

SATURDAY SPORT 3

FA CUP / John Ley on the non-League clubs dreaming of a visit to Old Trafford

THERE is an air of unfamiliarity about this weekend's FA Cup second-round ties. Eight matches feature clubs who are meeting in the competition for the first time.

Nine non-League clubs still harbour dreams and hopes of meeting Manchester United — by 4.45 tonight that number may have dropped to three. At least Bath City will be guaranteed a place in tonight's late third round draw — they play Hereford tomorrow.

Only two games pit non-League opposition against each other with Kidderminster Harriers at home to Woking, and Yeovil, those most famed Cup campaigners, taking on Bromsgrove Rovers.

After reaching the third round a record 11 times before — beating 17 League clubs — another venture for Yeovil into the heady world of the FA Cup should not be beyond them, even though these are less than settled times at Huish Park.

Yeovil beat Fulham in the last round but since then manager Steve Rutter has stepped down because he is "mentally, emotionally and physi-

Yeovil unsettled but on trail again

cally exhausted". Rutter remains in a coaching capacity and Yeovil are depending on Phil Fearn, 32, the former Bournemouth, Charlton and Blackpool defender as caretaker manager.

Bromsgrove had never before progressed beyond the first round but after winning against League opposition for the first time, at Northampton last month, they travel to Somerset in confident mood.

Manager Bobby Hope, an FA Cup winner with West Bromwich in 1968, said: "A third-round place is a great incentive for both teams as it's unlikely many players will get an opportunity like this again."

Kidderminster have never reached the third round either. When they last met Woking in the FA Cup, the

Surrey club won at the third attempt before beating West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns.

"They are the form side and red-hot favourites, but the incentives are just as huge for us — we could do with the money," said Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager. "I don't care what people say. The FA Cup is all about making money."

The FA Cup, as Woking have discovered, is also about trying to live up to previous successes.

"People talk about the win over West Brom and it can get in the way of what we are trying to achieve. But I would love another crack at one of the big boys," added Chapple.

Sutton United, who visit Torquay, suffer from the same problem. Sutton knocked out Coventry City four

years ago; present Sutton manager Alan Gane knows what it is like to have high expectations.

"When I was in charge at Wycombe I was always having their great FA Cup result against Jack Charlton's Middlesbrough thrown in my face," said Gane.

"Now the Sutton fans never stop talking about the win over Coventry. What I want now is to give them something they can talk about for the next 10 years."

Sutton won 4-3 at Third Division Colchester in the first round and they have met Torquay before, holding them to a first round draw in 1990 but losing 4-0 in the Plainmoor replay. "Funnily enough, hardly anyone has mentioned that since the draw was made," said Gane.

Stalybridge Celtic seek an FA Cup giant-killing against Carlisle, encouraged by a good-luck message from the more famous Celtic.

Lou Macari, new manager at Parkhead, faxed his support to the Vauxhall Conference club as they prepared for their first appearance in the second round for 58 years.