

It's a £10,000 Sky windfall

CASH-STRAPPED Wanderers are set to net a £10,000 windfall from Sky television.

Sky have decided to cover Blues' away match at Luton Town in January live. Wanderers, as the away club, receive £10,000 while the Hatters, as the home club, get £30,000.

To accommodate the television coverage the match has been brought forward a day to Friday, January 12 (ko 7.45pm).

● Canadian international triallist Niall Thompson is a few pounds richer this week after winning the players' sweepstake on how long manager Lawrie Sanchez would stay sitting in the stands last week.

The boss who normally stands by the dugout vacated his usual position for a better view of the pitch and a seat in the stands last Saturday.

But the players knew he would not be able to stay there for long and had a bet on how long he would stay there.

Thompson won it when Sanchez left his seat after 31 minutes to go pitchside to check on Chris Vinnicombe's ankle injury.

The cash went some way to making up for Thompson's disappointment at not getting on the field.

His goalscoring performance in the reserves had won him a seat on the bench at the County Ground but the 26-year-old striker with eight international caps didn't get any further than that.

● Midfielder Dave Carroll's comeback has been put on hold again. The 33-year-old who has not played at all this season after a pelvic injury was due to turn out for the reserves at Colchester in midweek but the match was called off because of a waterlogged pitch.

● Staff at the Hughes Mercedes dealership in Beaconsfield will have divided loyalties when Blues entertain Ryman League Harrow Borough in the FA Cup next Saturday.

The company are keen Wycombe Wanderers supporters and sponsors but one of their mechanics, David Hook, is the Harrow goalie.

Wanderers boss Lawrie Sanchez had planned to watch Harrow at Witney in the FA Trophy on Tuesday but the match fell victim to a waterlogged pitch. Wanderers will send their scout to see them at St Albans instead tomorrow.

● Wanderers' Go Green policy continues for the November 25 clash at Colchester. A supporters coach will pick fans up in Thame, Chinnor, Stokenchurch, Marlow and Bourne End priced at £9 adults.

For details of times and to make a booking contact Rena on (01296) 429307.

Tickets for the Colchester match are currently on sale at Adams Park, although the game is not all ticket.

● Wycombe will have to wait another week to discover their opponents in the Auto Windscreen Shield. The draw has been postponed for the second week running because the league are still trying to tie up a deal with a new sponsor.

The unavailability of Wembley for the final has made the tournament less attractive to sponsors but the League insist the competition will still be played this year and say they are close to completing the sponsorship deal.

Yellow fever wipes out the Blues

RON BARNETT

VIEW FROM THE STAND

WELL we're down to the bare bones this week.

We have been left with a skeleton staff of first team regulars to take on Bury.

A sickening mixture of injuries and suspensions means that the players kicking their heels in the stand would make a stronger side than the ones kicking the ball on the pitch.

How's this for a side we would all like to see in action on Saturday - Paul McCarthy, Chris Vinnicombe, Steve Brown, Dave Carroll, Paul Emblen, Dannie Bulman, Andy Baird, Sean Devine and Jermaine McSparran. That's nine of our top players, we only need two more for a full set.

While we've been desperately unlucky with injuries, three of our missing men are unavailable because of an outbreak of yellow fever.

There's very little excuse for our poor disciplinary record, which is currently the second worst in the division. Only Rotherham have collected more cards than our 34 yellows and one Brownie red.

I hope the Big Chief has been busy sending SOS smoke signals out to both the directors and other clubs.

We are in need of some urgent squad strengthening either through the transfer market or loan players, or possibly both.

Lawrie Sanchez has said many times that he is not an advocate of the loan system but, needs must when the devil drives. And that demon is certainly driving all over Adams Park at the moment.

Many other clubs use loan players to help them over short term problems very successfully. The two Bournemouth goalscorers in their home win last week were both youngsters on loan from Chelsea and West Ham.

Most Premier and Division One clubs have a number of promising young players coming through their youth system who are unable to break into the senior squad. Getting first team experience at a lower division club helps their development and helps the smaller clubs at the same time. The salaries of younger players on the way up are usually a lot less than older players on the way down.

The club are currently checking the members list to eliminate anyone who has renewed their season ticket. I understand there is no waiting list for memberships at the moment so, presumably, there will now be vacancies available.

Any season ticket holders who have held season tickets for the last three seasons are eligible to apply for membership by completing the forms available from the club office.

Sanchez tackles team he once tried to manage

LAWRIE Sanchez is plotting the downfall of Bury tomorrow but if things had worked out differently he could have been picking a team to try and beat Wycombe.

Sanchez applied for the Bury job when he was first trying to break into management but did not even get an interview from the Shakers.

Now he is one of the most respected managers in the lower leagues and tipped to manage a Premiership club in the future.

Sanchez told the Bucks Free Press: "When I applied for the Bury job I was just starting out. I knew I wouldn't get it but I thought I needed the practice of going to interviews. But I didn't even get one of those."

Sanchez still has the rejection letter at his home near Reading.

Bury's misfortune has been Wycombe's gain. He was appointed The Chairboys boss in February 1999 and saved the club from relegation with a tremendous late run of results which even included a famous 2-1 win at Manchester City.

The following year he consolidated on that by guiding the Blues to their highest finish in years, of 12th, and this season he has turned the team into serious play-off candidates.

Tomorrow he is out to continue Blues climb, after a mini dip which has seen them collect just two points out of the last possible nine, by taking three points off the Lancastrians.

Bury, like Wycombe, have spent this week trying to pep up their powder puff attack with a loan signing.

Their top scorers Danny Bullock and Adrian Littlejohn have scored four apiece and player boss Andy Preece has been trying to draft in more firepower.

He had a loan move for Manchester United starlet David Healey turned down and is now looking at bringing Stoke striker Dean Crowe back for his third loan spell at Gigg Lane.

In his first spell Crowe got injured in his first game and during his second loan period he could not force his way into the team.

Bury could also include former Partick Thistle striker Richard Dunn who was Thistle's top scorer in the Scottish second division last season.