

Stars could be sold as wages oustrip the gate receipts

Blues lose £3,000 a week and it's rising

WYCOMBE Wanderers were losing £3,000 a week last year and that is expected to double this season unless Blues sell stars like Jermaine McSparran or crowds increase, the Bucks Free Press can reveal.

The cost of paying the players and the management is almost double the income that comes through the turnstile.

The weekly loss rises by around another £100,000 over the year when Wycombe's deficit in the transfer market is taken into account.

It means Wanderers' directors will go into next month's AGM and report a loss of more than £250,000 last year.

Worried financial director Graham Peart said: "The loss is getting bigger and we cannot sustain it. I can see us being forced into a situation where we have to sell players.

"Our managerial and player costs are almost double the gate receipts.

"We're losing £3,000 a week. That's accelerating and this season it looks like being double that. It can't go on."

The only reason Wanderers' losses aren't even bigger is because the commercial side of the club continues to do so well. Its figures were strongly ahead of previous seasons.

Commercial activities reeled in more than £1.75 million while receipts from the Conference Centre and Centre Spot bar at Adams Park netted more than £750,000 of the club's record turnover of more than £3.5 million.

But with players wages and costs rising at around 25 per cent and the club's income only showing around a ten per cent increase, the figures do not add up.

Having to fork out an additional £20,000 to beat the millennium computer bug has not helped either.

It all conspires to the sad fact that Blues are now turning to away



Worrying times: Chairman Ivor Beeks and financial director Graham Peart (right)

supporters to recoup their losses.

The club is trying to get Football Ground Improvement Trust funding to double the capacity of the away stand.

Boss Sanchez said on Wednesday: "That's how bad it is when you are relying on away fans to balance the books for you.

"If we have to keep selling our players to make up for the fans that don't turn up, then I won't be happy, but that's the route you will have to go down. That's a lack of ambition for me and I certainly am not going to put up with that.

"Four thousand people is not enough fans to ever expect to play in the first division."

Chairman Ivor Beeks said: "We are juggling balls in the air every year. It is becoming more and more difficult to balance the books of this football club. We can do it if we get people through the turnstiles.

"We never put the price up this year, and in some areas we put the prices down, because people were telling us we were too dear, but they still aren't coming.

"We can't carry on making losses

like we have. No business can. We've got to balance the books this year which we will do, somehow or other, that's for certain.

"It means one of three things. We've got to have a good cup run. We've got to get more people in or we have to sell at the end of the year. It's as simple as that. There's no rabbit in the hat, we've got to face the facts.

"After 13 years of being the chairman of this football club I'm now beginning to wonder what they want. Does the town want a Football League club?"