

Blues off to sunny Spain

They're getting away from it all before biggest match of their lives

WANDERERS will fly to Spain on Sunday to prepare for their FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool next weekend.

Lawrie Sanchez has decided to take them off to the sun after tomorrow's match with Wigan to get them ready for the biggest game in the club's history.

He believes the trip is just

DAVE PETERS

FOOTBALL

what they need to recharge their batteries and escape the media circus which has engulfed Adams Park.

He said: "I think the players need to get away. There are tired bodies out there but they are mentally tired as well. They

have never been in this situation before. Liverpool are used to it. They've played in semi-finals and finals and big games in the Premiership. They are used to it and they deal with it because it is what they live under.

"Our players have been under the spotlight since the Leicester game and they're not used to it.

"I want to get them away from the press, away from people ringing them up for tickets and away from all the distractions that they have never had to deal with before. A change of environment is important and they need to get away and relax."

He will take the whole squad with him to Marbella and it will

be part holiday and part work for Wanderers' cup heroes.

Sanchez said: "We will be training out there in the mornings and relaxing in the afternoons."

He thinks it will be just the tonic his team need before they go into battle against Liverpool with a place in the FA Cup final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium at stake.

He said: "We're all tired. We've played a full season now, 52 games. Normally we would be packing our bags and going on our summer holiday but we've still got ten more games left to go and the biggest one ever in the club's history."

But Sanchez is demanding a

good performance against promotion-chasing Wigan before they jet off.

He said: "It's important we get a good result against Wigan before we go away to Spain where we will be able to regenerate the batteries on the golf course and we will be ready for Liverpool."

Wanderers will return from their sunshine break for next Friday's semi-final press day at Adams Park before travelling up to the Belfry Hotel for their final preparations.

Former Wycombe boss John Gregory has offered them the use of Villa's Bodymoor Heath training ground.

● **Brownie's Parklife: Page 21**

Paint it blue, Wycombe

WITH Wycombe Wanderers now just over a week away from their FA Cup semi-final clash with Liverpool, the BFP is urging readers to get behind the team.

So it's time to get out the bunting, because we are offering a pair of tickets to the clash at Villa Park, to the reader who can best decorate their house, pub, shop or office to celebrate Blues' historic run.

And to set you on your way

we've printed a full-page colour poster in today's BFP for you to put in your window.

So put up the posters, blow up the balloons, hang out the flags and grab the attention of our judges who will be out and about looking for the winner.

We're also giving away another two tickets inside, along with our fabulous shirt competition.

● **Ticket offer: Page 20**
● **Free poster: Page 18**

Sanchez says Southampton haven't asked him

LAWRIE Sanchez has played down speculation linking him with the vacant manager's job at Premiership Southampton.

He said: "I haven't been approached. I would expect Kevin Keegan to get it."

The bookies have stopped taking bets on Keegan returning to The Dell. Saints insiders are convinced that if he does not arrive it will be another big name like George Graham or Gianluca Vialli to take the club

into a new era at their brand new stadium next season.

In the interim, Saints are expected to appoint first team coach Stewart Gray as a replacement for Glenn Hoddle who quit to join Spurs.