea v Oldham, Bolton v Sheff Wed, BARNET v QPR, Soton v Shrewsbury, Stoke v Manchester Utd, Manchester City v Reading or Northampton, Birmingham v Aston Villa, Blackpool v Sheff Utd, Middlesbrough v Brighton, Grimsby v Hartlepool, Swindon v Wolves, Tranmere v Oxford, Rotherham v Portsmouth, Leicester v Rochdale, WATFORD v MILLWALL, Exeter v Derby, Bradford v Norwich, Wrexham v Notts Forest, Ipswich v Cambridge.

By CLAIRE NASH

WYCOMBE Wanderers' gritty displays against Leyton Orient have earned a plum Coca-Cola Cup second-round two-leg tie against Premiership club Coventry City, and the prospect of their second financial windfall within ten months.

Blues now take on Bobby Gould's men at Highfield Road in the week commencing Monday, September 20, with the return home leg at Adams Park a week later, after beating Orient 1-0 on Tuesday, to win the first round 3-0 on aggregate.

The mouthwatering draw caps Wycombe's barnstorming start to their first season in the Football League. And it will give a further boost to the club's coffers, following last December's FA Cup second-round tie and replay against West Bromwich Albion which raised around £100,000 from gate receipts and television rights.

The tie was announced live at 7.35am on GMTV yesterday. "It is a great draw," Martin O'Neill told the Bucks Free Press. "They are attractive opposition and will be a stern test for us."

Coventry are currently jostling for supremacy in the Premiership's top six alongside Manchester United, Everton, Liverpool and Ipswich, and signalled their threat to the glamour sides by hammering Arsenal 3-0 at Highbury in the opening game of the season.

"That underlines the task ahead of us" said O'Neill.

The Sky Blues' dangermen include goal-machine Mickey Quinn, silky-smooth strikers Roy Wegerle and Peter Ndlovu, and winger John Williams, the fastest footballer in the country.

Wycombe paved their way to the cup's second round with a determined showing in an, at times, bruising confrontation with Leyton Orient.

Thompson adds to injury woes

Keith Scott survived a clash of heads with Orient's Sam Kitchen - for which both players needed to leave the pitch to be stitched up - to head home Hakan Hayrettin's cross in first-half injury time.

But just as Scott was injured, Steve Thompson went down with a groin strain, and is now set to be out of action for four to six weeks, which is a considerable blow to Blues' already-depleted squad.

"It is particularly unfortunate because he was playing so well," said O'Neill.

Andy Kerr, who with fellow central defender Matt Crossley, stood up to Orient's intense second-half efforts to get into the tie, also needed treatment to a deep nose cut.

Kerr and Scott should be fit for tomorrow's League game at Wigan Athletic. Hayrettin's impressive performance illustrates a full recovery from a pre-season knee ligament injury.

But O'Neill revealed he now has only 12 fit squad members to take to Springfield Park (ko 3pm), with Simon Stapleton having twisted his ankle in training on Monday, and Duncan Horton still recovering from an ankle injury suffered in the first game of the season.

The Blues boss is looking to enlarge his squad by at least three new players, who either have League experience or are good-prospect non-League buys, by Saturday, or next Tuesday's game at Hereford (ko 8pm) at the latest.

"I have a few players in mind. I have been watching League matches, reserve games and Diadora games," he said.

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