

We can be safe by five

WANDERERS entertain Auto Windscreen Shield finalists Bristol City tomorrow looking for the win that would see them pass manager Lawrie Sanchez's 51-point safety target.

Jason Cousins is missing from the squad after being stretchered off in Tuesday's win over Gillingham but Jamie Bates returns to the fold after recovering from his ankle operation.

Paul Emblen may have to wait longer though, after suffering a slight reaction to his ankle injury in his first game back for the reserves in midweek.

Sanchez who welcomed top scorer Sean Devine back into his squad on Tuesday is delighted his players are coming back from the treatment table.

He said: "We were always going to have a dip and we had it when we were down to the bare bones. We're coming out of that now."

But he warned tomorrow

will be tough.

He said: "Bristol are a decent side and they really should be in the play-off situation with the players and finances they've got. It will be a tough game but if we play like we did on Tuesday we won't be far away and hopefully by 5pm on Saturday we can say we're safe for another year and look to finish ninth or tenth."

Bristol are already planning for next season and have blooded the club's youngsters recently and won just two of their last seven.

Former Wycombe favourite Mickey Bell returns despite being in contract dispute with City after turning down their initial offer of a four year deal.

Bristol, turned down a £50,000 bid from Wigan for him and a £75,000 deadline day bid from Wolves and now risk losing him on a Bosman in the summer unless they persuade him to a sign a new deal.

LETTER

What's going on?

DO other Wanderers' fans share my confusion with regard to proposals and the future direction of the club?

On the one hand Lawrie Sanchez appears to be making comments about more players being sold if supporters do not make a cash injection or purchase season tickets, but this will surely be unnecessary if a backer or consortium is found.

I feel it is something of an insult, even to die hard

supporters, to expect them to provide funds to continually bail out the club when they have experienced several years of below par performances by the team and generally poor entertainment value.

Tolerance can only be maintained for so long, but perhaps management expects unceasing loyalty for repeated mediocrity.

Can Ivor Beeks enlighten us about policy and whether his expectations are those of his manager?

Brian Hughes
Plomer Hill, Downley

Harkin scores for Northern Ireland

MO Harkin capped his Northern Ireland U21 debut by scoring the winning goal in their 2-1 win over Malta on Tuesday.

Harkin came off the bench with 30 minutes left to fire an 89th minute winner through the keeper's legs and give his confidence a boost.

The 20-year-old has struggled to

reclaim his first team place this season after an 18-month injury nightmare.

He said: "Winning my first U21 cap and scoring has given me a lift. I was a bit disappointed not to start but to come on and score was a nice buzz."

Mo, 20, didn't swap shirts at the end because he wants to frame the shirt he scored his debut goal in.

His ambition now is to win his Blues place back and play for the U21s again in their triangular tournament at the end of the summer.

He said: "I'm going to work through the summer."

Boss Lawrie Sanchez said: "It's good that he scored. He'll come back refreshed and with his confidence high."

Tomorrow's opponents ...

Bristol City (h)

... and you can get odds of 7-1 on a 2-1 Wycombe win with Ladbrokes