

'Ouch. That hurt!' But fans celebrate club's turnaround

by **ANDREW COLLEY**

MORE than 15,000 Wycombe Wanderers fans ensured the party atmosphere was taken from High Wycombe to Wembley on Saturday as the crowds did all they could to support their home team.

In the week leading up to the League Two play-off final, residents and businesses did what they could to get behind the club, with an agonising penalty shoot-out defeat halting further celebrations on the day.

Wembley heartbreak left many of the travelling fans devastated, but outside the stadium and on social media many marvelled at the remarkable turnaround from the previous season when they were almost relegated.

On Twitter, there was a mixed reaction from fans. BBC television presenter Bill Turnbull said: "Ouch. That hurt. Congrats to Southend. Still hugely proud of @wwfcofficial."

@GregCampbell15 added: "A rotten way to lose. But it's been an extraordinary 12 months turnaround."

And, @mrjwright123 said: "@wwfcofficial unlucky lads, that's football, we'll claim promotion as champions next season."

Many fans remained upbeat and with the current crop of players performing well under Gareth Ainsworth, who was recently named League Two manager of the season, they believe more success could be on its way to Adams Park.

Before the event, pubs, estate agents and even florists nailed their colours to the mast in sup-



The ecstasy and the agony as fans celebrate Wycombe going ahead at Wembley before defeat in a penalty shoot-out.

Pics by ANITA ROSS MARSHALL WY91701 p61/p46

port of the Chairboys and hope later turned to commiserations as the town declared they were still fully behind the club.

One of the first to don the Blues' colours in the town was furniture company The StudyBed Company, based in Oxford Road, with the managing director Ben Berry saying: "It brought an instant smile to several passing faces."

Before the game, hundreds of Wanderers fans spent the morning in the town with the new mayor of High Wycombe even showing his support by waving a club flag during the annual weighing-in ceremony.

To see more pictures, reaction and Wycombe Wanderers news following their Wembley visit, see Sport.

