

Just no need for so many police

WHY should home tie football clubs have to foot the bill for policing costs when supporters with a reputation for poor behaviour follow their clubs to away matches?

The policing at Wycombe Wanderers on April 26 for the home tie with Colchester, was over the top.

Mounted police and officers in full riot gear were in abundance. It seemed there

was a police officer in attendance for every two Colchester fans.

Wycombe Wanderers fans have a well deserved reputation as being probably among the best behaved.

So why, when a club's fans have a poor reputation such as Colchester come to town, and the police decide to have a substantial number of officers in attendance to maintain order, should WWFC have to foot the bill?

It would make much more sense for the cost of policing such matches to be imposed by the police on the away club. Perhaps the Football League should give consideration a ruling?

It seems also that the police need to smarten up their act when it comes to intelligence.

It would not have taken a rocket scientist to establish approximate numbers of Colchester fans intending to travel and the Thames Valley could surely then have arranged policing at a much more sensible level.

Yes, an incident at a pub was reported, but not a single arrest. The testimonial match for Jason Cousins versus Martin O'Neill's Celtic was a classic case, obvious to all but the police, that none, or only very minimal policing was required.

The only loser was Jason, who had to foot the bill from proceeds of his own benefit match.

Ian Mather
Widmer End