

# Police warn Wanderers

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## REPORT

By Dave Peters

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THAMES Valley Police will warn Wanderers that their policy of charging away fans more and making late arrivals queue twice to get into the ground, could lead to more crowd problems.

The warning comes after 30 Bristol fans infiltrated the home terrace last Saturday, when the seated away end became full and queues formed outside the visitors overflow section.

The match was one of a growing number of police-free games. But it almost turned ugly as some of the 1,200 Rovers fans, who exceeded the "below 1,000" estimate given by Bristol, went into the wrong end taunting Wycombe fans.

Rovers manager Ian Holloway defused the situation at half time persuading his fans to move to their end.

He said: "A Wycombe fan asked if I could do anything about our fans because he thought they might cause trouble. I'm glad I did because there was a large contingent of our fans, who didn't want to be there."

Late-arriving visiting fans had to queue twice to buy a ticket. The pay-on-the-turnstile away seats were full and to get into the overflow section they had to queue at the ticket office and again at the turnstile, while standing Blues fans were still paying on the gate.

Inspector Doe, who stands by the decision to make the game police-free, said: "No crime was committed. There were a lot of late arrivals and the ticket office was inundated. I think some fans thought they'd go in the home end instead."

"There's a disparity in prices where you pay £9 to stand on the home terrace as opposed to £12 to sit in the away end. I'll be speaking to the club about that. The disparity could have contributed to the problem. But it's difficult to change it."

Independent Supporters Club spokesman Ian Blackledge said: "Women and children could not enjoy the game because they were worrying about their safety."

Blues chairman Ivor Beeks refused to comment on the situation.