

Supporters win the team a trip to Ibiza

BLUES will kick off next season with a pre-season tournament in Ibiza.

They will join Oldham Athletic and a San Antonio select side battling it out for the San Antonio Cup in July.

Blues have been invited to take part in the all-expenses paid trip thanks to the good behaviour of their fans.

They have been invited because the organisers are confident that their fans will behave on the island after visiting Adams Park to check out the behaviour of supporters.

The team are being put up in a four-star hotel and their flights, accommodation and training pitches are all being

paid for by the Council of Ibiza and the tour company PlayHard sports who are selling packages to supporters.

John Gorman's squad will fly out from Stansted on July 3 and play the semi-professional San Antonio Select XI under floodlights in their first match on Tuesday before facing Oldham at the same 1,500 capacity ground two days later.

Blues chairman Ivor Beeks is delighted to accept the invitation and praised the fans for making it happen.

He said: "We are very lucky with the behaviour of our supporters I just hope that a large number of them can come out and watch us play in Ibiza."

And he says the all-expenses paid training camp is a major boost to the club.

Last year the directors dug deep into their pockets to fund a week of pre-season training at Nigel Mansell's exclusive country club in Devon.

Beeks said: "It cost us a lot of money to go down there. It was a considerable amount of money which Tony Adams took from his budget. This trip to Ibiza is extremely helpful because there is no cost involved."

Damien McGrath of promoters PlayHard said: "Ibiza is keen to change its reputation and is having a big drive towards sports."

All-inclusive package trips for fans including flights, accommodation match tickets and access to supporters activities start at £319 for seven days.

For more details log onto www.playhardsports.co.uk or call their offices on 01943 464297.

● Gary Smith's youth team are also off on their travels.

The week after the first team return from Ibiza, they are going to Norway to take part in a tournament.

Blues only have to raise money for their flights and the youth section will be organising fund-raising events to help them.