

It's Devine intervention

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez has signed Barnet striker Sean Devine on loan in a desperate gamble to keep the rock-bottom Blues up.

Devine has been unable to command a regular place at Underhill this season and Sanchez is hoping that a change of scenery will help the 26-year-old rediscover the scoring habit that once earned him an Eire B cap and made him a target of Premiership clubs.

Sanchez said: "His career's gone a little bit wayward but he's got a great scoring record in the third division and hopefully he can notch

Striker joins the great escape

REPORT

By Dave Peters

one or two for us.

"When I was at Wimbledon he was one of the players we were looking at and they were talking about £1 million for him then. I was reading a quote the other day which said 'form fades but class is permanent'."

Devine has scored once in ten appearances for the Division Three Bees this season as his career has

hit a wall. He burst on the scene as a £10,000 signing from Cypriot side Famagusta and scored 46 goals in his first 106 games for Barnet.

Sanchez has signed Devine on a month's loan with a view to extending it until the end of the season.

He's the second striker Sanchez has snapped up this week as he bids to pep up a goal-shy attack which has only hit the net eight times away all season.

He has brought in 16-goal Crawley Town hotshot Richard Thompson. The 24-year-old, who once had

trials with Wimbledon, impressed him in two reserve matches to win an 18-month contract, but Sanchez does not see him as the answer this season.

And there could be a third new player on his way to Adams Park. At the time of going to press the boss was talking to a Premiership club trying to bring in a midfielder ahead of tomorrow's derby at his old club Reading.

Sanchez is keen to get a midfielder in to cover for Steve Brown who can expect a lengthy suspension after collecting his tenth and 11th yellow cards of the season last Saturday against Northampton.