

Angry Gibson backs the boss

ASSISTANT boss Terry Gibson was disgusted by last Saturday's fans' protest against manager Lawrie Sanchez.

Supporters at Blues' match at Cheltenham last Saturday displayed a 'Sanchez Out' banner and a 'Don't Go Sean' banner in protest at the club's decision to accept an £80,000 from Exeter for top scorer Devine.

And throughout the 0-0 draw, the large travelling support shouted their backing for Devine and turned up the heat on under-fire Sanchez.

But Gibson was furious with the protesters.

He said: "When I came out and saw that I was really cheesed off. I wanted to go round and speak to these supporters.

"They are not going to realise how good it has been until Lawrie does eventually go elsewhere.

"Then, they will say he kept us in that division, gave them the greatest day out they are ever going to have - a day none of us ever dreamed of, Liverpool in the semi-final of the FA Cup let alone Leicester, let alone Wimbledon.

"In the last three years we've gone from a team that was down when we arrived to a mid-table team."

And he defended the club's decision to accept the Exeter bid.

He said: "What Lawrie does is for the good of the club and this isn't just Lawrie's decision to let Sean go. It was a business proposition from one club to another. If you get a transfer fee to generate some income you would be mad not to take it."

And he was upset that fans chose to back Devine rather than the gaffer.

He said: "Sean didn't stick with us.

Sean has done excellently for our football club but he was asked to play today and he didn't want to.

"I think it is a reality check for our supporters to be honest. Unless they come up with £50,000 or £75,000 in the future I think they should back the manager.

"They are backing someone who played the last year. He had a great spell for us when he kept us up, didn't play for 18 months and they're remembering that really.

"I feel really disappointed that a handful of supporters chose to behave like that.

"They need a reality check. We are not Manchester United. We are the same as the majority of clubs in our division and the division below. We have to survive. "We've been offered the chance to take some money for a player who will be out of contract in the summer.

"It's unrealistic whether we are going to offer him the same money that he's been offered because that's the climate of football now.

"Sean's had the opportunity, the club have made money on it. He's been an excellent servant for this club and no-one will ever forget what he did.

"But I think the manager has contributed a fair bit to this club in the last three or four years and I think the supporters should remember that.

"In an ideal world we would keep Sean until the end of the season, money wouldn't be a problem, try and do another deal with him, but that's not reality.

"It's unfair to dig the manager out



Looking out for each other: Terry Gibson right, and Lawrie Sanchez

and shout Don't Go Sean. He's been offered a job for two-and-a-half years and we weren't in a position to do that."

Sanchez didn't come out to face the press afterwards and Gibson said: "I know Lawrie is hurting, but it won't worry him. With all due respect it wasn't 20,000 people breathing down his neck it was a handful of supporters behind the goal that I wanted to go round and speak to before the game."

Sanchez began to fall out of favour with fans when he introduced a more

direct style of play this season. Fans didn't like it and started jeering the team when they were leading Crewe 1-0 in a match they went onto lose 2-1. Sanchez blamed the fans for the defeat, accusing them of undermining the team's confidence.

He then changed tactics to suit the fans but after a 4-2 defeat at home to long ball specialists Brentford he upset fans by telling them that Wycombe could have played like that if he had been allowed to by them.