

Blues face anxious wait on Captain Cracks

PETER Taylor faces an anxious wait as influential skipper Dave McCracken continues to mull over his new contract offer.

The Blues have offered him what manager Taylor describes as a very good deal but McCracken, who is now a free agent, has still not put pen to paper.

The Scot's form this season has brought him to the attention of Championship outfit Crystal Palace as well as drawing admiring glances from north of the border and McCracken has gone away to look at his options.

But Taylor remains confident he will win the battle to retain the services of the 27-year-old who led Wanderers to promotion in

only his second season at the club.

He said: "I'm still very hopeful.

"I would really like to keep him and if we were out of the loop I am sure he would have told me because that's the sort of honest person he is."

McCracken arrived in England from Dundee United after becoming disillusioned at his lack of medal prospects in a league dominated by Rangers and Celtic.

And in his first season in England he helped Wycombe into the play-offs before topping that this term by leading the club to promotion in only his second year.

Now Taylor - who has won a record-equalling five Football League promotions as a

manager - believes he can match his skipper's ambitions.

He said: "David has come to England to be successful and it is up to us to prove to him that we are going to have a go."

And Taylor is hoping he can do that with a succession of high calibre signings as Blues look to compete on the same stage as fallen giants Leeds United and a trio of former Premiership clubs in the shape of Southampton, Norwich and Charlton.

Taylor says he has only entered one season with the intention of just consolidating - that was after leading Hull into the Championship - and he says he is not looking at repeating that as he looks onwards and upwards.



CONTRACT TALKS: Dave McCracken

Sergie-no, says boss

MANAGER Peter Taylor has poured cool water on Sergio Torres' hopes of a quick return to Adams Park.

The Argentinian was hoping to resurrect his career in Bucks after being given the cold shoulder by Peterborough United just one year into his three-year deal at London Road.

He has been placed on the transfer list by Boro boss Darren Ferguson after making just 12 appearances for the Posh as they clinched their second successive promotion to earn a place in the Championship next year.

Torres, who learned the news while on holiday back in Argentina, immediately set his sights on a Wanderers return but Taylor says his priorities lie elsewhere.

He said: "That's not one I'm looking at at the moment."

Scott gets O's deal

FORMER Blues striker Scott McGleish has signed a one-year deal at League One rivals Leyton Orient after impressing on loan there last season.

The 35-year-old marksman, who was Blues 26-goal top scorer the season before last, joins the Os on a free transfer after Wanderers decided not to renew his contract.

Meanwhile, another former Wanderer, right back Danny Senda is one of ten released by Millwall.

Sawyer loan move

CHELSEA look set to keep teenage starlet Lee Sawyer despite overtures from Wanderers and Southend United.

The League One rivals both had him on loan last season and were looking to turn that into a permanent move.

But the word coming out of Stamford Bridge is that the Premiership club aren't ready to sell - although they may be persuaded to loan him out again.

Wycombe boss Peter Taylor would be interested in that, providing Chelsea agree to a long term, possibly season-long loan.

Sinclair on hold

FORMER Premiership and Jamaican World Cup defender Frank Sinclair is waiting to hear whether he will be offered renewed terms at Adams Park.

The 37-year-old joined on a short-term contract at the end of last season to help guide Blues' young guns over the promotion finish line.

But he hasn't been promised anything next term and boss Peter Taylor will continue to keep him hanging.

Taylor said: "I've spoken to Frank and he knows I'm waiting to see what's out there and how much it's going to cost."

Taylor knows he could lose Sinclair but says it's a risk he's prepared to take as he weighs up the summer market.

He said: "Frank's got to do what's best for him and his family."

Blues match Taylor's ambitions with cash

**Wanderers
by Dave Peters**

dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

WANDERERS boss Peter Taylor will enter the summer transfer market with an increased budget after winning promotion to League One.

The boss has been rewarded for masterminding Blues' first promotion in 15 years with a kitty which he hopes will be able to make his side competitive in their new surroundings.

The final figures have yet to be fully ironed out but Taylor revealed this week he is well on the way to getting a budget he is happy with.

He said: "I think we are getting to a figure that's realistic for us to be pushing and to have a good season again."

Taylor wants to do more than just consolidate and is looking for a top half finish next season.

He said: "Scunthorpe and Millwall showed this year that you don't have to be a Leeds or a Leicester to get up there."

But he knows he will have to use his money wisely in a division littered with ambitious and once-proud clubs.

He said: "League One next year is as good as it has been for a very long time."

As well as the big fishes of Leeds, Southampton, Charlton and Norwich, Taylor is predicting a big push from Brighton as well as serious sustained challenges from Southend United and the MK Dons again.

He said: "It has made me even more determined to get a decent budget because we are going to have to compete in a very competitive league next season."



THE BIG DEAL: Steve Hayes has been working hard to come up with a budget which will enable Wycombe to compete next season.

And he paid tribute to managing director Steve Hayes for backing his ambitions for next season - and funding a club where the crowds

have been slow to respond.

Twice during the season Blues set record ten-year lows for home attendances and even though they

did record their highest ever league crowd of nearly 10,000 for their final home game of the season, Taylor is looking for the part-time supporters to put more of their cash over the turnstiles.

He said: "We are very fortunate to have someone like Steve Hayes at the club. I was disappointed with the crowds we were getting when we were flying and we are hoping, and I hope for Steve Hayes' sake that a few more fans turn out next season."

"It was brilliant to have 10,000 fans at the last game and the support towards the end was good and I'm hoping that many of them will come back."

And he is confident they will.

He said: "If you were a bank manager you have got everything you would have wanted in the play-offs with Leeds and Millwall not going up and Gillingham coming into our division."

"There are so many big clubs in the league and a lot of southern clubs so we can look forward to seeing some big away supports next year."

Three Championship teams lie in wait

WANDERERS have announced that they will face QPR in their only home pre-season friendly.

The Championship outfit will visit Adams Park on Tuesday, July 28.

To accommodate their visit, Blues have had to move their away friendly at Hampton and Richmond, which was due to take place on the same night, to Thursday, August 30.

Wanderers, who also face Championship side Bristol City at Ashton Gate on August 1, could come face to face with another Championship outfit as well after a change in the line up of the Errea South West Challenge

competition in Devon was announced yesterday.

Kidderminster Harriers have withdrawn and their place in the 12-team tournament has been taken by a Championship club whose identity will be revealed today when the seeded draw is made public.

The tournament starts on July 13 and finishes on July 19 with afternoon and evening matches.

Barnet have also pulled out, so they can host Arsenal in a money-spinning pre-season friendly at Underhill, and their place has been taken by Grimsby

In total seven Football League teams

will take part and international opposition is also provided in the shape of Belgian Provincial League outfit Royal Racing FC Montegnée, from Liege.

The tournament will consist of two preliminary round matches followed by the semi-finals and the final.

Along with Wycombe, the teams confirmed are: Grimsby, Barnstaple Town, Bideford, Eastleigh, Exeter City, Ilfracombe, Luton Town, RRF C Montegnée, Rushden and Diamonds and Yeovil Town.

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