

THREE HOTELS, ONE POINT

Pre-match plans thrown into turmoil

WYCOMBE Wanderers put their hotel horror behind them to extend their unbeaten run with a 0-0 draw at fellow strugglers Oldham Athletic on Saturday.

Wanderers' pre-match plans were thrown into chaos when their Waterside Hotel in Manchester was flooded on Friday after the nearby river burst its banks.

The Blues, who were on the motoway when they got the news, were then offered a second hotel in Manchester which club secretary Ian Moat, who was sent on ahead, took one look at before rejecting out of hand.

He said: "It was a dump. It was no place to prepare for an important football match. I walked into one bedroom and all I could smell was stale cigarettes."

But it was third time lucky for Wanderers. Moat was able to book the party of 23 into Rochdale's Norton Grange Hotel where they joined famous residents Norman Wisdom and

FOOTBALL
By Dave Peters

John Inman.

It was the same hotel Blues used last year, when they won 1-0 at Oldham, and the switch worked in their favour again.

The following morning after the players had eaten their 11am pre-match meal and were up in their rooms relaxing before the big kick-off a double-decker coach load of Wanderers fans came for their pre-match curry and round of drinks.

Team boss Neil Smillie said: "I think we were both surprised to see each other there. The supporters gave us plenty of good luck messages as they were tucking into their curries.

"It was good to see them there. It makes you appreciate how much they care to travel all this way.

"The players appreciate the supporters who have stuck with us through the rough time we've had with the results."

● Report: Page 23



In a tangle: Paul Read gets in a tangle at Oldham