

From paradise... to this



Wanderers could have been spending their holidays here....



But they will be spending them here at the club's training ground instead

Blues beached for summer

WANDERERS stars will swap sun-drenched beaches for the training ground this summer in a bid to get the club into Division One.

Boss Lawrie Sanchez has ordered them all in for summer training as he tries to steal a march on their promotion rivals.

It is the first time ever that the players have been called in during the close season to keep up their sharpness and fitness.

The players were stunned when they heard about the revolutionary plan, but say the sacrifice will be worth it if they win promotion.

The team will have just two weeks off at the end of the season

before reporting back to the club twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for training during the close season.

The players will also be entitled to take a further two-week break with their families when it suits them in the summer and will get another week off just before they hit pre-season training in full.

Sanchez said: "It is a maintenance programme. I've agreed it with the lads and we're going to work through the summer. I put it to the players. I told them what I wanted to do and told them to get their gripes out of the way now."

The decision has not gone down well with some of the

players' families, but is an indication of how serious the club is about winning promotion.

Striker Andy Rammell, 35, said: "It's not the best news I've had. We were planning to go touring around France and Spain, but now that's off."

"The only way I could swing it was by promising my wife that we would get a conservatory."

"I've been in the game for 20 years and I've never had to do anything like this before. I'm not keen, but it will be worth it if we get into the play-offs."

Club captain Keith Ryan said: "It's more of an issue for players travelling a long distance. Personally, I would have been

here working anyway. I'd rather it was with people than training on my own."

Veteran midfielder Steve Brown said: "I think it could be a good idea. My only fear is that we could suffer burnout in mid-season."

Striker Jermaine McSporn said: "It was a big surprise. We were expecting to get eight weeks off but it is designed to benefit us and if it comes off everyone will say what a good idea it was."

"We all want to get promotion next season and we saw when we played Reading that they were a lot fitter and stronger than us."

Defender Jason Cousins has also welcomed the plan.

He said: "It's all for our benefit at the end of the day. It's a bit of an experiment and it's all designed to keep us trim."

Canadian international Mark Rogers said: "It's a bit of a surprise. My family live on the other side of the world so it's a bit difficult, but if it benefits us then I'm happy."

And Martyn Lee, who did no pre-season training last year because of a hernia operation, was also in favour.

He said: "I'm not that bothered about it and I'll be coming in for more than two days a week."

"Last season, I didn't have a pre-season and it's been hard coming back."

"I think it's a good idea."

Sanchez is determined to his the ground running next season and avoid losing players to the knocks they traditionally pick up in that last mad dash for fitness.

He said: "It's 16 weeks between the end of this season and the start of next season and we need to be right."

"It's something we've thought long and hard about. I don't want a situation where people are breaking down in pre-season."

The boss will also announce a trimmed-down programme of pre-season matches and it is unlikely they will play any matches at Adams Park until the league starts on August 10.