

Magic not reality

I THINK that Lawrie Sanchez was not right in his assertion that the Blues fans need 'a reality check' (BFP April 18). We all live lives packed with reality 24 hours a day.

What we look for is a couple of hours of magic on a Saturday afternoon as a means of escape.

His message 'come to see a mediocre team with no hope, who will struggle to stay in mid-table' is hardly guaranteed to put the much-needed bums of the paying public on seats.

If he does not truly believe that we can do better, then we might all just as well pack up and go home.

The problem is that this negative attitude now seems to have spilled on to the field, if recent matches are anything to go by.

Players with the ball have nobody running into positions to provide passing options.

Rare attacks by lone strikers are seldom supported by teammates. Dead-ball situations are in general unimaginative and often ill-executed.

In comparison, most of our opponents put us to shame in these departments and none of these things can really be put down to a shortage of money.

If the Cheltenham game is taken as an example, we conceded the initiative after

about the first ten minutes and thereafter spent most of the time on the back foot trying to keep them at bay.

Darren Currie, the one player capable of springing any surprises, was taken off and guess what? Yes, he was replaced with another defender, which reduced our attacking options even more.

Although the football pundits can make the game sound like something from another planet, its basics are very simple.

You don't win games if you don't score goals. You don't score goals unless you make attempts at the opponents' goal. You can only make attempts at goal if you are in the opponents' half.

It is this last point which seems to be such a problem for us at present.

It will not matter what playing system we employ if we enter games with an apparent strategy of not losing, rather than winning. A certain Irishman had (and still has) the knack of getting 110 per cent out of his players. Perhaps with more positive thinking and a change of attitudes we can start to believe in magic again.

After all, you can never reach the heights with your feet stuck too firmly to the ground.

J W Leppard
25 Wattleton Road
Beaconsfield