

... and here's what they had to say after 300 minutes of football

IT'S all over now, but Wycombe had a tough time of it against non-league Oxford City.

And Blues midfielder **Dave Carroll**, who made his return from injury on Tuesday evening, reckoned the Blues were on a hiding to nothing whatever way it ended.

"We weren't going to come out of it with any credit. We were expected to beat them," he said.

Boss **Lawrie Sanchez** insisted the tie had given fans three good games of football.

He said: "It has captured people's

imagination, they've got 4,000 people here tonight and they have seen a good cup tie.

"You've got to give them [City] credit. It's difficult to break down a team that have nine men behind the ball.

"This is what the FA Cup is all about, it's about the little boys kicking the big boys, that's what makes it an exciting competition."

Meanwhile, former City striker **Jermaine McSparran** admitted he is glad it's all over.

"For a non-league team they've done

tremendously. You always think you should have finished them off earlier, but if it takes three attempts, let it be."

And goalscorer **Steve Brown** had no sympathy for the Ryman side.

"Football's a cruel game," he said.

But Brown claims it was decided in the best way after the penalty shoot-out was abandoned at Adams Park following a fire.

"It's a nice way for the tie to be decided. I've always disagreed with penalty shoot-outs."

That's all over, watch out Wembley

VIEW FROM THE STAND

By Ron Barnett

SO the Oxford City marathon is finally over and we just about managed to stagger and stumble to the finishing line.

Even though this third and final deciding match was our best performance over the three games, and we were comfortably the better side, we never looked in full control of the situation.

Indeed, after totally dominating the first half, it looked like we would be going into the break one down. I still can't believe the City striker missed such an easy chance and I look forward to seeing him star in 'what happened next?' clips.

We have my fellow BFP columnist Steve Brown to thank for his coolly-taken goal and his battling all over the park. He and Dave Carroll were my men-of-the-match.

It was certainly good to see 'Jesus' spreading the play around and getting crosses in from the flanks again. These two, and that miss, played the main part in preventing this long running show turning into a farce.

Unfortunately, we will always be branded as the big bad villains in this epic cup-tie because of the fire before the penalty shoot-out. Given the presence of the fire brigade, the discovery of a small fire and the rogue fire alarm, I don't believe the club had any choice but to abandon the match.

But the PA system in the Woodlands stand was once again inaudible during the delay and eventual evacuation of the ground. This could certainly be a serious safety threat if a similar event happened in this area.

Looking back over the 300 minutes of play against Oxford City, you have to admire the way they held their defence and midfield shape and the speed and control of their attacks. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if the Big Chief made an approach for one or two of them - I would willingly swop a few of our squad players for a couple of theirs.

We appeared to have lost the winning habit of late and it seemed such a long time since we had tasted victory. In fact, it was a long time, Tuesday night's 1-0 was our first win for eight league and cup matches.

Still the good times are back and we can look forward to Wigan in round two. Only six more cup wins and we're at Wembley!

HOW THEY STAND

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wigan	17	8	1	0	20	5	2	6	0	15	10	37
Preston	17	6	1	2	13	9	3	5	0	13	8	33
Notts Co	17	4	2	2	9	6	6	1	2	15	9	33
Burnley	17	7	1	1	19	6	2	4	2	5	5	32
Brentford	16	6	2	1	18	9	2	4	1	9	8	30
Gillingham	17	6	1	2	20	9	2	4	2	11	12	29
Stoke	17	4	3	2	12	8	4	2	2	12	8	29
Bristol R	16	4	3	1	9	5	4	2	2	9	6	29
Millwall	17	4	4	1	14	8	3	2	3	12	11	27
Luton	17	6	2	0	18	9	2	1	6	5	11	27
Bury	17	4	3	1	17	12	1	5	3	9	9	23
Wycombe	17	3	3	2	12	10	2	4	3	10	12	22
Bour'm'th	17	5	2	1	13	5	1	2	6	8	20	22
Scunthorpe	17	2	2	4	7	11	3	2	4	11	15	19
Oldham	17	3	1	5	11	12	2	2	4	8	11	18
Wrexham	17	3	2	3	10	10	1	3	5	7	20	17
Bristol C	16	2	6	0	11	6	1	1	6	5	15	16
Cardiff	17	2	6	1	10	9	1	1	6	8	15	16
Oxford	17	2	2	4	10	11	2	1	5	7	12	16
Reading	16	3	2	3	10	10	1	1	6	11	23	15
Camb Utd	17	3	3	3	18	16	0	2	6	8	15	14
Colchester	16	1	3	3	10	14	2	2	5	9	21	14
Blackpool	17	1	4	3	8	14	1	2	6	9	17	12
Chesterfield	16	1	2	4	5	8	1	3	5	6	11	11