

Will you pay?

Question over fans' transfer fund leaves supporters and Blues boss wondering

REPORT

By Dave Peters

WANDERERS fans who already spend up to £15 a match are now being asked if they'd be prepared to pay into a transfer fund to buy players.

The idea of setting up a donations account for Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez to bolster his squad is raised in a 49-point questionnaire issued by the Wycombe club which is losing £8,000 a week.

If the idea is implemented, fans who tick yes on the questionnaire, which includes a section for their name and address, will then be chased up by the board and asked how much they are prepared to give.

Financial director Graham Peart said early responses to the Supporters Questionnaire 2000 have been

encouraging. Fans are being asked to return the completed questionnaires to the club before kick off at the Gillingham game on March 28.

But others, including Sanchez, are less enthusiastic.

He said: "It's a nice idea but to improve the team I'd need £100,000 or £200,000 and where are supporters going to raise that? They'd be better off supporting the

club by buying season tickets or coming to games."

Ted Wheller, chairman of the Independent Supporters Club, agreed.

He said: "I think it's a non-starter. We'd never be able to raise that sort of money. It would be embarrassing.

"People might be willing but we'd be lucky to raise £5,000 let alone £100,000."

Other questions ask whether fans would buy shares in the club, if they became available, and

whether supporters would pay £3 for a matchday programme.

Ian Baker, editor of the club's When Skies are Blue fanzine, said: "It's very worrying. It makes me think that they haven't found anyone to take over the club."

"But I still ticked yes because I'd do anything for the club."

Peart denied that the questionnaire, and a subsequent letter from chairman Ivor Beeks asking the club's 400-odd members to contact him if they're "interested in making a major or small investment", mean

that takeover talks for the club have run aground.

He said: "I'm excited by where we are at the moment. We've still got people to speak to about becoming a major investor. We've spoken to some and we've still got others to talk to."

"Talks are ongoing but we're looking at all ways of bringing in money."

Peart says the shares question was included because the club are keen to have a number of smaller investors, pledging a minimum of £500 to a £1,000, alongside those with the big wads, if and when, the proposed constitution shake-up happens.

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