

Sanchez tells supporters it is time for a reality check

WANDERERS boss Lawrie Sanchez told supporters at last night's Fans Forum that it is time to get real.

He used the meeting to give fans a stern reality check and told them that: "It is time they woke up and smelt the roses."

Speaking to the Free Press before last night's meeting at Adams Park, Sanchez said that while he is dreaming of promotion to Division One, his main priority is keeping the club afloat and keeping them in the second division.

He said: "People have got to realise what we are. We are a middle of the table second division club with middle of the table crowds.

"A touch of reality has got to hit this club and it will be a good thing for all concerned that we wake up and smell the roses.

"Our priorities are financial survival, staying in Division Two and from there we will try and push on and do well."

Sanchez's comments, allied with a stark financial report from chairman Ivor Beeks, were

not what the fans wanted to hear on a night when the Blues kicked off their celebrations to mark their tenth anniversary as Football League club.

Since joining the professional ranks, Blues have enjoyed a promotion and an FA Cup semi-final two years ago.

But a section of fans have shown their discontent and called for the manager's head this season as the Blues have been marooned in mid-table obscurity.

But Sanchez warned fans that

they would have to expect more of the same next season as Wanderers battle against a tide of debts.

They made a loss of more than £450,000 last year and are on course to record another deficit around £400,000 this year.

Sanchez - who went into the meeting on the back of four straight defeats - has got no money to strengthen the squad.

The only way that will change is if fans buy plenty of season tickets or if keeper Martin Taylor joins Barnsley where he is

currently on loan.

If he leaves, that would free-up his wages and enable the manager to bring in a free transfer.

He said: "The flexibility is in the fans and if Martin goes.

"But if season tickets don't reach what we are looking for there will be a contraction of the budget."

He added: "It's not the best way to go into a fans forum but it will make people realise what we are. Perhaps the expectations will have to be lowered.

"Realism isn't what they want to hear but it is what they need to hear.

"We will be trying to get promotion and if the play-off does come down to the eight placed team it will help our cause but people shouldn't be disappointed if we don't make it.

"The priority next season is to break even. I will get pilloried by some for saying it but we can no longer afford to lose money like we have been. We are at the top end of our overdraft and brewery loan."