

SHILTON SPARKS CUP JOY

The record attendance at the ground is 8,000, but it's almost certain that less than half of that gate would be allowed to witness the Argyle game, which will probably be all-ticket.

Plymouth have excellent away support as their team occupy fifth place in Division Two. They took 1,500 fans to the Dorking match and 1,200 to last Saturday's goalless draw at fourth-placed Bristol Rovers.

Shilton is currently being kept out of the Argyle side by 19-year-old Alan Nickolls, who has been between the sticks since the start of the season.

Plymouth's third keeper is Ray Newland, so competition is fierce.

The Pilgrims have two ex-Leyton Orient players in their ranks: mid-

FA CUP FIRST ROUND Marlow v Plymouth Argyle, Bristol Rovers v Wycombe NICK GOODMAN reports on Monday's draw

MARLOW and Wycombe Wanderers have landed mouth-watering ties against Second Division clubs in the first round proper of the FA Cup.

Dave Russell's reward for steering his Marlow side to a 2-1 win at Aylesbury in the fourth qualifying round on Saturday, is a fabulous home draw against Peter Shilton's Plymouth.

But Martin O'Neill's Wanderers must travel to Bristol Rovers, a club he almost ended up managing in 1991, on Saturday, November 13.

Former England international goalkeeper Shilton is player-manager at Argyle and is currently five games short of his 1,000th League appearance.

fielder and captain Steve Castle and centre forward Kevin Nugent.

Plymouth's best season in the FA Cup was when they reached the semi-finals in the 1983-84 season.

Meanwhile, Rovers are managed by John Ward, who has been at the helm since March.

"My first impression is that I am very pleased we are at home," Ward told Midweek. "It's what you like to have for any sort of cup draw. I also appreciate that the tie is attractive for everyone concerned."

He went on: "We have got a great deal of respect for Martin O'Neill. I have been talking to my assistant Dennis Booth, who used to be manager at Stafford Rangers, and we recognise the quality you have got

It is an exciting prospect, a possible glimpse of a former world-class keeper at Oak Tree Road.

Argyle will not relish a tie at Marlow's Oak Tree Road ground.

Last season, Argyle were pushed all the way before narrowly winning 3-2 at Dorking — this campaign in the Diadora League Premier Division — at the same stage.

Marlow chairman Michael Eagleton told Midweek: "It is a dream come true. That was my big ambition: to get a League club at home in the first round."

It is thought a League club has never played at Oak Tree Road in a competitive fixture and the ground will be bursting at the seams for this one.

in the Wycombe side."

Ward added: "We recognise that it will be a tough game and obviously we will treat that fixture with a great deal of respect."

Both Wycombe and Marlow will be looking to progress in this season's FA Cup competition following last season's exploits.

Marlow surpassed all expectations by reaching the third round proper, only to lose 5-1 against Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane.

Wanderers, meanwhile, held West Bromwich Albion 2-2 in a second round game at Adams Park, only to lose 1-0 in the replay at The Hawthorns.

● FA Cup match reports and pictures inside on page 34