

Wasps arrival can be the catalyst for the Wycombe side next season

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez reckons Wasps' arrival in Wycombe could be the catalyst Blues need as they battle for promotion next year.

He believes having players of the calibre of former England skipper Lawrence Dallaglio and ex-Rugby League star Martin Offiah around will rub off on his players.

He said: "The Wasps boys are elite athletes. They have performed at the top level and there is loads of stuff we can learn from them."

He believes that as well as banking more than £1 million in rent and related income from Wasps, the two teams can work closely together and share ideas.

He met England rugby boss Clive Woodward at a recent football managers' coaching course and was bowled over by Woodward's ideas and what he had to say.

Now Sanchez and Wasps coach Warren Gatland plan to get together in the summer and have regular meetings to exchange ideas about training, fitness and match preparation.

Sanchez said: "I think there is a lot we can learn from each other. Wasps are a side at the top of their game and it will be very interesting for us to see how they do things."

Gatland is also excited about the opportunity to exchange ideas.

He said: "I'm looking forward to meeting him. We share the same ground and I think we can all benefit from that in more ways than one."

"It is important that we have a healthy relationship and support each other. I think we could all benefit from a cross-pollination of ideas."

Wanderers have already taken on former Wasps coach Pat Fox as their fitness guru alongside Peter Cawley.

Fox spent nine years with



Lawrie Sanchez

Wasps before leaving the club when coach Nigel Melville left to join Gloucester earlier in the season and has been helping to put the Wanderers through their paces.

Sanchez also reckons that Wasps arrival will foster a new competitive spirit at Adams Park.

He said: "It is going to great. Both teams will want to be the top dog. There will be healthy competition between the teams with both wanting to pull the biggest crowd and be the most successful team."

Sanchez will sit down with Wanderers chairman Ivor Beeks to discuss his budget again over the next couple of weeks now that the Wasps deal has been finalised, but he doesn't know whether it will lead to him being given more money to spend on players.

He has already signed Wrexham hotshot Craig

Faulconbridge and former Crystal Palace forward Richard Harris to boost his strike force this summer, as well as signing defensive rock Andy Thomson at the end of last season.

He said: "I'm very bullish about next season. I'm very pleased with the squad we've put together. Everything is looking very positive."

"For the first time we've got three top-line centre forwards with Faulconbridge, Andy Rammell and Sean Devine and we've got Gavin Holligan and Richard Harris putting pressure on them."

"We've tightened up the back with Thomson coming in and if Roger Johnson starts the season in the way that he did when he came into the side next season, then no-one will shift him."

"We've got layers of quality in our side now and people are no longer guaranteed a place in the team."

Sanchez will continue to trawl the free transfer market this summer but says he will be happy to kick off on August 10 with what he's got now if he can't pick up any more bargains.

He said: "If there's any money available then I will see what's out there and what we can afford. I'm always looking to add layers of quality."

But he won't panic if he can't get other people in and reckons crooked Jermaine McSparran could be the joker in his pack.

He said: "I'm looking at him coming back in January and that will be a fantastic boost at just the right time. Hopefully we'll be around the top of the table by then and his return will be like getting a new signing."

Mr AWOL turns up in Hayes

LEEYON Phelan has joined Conference drop-outs Hayes after going AWOL from Wycombe Wanderers.

The 19-year-old striker walked out on the Blues last season after becoming frustrated at his lack of first team opportunities.

He quit after being told to turn out in a reserve game and hasn't been seen at the club since.

But new Hayes boss Willy Wordsworth is happy to give Phelan, who was a prolific scorer in Blues youth team, a second chance.

He has taken a gamble in signing Phelan without ever seeing him play.

Wasps move pleases Tel



Celebration: Big Tel (centre) will welcome Wasps

BLUES physio Terry 'Tel' Evans is delighted Wasps are moving to Adams Park - he's a season ticket holder with the Zurich Premiership club.

The former defensive rock turned medical man is good mates with their England stars Lawrence Dallaglio and Phil Greening and flanker Paul Volley and is looking forward to making them feel at home in Bucks.

He said: "As soon as I heard the news I sent Phil Greening a text message to tell him I was his new landlord."

Evans is a huge rugby fan.

He said: "I love it, anything with a bit of violence. I played at school and I loved it. I played for the county a few times but the game was

semi-pro then so I never really kept up with it when football came along. But I would have loved to have had a go to see if I could play at that level."

"I've always followed Wasps' results and then when my football career finished I really started getting into it. My wife bought me a Wasps shirt for Christmas and I'm a season ticket holder down there and I've been to a few away games as well."

And he tipped Wasps to make a big impact on the Premiership next season.

He said: "Warren Gatland has really turned it round since taking over from Nigel Melville. We beat Leicester at our place and I think there are good times ahead."