

Chairboys Chat with Ryland James

Your club needs you

BLUES fans are rallying to the cry for bigger crowds by planning a special Lawrie Day in an attempt to fill Adams Park.

Dale Hurman, editor of the club's fanzine *Tales of a Chairboy*, is pleading to fans to buy tickets for Saturday's crunch local derby against Reading - to prove Wycombe boss Lawrie Sanchez wrong.

Sanchez tore into the club's fairweather fans, whose lack of regular support deprive the club of much needed revenue, following last Tuesday's 4-3 home defeat by West Bromwich Albion at Adams Park.

The match was watched by barely 5,000 fans, depriving Wanderers of valuable turnstile revenue, and now fans have their chance to prove him wrong.

Mr Hurman said: "Just be there. This is our chance to show we mean business."

"Anyone with a slight interest in High Wycombe as a Second Division football club has to be at Adams Park on Saturday."

Now the fans are making Saturday's game Lawrie Day and plan to get as many supporters as possible to Adams Park.

Fans plan to bring along drums and trumpets to the game to get behind the team and be as vocal as possible, with posters round the town asking fans three key questions:

- Do you care about Wycombe Wanderers Football Club?
- Do you care about High Wycombe having a football league club?

• Do you care about the Blues keeping hold of a manager with the drive and ambition of Lawrie Sanchez?

Mr Hurman added: "Sanchez has said this town doesn't deserve the club and the Reading game is our chance to show him that Wycombe Wanderers can be a First Division side."

Mr Hurman also added that the club, which has only been in the football league for seven years, has an extra 2,000 fans who only come to crunch games and that they should regularly support the club.

He said: "As a club, we need to grow and I think Lawrie will take us through the next step of our development."

Sanchez backed the idea and asked fans to bring along a friend to see his team play.

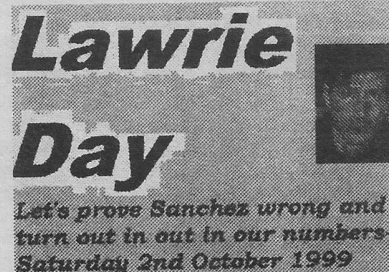
He said: "If people can bring along a friend for the Reading match and introduce them to Wycombe football, then I'm sure the football we play will help them make up their own minds."

Keith Blagbrough, chairman of the official supporters club, added: "I'm all for anything that boosts the gate, we compete with Reading for the fans and we need to show people we are the better team."



● ABOVE:
Lawrie Sanchez with supporters chairman Keith Blagbrough

● RIGHT:
The Lawrie Day poster



THIS Saturday, Wycombe fans have a golden opportunity to get behind their club and manager Lawrie Sanchez by breaking the myth that Blues fans do not care enough.

The Reading game at Adams Park is an opportunity for all true fans to show Lawrie Sanchez they want to see Wycombe as a First Division football team, and that they want him to lead the club forward.

Lawrie Day has its critics amongst the fans, as did our Sing A Song For Sanchez campaign.

But the fact is that both have generated a lot of interest amongst all those who care anything for the Blues and heightened awareness about the need for atmosphere at Adams Park.

Lawrie Day is really nothing more than a desperate plea for support in the next match.

What it has done is shown that there are committed fans willing to do something to try and generate badly needed support for the club.

Fans should never forget that Lawrie Sanchez saved the Blues from the abyss of Division Three by making some very brave decisions about players that should go and some intelligent decisions about players to bring in. What would other clubs have given for a Sanchez last season to help them stay in Division Two.

He's a 100 percenter and deserves fans and players who will give the same.

The critical fans should not feel that these campaigns - prompted by statements made by Sanchez - are attacks on the way they support the club.

Instead, they should as the whole of Wycombe, get behind the side not just on Saturday but for every game.

Sanchez has not ruled out a move to the Madejski Stadium. That would be a major blow for the club.

We hope that for the sake of the club, all true Blues fans will make some noise to show Sanchez that they are right behind him.

Larkin's 1st team hope

WYCOMBE youngster Mo Larkin will be hoping for the luck of the Irish next week when he joins the U-21 Northern Ireland squad - but has vowed to get back in the Blues side.

The 20-year-old Irish-born midfielder, who has not started a game for Wycombe this season, has been called up for an international in Finland on October 8 after being watched in last Wednesday's 0-0 draw in the reserve game against Northampton.

Larkin said: "This is great for me, but I was surprised to get the call. Now all I've got to do is get my place back in the Wycombe team."

● ENGLAND U-18 international goalkeeper Stephen Bywater has answered Wycombe's emergency call for a man between the sticks.

Wycombe called for the West Ham youngster after reserve keeper Mark

Westhead followed regular Martin Taylor onto the injury list, leaving the Blues with only youth keeper Mark Osborn.

Bywater, who was signed on a month's loan by the Blues on Thursday, made his debut in the 1-2 win at Blackpool on Saturday and is expected to continue against Reading.

● BLUES fans have a chance to put Sanchez on the spot when the Official Supporters Club hold a forum for fans tonight at Adams Park.

The meeting at 7.45pm is likely to be a heated affair after Sanchez's angry comments last week following the low attendance at Adams Park on Tuesday in the Blues 4-3 Worthington cup defeat by West Bromwich Albion.

Joining Sanchez will be captain Keith Ryan, referee Mike Halsey and referee assessor Tom Bune.