

Crunch time for the Blues

Board look set to sound out members on club's future

FOOTBALL

By Dave Peters

WYCOMBE Wanderers staged one of the most important meetings in their history last night.

The club called its 400-odd members to a meeting to discuss radical ways to breathe new cash into the club and take it forward.

The board will now decide whether to put their plans to the vote at an extraordinary meeting on October 16.

The Blues were keeping tightlipped about the contents of last night's members-only meeting, which even boss Lawrie Sanchez was not privy to.

But it is believed that it involves long-term sponsors Verco, who are the club's biggest backers, taking an even bigger part in the club's future.

Verco boss Derek Vere was keeping quiet before last night's meeting.

He said: "I think it will be very interesting and I think everyone will come away buoyed up by it."

But he added: "I can't confirm or deny anything before the meeting. It wouldn't be right for me to say anything before the meeting."

But he did add: "We plan to continue our involvement with the club."

Verco are believed to be only one prong of the plan though. It is known that other businesses have been approached and the club have also explored the possibility of selling fans shares for a minimum £500.

Whatever the board does decide, they will need to get the support of 75 per cent of the membership when it is put to the vote and last night's meeting was only ever intended as a sounding-out session.

Wanderers has confirmed that there will not be any windfall payout if the club does change its constitution.

The board and boss Sanchez are desperate for change.

The club, which will report a loss of £258,000 at its AGM next month, has only made a profit once since joining the Football League and Sanchez is at the limit of his players' wages budget already despite having a smaller squad than last year.

He said: "Everyone knows the problem, we are an asset rich and cash poor club and we have to find a solution."

New sponsors Bartercard are also keen to increase their involvement with the club in the future having just shelled out upwards of £150,000 to become stadium sponsors.



LET'S HAVE A HEATED DEBATE: Blues boss Lawrie Sanchez gets hot under the colour at Millwall on Saturday but it all ended happily as Wanderers claimed their first-ever win at the New Den. Report: Page 63

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