

Emotions are exhausted by tense drama

GROWN men and women almost wept with disappointment when Wycombe were drawn against, and no disrespect to them, York in 1986 after battling through to the FA Cup third round.

So on Saturday night it was no surprise that unabashed elation greeted Wanderers' superb draw against Premiership Norwich.

Martin O'Neill planned to watch the drama unfold at home with a Chinese takeaway and a glass of wine in front of the telly.

The demands of live TV have long done away with teams huddled round a tranny to hear whether they had earned a plum or a bum.

Wycombe's players went their separate ways to celebrate on Saturday evening, but all planned to tune into BBC1's Match of the Day come 11.20pm.

What they saw was the traditional tense surrealist scene featuring small numbered balls, a velvet pouch, and solemn pronouncements.

No relief can be found in the flicker-less faces of the Football Association's three grey men Graham Kelly, Gordon McKeag and Sir Bert Millichip. All one can do is keep gnawing on the fireplace rug until the magic numbers come up.

Youth team match elders

WANDERERS' youth team are following in their first team's illustrious footsteps after reaching the last 32 of the FA Youth Cup where they play Millwall.

The third-round match at the plush New Den is on Wednesday, January 5 (ko 7pm).

The young Wanderers earned the clash, which

equals last year's best ever performance, after beating Croydon 3-2 on Tuesday.

It was a close shave as they were 3-0 up with seven minutes to go. But they held out despite missing key players.

The goalscorers were Stuart Wilson (2), including a penalty, and David Hyde, who drove home a scorching 35-yard shot.

Friends say farewell to Blues stalwart

THE funeral of former Wycombe Wanderers player, trainer and groundsman Jock Shepherd is being held at Amersham Crematorium today at 1.30pm.

Christened Ronald George, the 75-year-old was a Blues season ticket holder until his death last week. He lived in Wooburn Green after moving from Glasgow when he was ten.

He played for Wycombe's reserves in 1947/48, after army service in the Second World War. He then joined Maidenhead United.

But Jock returned to Loakes Park as trainer in the 1950s and was groundsman as well from 1969 until the mid-1980s when he retired.



Breaking new barriers: Blues' Tony Hemmings

Hemmo revels in uncharted territory

TONY Hemmings has already reached FA Cup heights that he barely dared hope for when he was at Northwich Victoria.

The striker/winger joked that he may have jinxed the Vics' fortunes in the competition. "We struggled to get past the qualifying rounds. I think I may have put the witch sign on them."

Hemmings, who scored the game's only goal on Saturday, is continuing to revel in the form both he and boss Martin O'Neill hoped for when he joined Wycombe in September for £25,000.

"I'm really pleased," said Hemmings, although he was disappointed not to add to his goal.

"Yeah, I didn't want to talk about that," he said smiling. "There was a bobble before I hit one of them. But I think I did well enough."