

Sanchez bounces back to impress Wycombe board

LAWRIE Sanchez has kept the rejection letter he received from chairman Ivor Beeks when he first applied for the Blues' job four years ago the BFP can reveal.

Sanchez said: "I applied when

Alan Smith got it and I've still got the reply from Ivor, saying, thank you for your enquiry but the position has been filled."

Sanchez accepts now he was not ready for it then.

But he has now served his apprenticeship managing Irish side Sligo and then returning to coach Wimbledon and felt ready to swap a Worthington Cup semi-final with the Premiership Dons for a

relegation scrap with Blues.

"On paper I think I've done everything the right way. I served an apprenticeship and learned a bit about myself and how to manage.

"I was in the comfort zone at Wimbledon. San Hamman said I had a job for life if I wanted it, but I wanted to be my own man I wanted to be in charge, dictate how the team plays and be a manager."

Wimbledon understood that and released him from his contract without any compensation and Sanchez arrived in at the deep end.

He said: "To save the club this year is as big a challenge as it was for Wimbledon to beat Liverpool in the FA Cup Final but it's equally obtainable if people believe it."

... and this is how they got their John Travolta

LAWRIE Sanchez knows he was not Wycombe's first choice to become Blues boss after Micky Adams turned it down, John Ward ruled himself out and Wrexham refused them permission to talk to Brian Flynn, but he isn't bothered.

He said: "All you remember from Saturday Night Fever is that John Travolta was the star, what you don't know is that Richard Gere turned it down."

Director Alan Parry admitted the 28-day search for a new boss was a hard task.

After the new boss was revealed, Parry said: "We had a couple of setbacks along the way but the man

we've chosen has always been on our shortlist.

"We started out wanting an experienced man but then along came this candidate and everyone was very impressed. He made us sit up and take notice."

A total of 50 people applied for the job, but Glenn Hoddle's England assistant John Gorman was not among them, Blues revealed this week.

He had been linked with the club by national newspapers last Friday, but while they were all chasing the wrong man, the BFP had correctly revealed Sanchez as the new man before Wanderers officially announced it later that day.

Forget pretty give us punch

AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

By Sharon Deighton
Chairman of Wycombe
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WYCOMBE Wanderers Independent Supporters Club welcome Lawrie Sanchez to Adams Park and wish him all the luck in the world. Personally I think he is going to need it.

Playing pretty football will not get us out of the position we currently find ourselves in.

I for one don't care how ugly the football is going to be over the next couple of months as long as the team manage to move up the table. Wimbledon didn't do too badly on it.

Every Sunday morning the local parks are subject to the rampages of the Sunday morning footballer.

There are thousands of them who drag themselves out of bed, whatever the weather, to play in kit that often doesn't fit properly, on pitches that are full of holes and ruts.

They don't get paid to play, in fact they have to pay.

They do it because they love the game. Out of those 90 minutes on a Sunday, friendships are formed, dreams are dreamed (and usually shattered).

Some must think of ex-Sunday morning players like Chris Waddle and Ian Wright and hope that maybe one day it will be them.

So carry on enjoying your football lads, I for one have seen more enthusiasm on the Rye over the last few months than I've seen at Adams Park, surely that can't be right.

Let's just hope that with a new manager things will change.

LETTER

It's not contacts it's committment

I READ in sheer amazement Ron Barnett's column in last week's Free Press (Friday, February 5) when he states we need a manager with contacts to bring in players from a higher level.

Where has he been these last three seasons?

Is he not aware that we have been fighting a relegation battle because we have had a squad of players consisting of several from higher levels. Players who demand wages the club cannot afford and who just go through the motions on match days.

No, what we need are players from the lower levels who are young and ambitious and give their all on the field.

Look at our most committed these days and they are either from our non-league days (Jason Cousins, Keith Ryan) or from Division Three (Steve Brown, Paul McCarthy).

I also read with interest about John Gregory being tipped for the England job. Is that the same John Gregory who last season took us from 3rd to 18th in the space of a few months, managed us in the debacle at Basingstoke, and failed to recognise a future star in Martin Rowlands.

No, it must be a different one!

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