

O'Neill says Sanchez is the man for the Blues

MARTIN O'Neill has backed Lawrie Sanchez to take Wanderers into the first division.

The Celtic chief was amazed to learn that a section of the Adams Park support has turned against the manager who led the Blues to the FA Cup semi-final 18 months ago.

O'Neill, who took Wanderers from the non-league game into the Football League, says Sanchez has matched his own achievements at the club.

He said: "The best thing that has ever happened to the club has been that semi-final run."

And he reckons that Sanchez has now become a victim of his own success.

He said: "It surprises me that some of the fans have been booing Lawrie, although nothing should surprise me any more in football.

"I've been booed once or twice myself, actually more than once or twice and not too long ago either.

"I think you are talking about expectations and when you've been in a semi-final people probably expect Champions League football.

"The club has done remarkably well under his leadership and you can see that if he could get a run going and keep the players fit they can challenge and try and get promotion.

"But getting promotion to Division One and staying there is not easy. All those things take time and Lawrie Sanchez is the man to do it."

● Fans have the chance to quiz Sanchez on his tactics and everything else at a fans forum on Monday night in the Vere Suite at 8.15pm.

Sanchez called the meeting after his team were booed for their long ball style of play.