

Wycombe defend cup price rise

WANDERERS have defended their decision to put prices up by as much as £7 for their fifth round clash at home to Middlesbrough or Wimbledon, saying the extra cash will help Lawrie Sanchez strengthen his team.

All adult tickets for the February 17 match will now cost £20, with the exception of the terrace and Family Stand, which will cost £14. The programme will also go up by a pound to £3 as Wanderers bid to cash in on their greatest ever cup success.

Financial director Graham Peart said: "We didn't put the prices up for the Wolves game and we put them down for the Harrow Borough game in the first round but we've got to try and give Lawrie a bit of cash now so he can try and improve the squad.

"It's the first time we've been in the fifth round. It's a little bit of history and I don't think that £20 top whack is unreasonable. If we'd been drawn away to Liverpool we could have made £250,000.

"We can only sell around 9,600 tickets so, within reason, we have got to try and take as much money as we can."

But the price rises don't seem to be putting supporters off. Season ticket holders and League line holders have been queuing out of the door to claim their tickets before tomorrow's 5pm deadline.

And a stampede is expected for tomorrow's league match at home to Brentford with fans lured by the promise of cup tickets.

Supporters attending tomorrow's match, expected to draw another big crowd to Adams Park, will be able to buy a fifth round ticket after the game on production of their Brentford ticket stub for as long as stocks last.

If there are any tickets remaining, the club will repeat the priority offer for fans who retain their stubs from Tuesday's home match against Cambridge.

But some fans aren't happy about the price rise.

Stokenchurch season ticket holder Eric Buckle said: "The prices have gone through the roof. I've still bought mine but I don't agree with it. The club have done it because they know they can sell them. If they had charged us £50 we would have paid it, but it doesn't make it right."

But Independent Supporters Club chairman Ted Wheller said: "I don't blame the club. It's not as though they are fleecing us. It's a rare chance for them to make a bit of extra money, and if that means that we can buy someone like Sam Parkin at the end of it, then it will have been well worth it."

And Peart added: "Our only objective is to put the tickets in the hands of people who regularly come to our games. However we sold them we would have upset someone."

Wanderers' sellout against Wolves in the previous round last Saturday brought record receipts of £97,750. But by the time Wanderers split it 45-45 with Wolves and gave the FA their ten per cent, the club only made around £40,000 from the game. Their total income from the competition so far is £85,000.

● Prices for the fifth round tie are adults £20, OAPs £15 and under-16s and students £13. The Syan and Family Stand tickets cost £14 adults, £11 OAPs and £7 for students and under-16s.