
Wanderers ask fans to wait-and-see over youth policy

Blues bank on the babes

WYCOMBE Wanderers this week outlined a twin-pronged policy for the future, with the emphasis on youth and patience.

The club's directors have rejected quick-fix calls to sell to a big money backer and want to turn Wycombe into the next Crewe Alexandra instead – producing their own young players and selling them to survive.

Stage one is already in place.

Blues director and Sky TV commentator Alan Parry confirmed this week that a site for a brand new Wanderers' training centre for

REPORT

By Dave Peters

local youngsters has already been earmarked in the town.

He is now calling on businesses to back the plan with cash to help make it a reality.

Commenting in this week's Blues News, he said: "If we can get this scheme off the ground it will be the biggest boost to the future of Wycombe Wanderers we've ever had – and it will provide a facility that will be enjoyed by thousands of local youngsters for

many years to come."

At the same time, financial director Graham Peart used his Blues News column to reject fans' calls to attract a big money backer or float on the stock exchange.

Peart said: "Neither option is desirable or indeed necessary."

He backs the youth investment plan and said: "The way forward is to continue to invest in our youth team and to produce our own young and committed stars."

But Blues fans will have to be patient. Parry added: "It takes a very long time plus a great deal of money, hardwork and good

fortune to produce a youth system as successful as that which has made Dario Gradi so famous at Crewe.

"Their system is self-perpetuating. They find a player, teach him how to improve his game, play him in the first team and eventually sell him to a bigger club."

Blues have only been running a youth scheme for three years and already three former players – Mo Harkin, Alan Beeton and Gary Wraith – have broken through to make their first team debuts.

●**Inside: Blues News**
