



Managing to succeed: Lawrie Sanchez after receiving his UEFA Pro Coaching Licence from Sir Bobby Robson and Howard Wilkinson

Sir Bobby and Howard meet a top class boss

LAWRIE Sanchez is among the top ten coaches in the country – and that's official.

The Blues boss was presented with the FA's highest coaching qualification by former England boss Sir Bobby Robson and the FA's technical director Howard Wilkinson on Wednesday.

Sanchez was hand-picked for the FA's pioneering UEFA Pro-Licence coaching course and was among the elite group of ten who passed out with flying colours.

The course provided a year-long study of the art and science of modern coaching and was specifically designed

to give the country's most talented coaches the chance to fulfil their potential at the highest level.

Coaches of the calibre and experience of Sir Alex Ferguson and Fabio Capello dropped in to give their tips to Sanchez and the rest of his classmates on last year's pilot course.

Sanchez said: "It is important for me and important for the club.

"It was an honour to be invited on to the pilot course and I've learned an awful lot from it.

"It was hard work but it was very productive and I've already put some of

the things I've learned into practice here.

"The [two-day-a-week] summer maintenance programme and some of the changes to our pre-season programme gave come from it and there will be a lot of other things going on in the background that have come from it."

He added: "It has certainly opened my eyes to other areas that I need to cover.

"It would have been easy after the success that we've had here, reaching the semi-final to sit back and think I

was doing alright, but there is a lot more to learn and there are lots of things I need to do."

Wilkinson is sure that Wanderers fans will soon see the benefits.

He said: "It'll raise standards for the clubs, for the fans and the players, so there are pay-offs all around."

The full list of managers on the inaugural course were Dick Bate, Noel Blake, Terry Burton, Steve Cotterill, Mervyn Day, Dario Gradi, Stewart Houston, Martin Hunter, Chris Hughton, Sammy Lee, Lawrie Sanchez and former Blues boss Alan Smith.