



Guiseley captain Simon Ainge took a real shine to the FA Trophy when it was on show at Nethermoor on Wednesday.

Picture: Andy Garbutt

Guiseley skipper dreams of lifting FA Trophy at Wembley

by Alan Birkinshaw

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Guiseley skipper Simon Ainge proudly held on to the FA Trophy on Wednesday and now hopes he will be able to lift it aloft at Wembley on May 7.

The former Bradford City defender was at a preview of Saturday's quarter-final tie with Luton Town when the Football Association sent the famous trophy to Nethermoor Park on Wednesday.

Ainge said: "This tie means a lot to the Guiseley players. We are well up for it, as it will be one of the biggest games of our careers and we want to make it all the way through to

Lions prepare for their biggest home match against Luton

Wembley. Holding this trophy has given me a taste of what it will be like.

"There will be a big crowd at Guiseley on Saturday and it is a big opportunity for this club to get to Wembley."

He added: "We had a reality check when we played Crawley in the FA Cup and we have to show Luton some respect.

"They are a good team and we will need to be disciplined but we have been in excellent form this season and the pressure is on them, not us, so we are really looking forward to it."

Club vice-president Bruce Speller

was secretary of the club when they last played Luton, at Kenilworth Road, in the FA Cup a few years ago.

He said: "I think it will be the biggest game we have staged here at Nethermoor because Luton are a recent Football League team.

"I expect around 2,000 people to be at the game and it will be a great atmosphere.

"We had our disappointment in the past in the Trophy when we lost out to Runcorn in the semi-finals in the cruellest of ways but the current team is playing at a higher level than our team was then and they have been

playing some great football. They show the same passion and commitment that the team that played Runcorn did and I believe we can make further progress."

Guiseley's cup antics have already earned the club £40,000 in prize money and a further £8,000 is on offer to the winners of the quarter-final.

Chairman Phil Rogerson said: "We earned £25,000 for reaching the first round of the FA Cup and have made £15,000 from the Trophy so far.

"The prize money is nice but our aim is to go as far as possible."

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