

Where do we go from here?

I AM a long serving Wycombe Wanderers supporter who is extremely worried about the future of our club.

We the supporters enjoyed an unbelievable season last year with our team getting to the semi-finals of the FA Cup. A feat unlikely to be repeated again, and an achievement that will live in our memories forever.

However, last year's achievement is now history and it is important that the club sets its stall out for the future.

The board of directors have indicated it is their wish to gain promotion to the first division and that the infrastructure is being put in place to allow this.

They have sanctioned spending on drainage for the training facilities, decorating of the banqueting facilities, a new score board and a percentage of the cost of the new stand - ventures aimed at providing the infrastructure for the long-term development of the club.

In addition, over recent years, we the supporters and members have been bombarded by comments from the board that the club constitution is holding back development and, without a change, the club cannot move forward.

As a member, I would welcome a change to the constitution provided it benefits the club.

So our club now has lovely facilities but we seem reluctant to spend money on the real top-flight players.

We have been in discussions with players from teams such as Northampton, Wrexham and Mansfield. We were close to signing their best strikers but failed to do so because

they asked for too much money.

Surely we can expect the better players at this level to ask for more money. If these players are capable of guiding the club to promotion, then surely those demands are warranted.

We can spend money on carpets and scoreboards but not on increased wages for better players. Is this not false economy?

The results at the start of this season have been fairly disappointing, we have been fortunate to get points against Wigan, Chesterfield and QPR.

The team has worked hard but playing deficiencies have become fairly obvious to us all. We have been playing without a true leader of the line, up front, and we are missing a high quality central defender since the departure of Jamie Bates.

If we are to finish anywhere near the top half of Division Two we need to purchase three or four quality players. In Lawrie Sanchez's words, these players must be of a better quality than those we already have. So it makes sense to expect better quality players to demand better terms.

Our directors seem to be building a Rolls Royce in the way of facilities but are satisfied with a Ford Escort in the way of a team.

Surely the only way to get real money, ambition and drive into our club is to change the constitution to a limited company based on shareholding. This would allow an immediate injection of cash and could lead to the acquisition of a benefactor, such as Sam Hammam, who is doing a fantastic job at Cardiff.

I am not sure of the exact figure, but if we were to suppose the existing assets of WWFC were worth £10 million, we could make available for purchase ten million £1

shares.

Make a percentage of these available to the members, supporters and current directors, leaving say 60 to 70 per cent available for purchase by an outside body or bodies.

The club would obviously need to write into the new memorandum and articles a number of controls to ensure the club's future well being. However, on the plus side, a great proportion of the newly generated funds could be used towards a fighting chest for the purchase of high quality players.

This is surely the only way forward if our beloved WWFC are to compete with the likes of Cardiff and Reading.

The longer we delay in taking the necessary decision the more risk there is of us losing further ground. We cannot make things happen with the existing revenue streams.

I am sure that all but a handful of supporters who attended the game against Reading will have left absolutely disgusted and disillusioned by the performance of our team. We are light years behind Reading.

So let's get the board and the members of WWFC together in order to make this change.

Roy Bevan (WWFC member)
Eastway, Beaconsfield

Where's all the money gone?

I'M a degree student at university, but I still manage to keep up with the Wanderers as much as possible.

I was just wondering whether I am alone in thinking that the tactics of Lawrie Sanchez leave a lot to be desired.

As far as on-the-pitch action, it is very much a mixture of battling

hard without the ability to break down some very poor defences.

The Graham Taylor-esque use of the long-ball is of very little use with players such as Holligan or Emblen. Surely the use of long-ball should be restricted to a team with the forwards quick enough and/or tall enough to latch onto them.

Can we really go on getting loan players and cheap cover for Sean Devine and expect Division Two teams to give away good quality players for peanuts.

Of course we do not have the money to get in great, young players from the top clubs, but where is the payback for the support given during the cup run?

We do have some money.

Fair enough, Wycombe have been unlucky in attempts to sign the likes of Jamie Forrester and Craig Falcounbridge, but we've had all summer to sign players and now we may have to wait until play-off prospects are gone before we sign another player.

With the ageing side that Sanchez has currently we will amount to nothing more than a reasonable mid-table side.

Alastair Roy Hughes
College Rd,
Stoke on Trent

All talk, but no new players

PRIOR to the commencement of recent seasons, beguiling messages emanated from Adams Park about the likelihood of new players to bolster a bid for promotion.

These comments were supported by local media hype, presumably in an attempt to boost ticket sales.

In the event little transfer activity occurred and familiar faces have re-appeared. Loyalty should

be rewarded to an extent, but the retention of the old brigade, some from Conference days, is now surely halting progress.

Despite the wonderful cup run, achieved by battling performances and a slice of luck, it was obvious that a radical overhaul was necessary and this was recognised by management, if pre-season sentiments were to be believed.

A centre back, a constructive midfielder and at least one striker were essential if any prospect of promotion was to become reality.

Instead, only two players arrived, one of these on a free transfer and yet again the frantic search for those available on loan. A case of too little, too late with opportunities missed during the close season.

In this context no mention seems to be made of scouting activities on behalf of the club and one wonders whether this important ingredient exists within the club framework. My impression is of a manager who has to scour the country alone in the search for talent.

Another popular misconception is that the majority of non-league players could not adjust or make the grade in the lower divisions. If we don't give some of them the opportunity we will never know and at the very least they would provide some impetus to a side which on occasions has already looked stale and devoid of ideas so early in the season.

We gave the club our wholehearted support during the cup run, paying a substantial amount in the process. Isn't it time the club repaid our efforts, otherwise continued mediocrity will prevail. As the adage goes, you can fool some of the people some of the time ...

Brian Hughes
Plomer Hill, Downley,
High Wycombe