

Paying the Bill to keep the peace



On patrol: A large police presence kept the Millwall match trouble free

WYCOMBE Wanderers can expect a larger than normal police bill after Tuesday night's trouble free match against league leaders Millwall at Adams Park.

Thirty police were on duty inside the ground as the police gave the match their highest risk, Grade C Category, whereas quite a few Wanderers games this season will be police free.

Under football rules the club must pay for most of the police on duty inside the ground. Police

DAVE PETERS looks at the cost of policing games like Tuesday's high-profile clash with Millwall

horses and dogs were also on standby and other officers were deployed in the town.

Club secretary John Reardon would not go into details about how much the game cost Wanderers to police but he did say: "The C category game is the most expensive one for us."

Hard up Wanderers have been working hard to cut their police costs in recent years and have been helped by the excellent behaviour of Blues fans. In the year ending May 1995 Wanderers shelled out £77,551 on police charges while in the year ending May 1996 it was down to £52,714.

Reardon said: "This is the first season that we will have police free games and we have got a considerable number of those coming up."

Both the police and Wanderers have praised the behaviour of both

sets of fans during Tuesday night's match.

Only one arrest, a Millwall fan for drunkenness, was made all night. He was detained for the duration of the match and released afterwards.

Millwall have a fearsome reputation for hooliganism but PC Steve Kirby said: "They were superb. Both sets of supporters were very well behaved all night."

The police were helped by the fact that only 800 Millwall fans made the trip.