

Blues boss says it's time to trust board

BLUES boss Lawrie Sanchez has called on fans to trust the board and back their decision to change the club's constitution.

He believes a takeover consortium is the way forward for Wanderers who lost £250,000 last year and haven't been able to buy players all season. But even if the club find Mr Right he won't be able to come on board unless 75 per cent of the members vote for change.

Sanchez believes it's got to happen to keep up. He predicted: "We're running against a ticking clock. By 2010 the divisions won't be as they are now. A lot of clubs will have gone part-time. We've got

to make motions now for when change comes. We need to be in Division One."

He added: "I read that a fan would be happier if we sold our star every year to balance the books. I'd be pilloried if I sold Sean Devine. Look what happened to York last season. They were doing fine until they sold Richard Cresswell to Sheffield Wednesday and they got relegated. I don't want to just balance the books. I want to be up there in the chase."

● Sanchez told fans 'I told you so' as his decision to rest five stars from last month's AWS defeat at Oxford was vindicated. Oxford

picked up three injuries and a ban from the competition, they're now out of, and it's hit their league form and they're now in the bottom four.

● Players will attend the Official Supporters Club's race night for the youth team in the Vere Suite on February 10 (7pm). Admission is £2. A signed Arsenal shirt will be raffled by WWISC in aid of the youth team after next week's match. £1 tickets will be sold in the bars.

● Fans will be banned from the main stand paddock and 419 standing places will go from the Syan Stand if the club's planning application to add a second tier to the away end is successful.



Devine: Right to rest him

Who will buy?

BLUES financial director Graham Peart says he expects the club's new owners to come from the area – and there are plenty of people locally who could afford the £8 million asking price *writes Dave Peters.*

Wycombe-based property tycoons Tej and Bobby Dhillon could buy Wanderers and still have plenty of change from their collective wealth of £30 million.

The high-flying brother and sister partnership, who own a chain of hotels including The Kings Arms in Stokenchurch and the Ambassador Court in Wycombe, nestle nicely in Buckinghamshire's millionaires row and are 33rd in Britain's richest Asians list.

But a spokeswoman for the couple said: "We don't wish to make any comment at this moment."

The price tag would also be small potatoes to Beaconsfield entrepreneur Warren Hardy. He's the 545th richest person in the UK and has a collective wealth of £48 million through his mobile phones business.

He is keen on football and has



All offers welcome: There are plenty of wealthy Bucks residents who could afford £8 million

just set up a team for the staff at his European Telecom business which is based in Colnbrook. He also distributes his wealth locally and has established a charity helping special needs schools in Bucks.

Pop star Jay Kay, of Horsenden Manor, is also rich enough to call the tune at Adams Park. The Jamiroquai star has a piggy bank of £15 million.

Pop rival Noel Gallagher could

also afford it out of his £25 million, but he is a self-confessed Manchester City fan and it's hard to imagine him switching allegiance, although an earlier offer to buy City was turned down.

Fellow singer Scary Spice, otherwise known as Mel B of Little Marlow has £22 million at her disposal, but unfortunately for Blues, she's not sporty Spice.

Construction giant Michael

Shanly is another in Britain's rich league with £50 million. His company is mainly concentrated in the Beaconsfield area.

Then there's managing director Bill Venter, who comes in at £24 million with his Loudwater-based electronics group, Telemetrix.

And even closer to home, among the sponsors, The Walters Group of companies are keen supporters of the youth team.

Sanchez keen to see Beeks stay on board

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He would also like to see supporter involvement on the new board, and a deal with Vere could facilitate that.

Sanchez wants the boardroom drama sorting out before the end of the season so he can strengthen the squad and bring in the four players

he says he needs to mount a promotion challenge.

He is in limbo at the moment. He can't bring new players in or even negotiate a new contract for keeper Martin Taylor, whose deal ends this summer.

Sanchez said: "I cannot make a decision until I know what we're

doing money-wise. I'm waiting for the green light."

He warned: "My enthusiasm will only last as long as I think the goal is achievable. I want us to be in the shake up. If we could mould four players onto what we've got we will make a push next year. We have drawn up a wish list of who want."