

# Kennedy fires Blues into last 16



**HOWARD KENNEDY**  
... dramatic winner

## 'I just hit it'

AFTERWARDS Howard Kennedy explained his straightforward tactics when faced with that free-kick in the last two minutes.

"I just aimed for the top left-hand corner and for once struck it just right. About one in ten of those comes off."

He also put his finger on the reasons behind Wycombe's more competitive attitude.

"We are determined to win something for Mike Keen. We appreciate his football philosophy which allows the players a certain freedom on the field," he said.

# HOWARD'S HOWITZER!

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe Wands 3, Hyde Utd 2

**SKIPPER** Howard Kennedy blasted Wycombe Wanderers into the last 16 of the FA Trophy in an amazing climax to their second round replay against Hyde at Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

Less than two minutes remained when Wycombe, who had been pulled back to 2-2 a few minutes earlier, were awarded a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area following a foul on Terry Glynn.

After ensuring that Hyde's defensive wall was the statutory ten yards back, Kennedy cracked the ball with all his might and watched with delight as it soared into the top left hand corner of the net.

Goalkeeper Colin Darcy, once of Everton, did not even move and looked stunned as Kennedy was mobbed by his ecstatic colleagues.

The crowd roared their delight in an emotional climax rarely seen on the ground. Hyde, who had impressed with their skill and endeavour, could not fight back from this body blow.

So Kennedy's "goal to remember" earns the Wanderers the prize of a home game against their greatest Amateur Cup rivals, Bishop Auckland, in the third round on February 27. That will be a day of nostalgia for the Wycombe faithful.

If that game produces just half the excitement, drama and passion of this match, then the fans would have their money's worth.

This game had everything — skill, fluctuating fortunes, seven bookings and, from Wycombe's point of view, the right result.

Yet this triumphant evening began unpromisingly for the Blues, as their Cheshire League visitors, who showed their class in Saturday's goal-

less draw, snatched the lead after just six minutes.

George Oghani's near post corner was headed across goal by skipper Tony Steenson and David Holt supplied the finishing touch from close in.

### Poacher

Wycombe did not panic and seven minutes later were back on level terms. Following a short free-kick by Kennedy, Steve Long played the ball back to Paul Birdseye, who drove low and hard towards goal.

Darcy could not hold this shot and poacher Glynn nipped in to score his 22nd goal of the season.

Apart from the occasional Hyde counter-attack, Wycombe were in control with Jimmy Jacobs constantly breaking dangerously from left-side midfield. Indeed he headed only just over the bar before half-time.

The pattern continued into the second half with pressure

mounting on the Hyde goal. Kennedy blasted over when clear and Anton Vircavs saw a header brilliantly turned round the post by Darcy.

From the resulting corner in the 54th minute Wycombe went ahead for the first time.

Ken Wilson took it short to George Borg, who dribbled brilliantly along the bye-line before sending a low cross into the goalmouth. Steve Long, whose industry and skill served Wycombe so well, flicked the ball just inside the right post.

Wycombe do not know how to play when they are ahead. They get caught somewhere between all out attack and total defence.

Hyde took advantage of this uncertainty and forced their way back into the game and to the fans' dismay equalised just seven minutes from time.

### Bookings

A quick break by Mick Lacey threatened the defence. Lacey's cross was flicked on by substitute Kevin Glendon and former Manchester United starlet Peter Coyne netted from a narrow angle. But Kennedy had the final say.

As I have mentioned, there were seven bookings in this hard and competitive but far from dirty game. At one stage Football League referee Ken Salmon appeared to be booking every foul.

Some were justified, others not so, but he did not let the game get out of control, although some of his other decisions caused raised eyebrows.

For the record — Wycombe players booked were Borg and Vircavs. The five Hyde 'casualties' were Oghani, Holt, Steenson, Gary Blore and Phil Parry.

**WYCOMBE:** G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, S. Toll, A. Vircavs, R. Dell, J. Jacobs, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, S. Long, K. Wilson. Sub: A. Longstaff (not used).

**HYDE:** C. Darcy; P. Parry, M. Lacey, P. McMahon, G. Blore, T. Steenson, D. Holt, P. Coyne, S. Johnson, J. Golder. Sub: K. Glendon (75 mins), G. Oghani.

Referee: K. Salmon (Barnet).

Half-time: 1-1.

Scorers: Wycombe — Glynn (13 mins), Long (54), Kennedy (89); Hyde — Holt (6), Coyne (83).

Corners: Wycombe 6, Hyde 6.

Attendance: 1,263.