

Ryan: Time to let the money men in

Skipper urges fans to consider the big change

SKIPPER Keith Ryan has called on supporters to vote for the biggest change in the club's history and allow big money backers into the club.

Rhino says the current closed-shop constitution is holding the club back and says fans need to move with the times.

He said: "Much as I love this club and the family atmosphere of it, I'm starting to think change is the way forward."

"I fail to see how we can raise enough money under our present constitution where we are self sufficient to compete with the other teams."

"And if there are any benefactors out there who could stick a bit of money in, it could be the answer."

At the moment, Wanderers are unusual in that they don't have a sugar daddy figure at the helm putting money in.

They are owned by around 450 members each holding a £1 stake in the club.

The system protects the club's future but it also means Wanderers must generate all their own income through gate receipts, sponsorship, transfers and other such avenues, which at the moment are not bringing in enough money to enable them to compete.

Ryan, who has been with The Chairboys since their non-league days, understands supporters' fears that change could carry risks with investors wanting something in return for their money.

And he says the club would have to put safeguards in place to protect it from unscrupulous investors.

He said: "I think a bit of outside help is the way forward but it would have to be done in such a way that the club is protected."

"I don't know all the ins-and-outs of it but anyone can see that we have struggled over the past four or five seasons to compete in this league for one reason or another and if getting more money in means you get better players,



Looking ahead: Keith Ryan is urging fans to listen to what the club has to say

DAVE PETERS

WANDERERS

perhaps that's the way to go.

"It is killing me to see the club struggling like it is."

Wanderers claim they have investors armed with around £1.5 million waiting to step in and are lining up a series of meetings with supporters in a bid to persuade them to vote for change.

The meetings are due to take place on Tuesday, January 27, Wednesday, January 28 and Monday, February 2.

The club needs the support of 75 per cent of the membership before it can push through any change.

Wanderers are desperate to persuade the membership, who voted against change at the last referendum, to support their plans.

The club are rock bottom of the

second division. The players have already accepted a ten per cent wage deferral which has to be paid back and they also owe supporters £400,000 in the shape of the Loan Notes scheme which has to be paid back over a ten year period.

Meanwhile Ryan has leaped to the defence of under-fire boss Tony Adams and told fans not to blame him for the club's perilous position, nine points adrift of the Division Two safety zone.

He said: "People can try to point the finger at the manager but I really don't think any problems can be labelled on him. The problems started a long while before he got here."

"This has been a mess of a season. The club has not been in the best state from the first day of pre-season when we were asked to take a wage deferral."

"It has been one thing after

another, not getting off to a good start, losing a manager, having a caretaker manager and Tony being employed."

"There's no money at the club. You look through the Blackpool side [3-0 victors over Wycombe last week] and they are littered with good professional players. We've got a lot of young lads who are still learning."

Ryan, who has played under Martin O'Neill and John Gregory in an 11-year Blues career, says Adams is working harder than anyone to turn it round.

He said: "He's out there more than any manager I've ever worked with on the training field and he's trying to put things right."

"A lot of good players have gone from here without being replaced at the start of the season and when you haven't got money it has got to be difficult."