

Do they know the way to stop Jose?

'It's astronomical but we've earned the right to try'

WANDERERS boss Paul Lambert has admitted his team could not have been set a sterner test in the Carling Cup semi-final.

Chelsea have splashed out £480 million on players under Roman Abramovich and have a weekly wage budget that dwarfs the total amount spent assembling the entire Wanderers squad.

And Jose Mourinho clearly has a fondness for the competition which brought him his first silverware in England two seasons ago; his team have yet to concede a goal in the competition this year, beating Blackburn 2-0 and Aston Villa 4-0.

If not mission impossible, Lambert admits asking his team to match the Kings Road aristocrats over 180 minutes of football is certainly mission implausible.

He said: "Chelsea could potentially win everything in sight this year."

And although Wanderers have seen off Premiership sides Charlton and Fulham, Lambert says that beating Chelsea is something else entirely.

He said: "Charlton were a top class side but Chelsea are another level.

"It is an astronomical thing for this football club to play against them in the semi-final of a major competition.

"They could win the Premiership, the Champions League, they could win everything in sight but we have earned the right to play against them.

"We are so far the underdogs it is frightening. They are on another stratosphere, let alone another planet."

Chelsea fans have been allocated the Dream Stand at Adams Park for the first leg, which takes place on Wednesday, November 10, 8pm.

Assuming Chelsea sell out their section of about 1,800 tickets, Wanderers expect Adams Park to be at capacity for the game.

Tickets for the game went on sale on Wednesday to Blues season ticket holders, Leagueline members and supporters registered on the club's database who have attended three or more home games.

Supporters on the club's database who have been to three or more away games will be added to the priority list tomorrow, while supporters who have been to three or more games home or away can purchase tickets following the Hereford match at Adams Park on New Year's Day.

Supporters on the club's database who have not been to at least one match can buy tickets next Thursday, before any remaining tickets go on general sale on Friday.

Prices range from £8 for juniors in the Valley Terrace to £28 for adults in the BCUC stand.

Meanwhile, tickets for the second leg at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday, January 23 could go on sale this weekend.

Chelsea could allocate as many as 6,000 tickets to travelling Wanderers fans.



Captain of the bridge: Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho, but can Wanderers wipe the smile from his face next month

Picture by SACHA LILLA 05 2099 30

Grant to miss out



LAST Saturday's draw produced the worst possible result for Anthony Grant.

The midfielder, on loan at Adams Park from Chelsea, has already helped Wycombe beat Fulham and Charlton on the road to the last four but will now have to sit out the semi-finals.

Easter sets Chelsea in his sights

JERMAINE Easter's Carling Cup quarter-final goal was the nail in Les Reed's coffin, he wants to wipe the smile off Jose Mourinho's face.

Easter has scored in every round of Wanderer's startling Carling Cup campaign this season, and with two more goals over Christmas taking his tally to 17, he will fancy his chances against a Chelsea side starting to leak goals at the back.

Six goals conceded in their last three games has coincided with a back injury to John Terry, and the England skipper is almost certain to miss the Adams Park clash in 12 days time – and possibly even the return fixture too.

And with first choice keepers Petr Cech and Carlo Cudicini also injured at the moment, Easter, an Arsenal fan, will be licking his lips at the prospect of springing the shock to end all shocks.