

Rail bosses say sorry for Blues fans' train pain

BRITISH Rail is launching an investigation after thousands of Wycombe Wanderers fans were left stranded at Wembley due to a lack of trains.

Supporters were forced to wait two hours for their trip home following Saturday's Division Three Play-off final against Preston because there were not enough special trains running from Wembley Stadium to High Wycombe.

Blues fan June Stroud, of Rye View, High Wycombe, criticised BR because its trains did not have enough coaches to carry spectators.

She said: "We got back about 8pm and we saw the team in their bus going up Amersham Hill. They had got changed, had a celebration – but they still beat us back."

June bought six special train tickets, which cost £5 per adult, and went to the match with her children and grandchildren.

The 62-year-old, who has been a fan of the team for four years, explained: "There wasn't any problems going up. It was coming home from the other end. There were hundreds and thousands of us."

"Some of us were waiting outside the station for two hours. It's a big let-down."

Trains left High Wycombe at 15-minute intervals during the morning and early afternoon for Wanderers' game.

More than 15,000 Blues fans made the trip to Wembley.

A spokesman for Chiltern Lines, which arranged the special trains, said: "I am aware that some people queued and had a long wait. The special trains did run but because of the numbers of people travelling, we couldn't clear the entire backlog."

"It is something we are going to look into very closely to ensure it doesn't happen to people going again. We don't want to spoil people's day out."

Town celebrates victory

WYCOMBE exploded in celebration as Blues supporters cheered their team's win at Wembley.

Pub manager Dave Wagner, of the Antelope pub, Church Square, said the post-Wembley trade was busier than Christmas. He wheeled in several extra 172-pint barrels for the big night.

Wycombe Wanderers' fans Lee Prescott, 19, of Valley Road,

Hughenden, and Mark Stockley, 19, of Green Street, both paid tribute to manager Martin O'Neill.

Lee added: "The handling was brilliant. Preston's defence could not handle it. They just fell to bits."

The town was clearly out to celebrate as chants of the 4-2 scoreline boomed out the Hobgoblin pub, on the High Street. High Wycombe was awash with Wanderers' colours as thousands poured off the trains from Wembley.

1170 is no match for Wanderers

COMMUNITY radio station elevenSeventy has defended its decision not to broadcast live coverage of Wycombe Wanderers' victory at Wembley on Saturday.

The Blues' thumping 4-2 win over Preston could be heard on Radio Berkshire and Chiltern Radio, but not on the town's own station.

ElevenSeventy chose instead to carry only occasional reports of the Division Three play-off final, the biggest match

in the club's history.

Sales Manager Jonathan Strutt told the Bucks Free Press: "We would have loved to have carried the whole match. But there are financial reasons – it does take a lot of expense to set it up properly."

"We haven't yet given a commitment to cover any football live, but next season we intend to cover Wycombe."

He said increased live soccer coverage would only be provided if the station gets more funding and can employ professional match commentators.