

BLUES SET FOR A £700K WINDFALL

WYCOMBE Wanderers could be set for a windfall of more than £700,000 after Birmingham City upped their bid for Cardiff City's centre-half Roger Johnson to £5m.

Wanderers, who sold Johnson to the Bluebirds three years ago stand to net more than £700,000 if the Premiership club's bid for the 26-year-old centre half goes through.

Wycombe sold Johnson for £275,000 but inserted a sell-on clause which entitles them to 15 per cent of any profit Cardiff would make if they sell Johnson.

Birmingham have already had an opening bid of £3.5million turned down this summer and their latest offer is thought to be a take-it-or-leave-it offer.

But sources in South Wales suggest that Cardiff could try and hold out for even more money.

Birmingham's bid is understood to be a guaranteed £4m rising to £5m depending on appearances and on Birmingham staying in the Premiership.

It is also understood that the fee would be paid in installments.

Cardiff turned down £4m from West Brom last year and are thought to be holding out for



HOT PROPERTY: Roger Johnson in action for Wycombe Wanderers

even more money.

Sunderland, who have just come into big money after a recent takeover, are among the admirers and Cardiff are hoping that Birmingham's bid will

smoke out more interest in the player and trigger other bids.

Johnson has been Cardiff's Player of the Year for the past two seasons and was part of the Bluebirds team which reached

the FA Cup Final 13 months ago.

He began his career at Wanderers and showed his potential from an early age when he became the club's youngest player.

● Leyton Orient have entered the race to sign in-demand Dagenham duo Ben Strevens and Sam Saunders.

The Os are hoping to hijack Wanderers' double bid to land the pair and have joined Brentford and Bradford in the hunt for the goalscoring duo.

Our sister paper the Bucks Free Press revealed on Friday that Blues boss Peter Taylor has held face-to-face talks with wide midfielder Saunders and has also spoken with Strevens' agent about a move to Adams Park.

Saunders, 25, is currently weighing up his options after speaking to a number of clubs, while Strevens, 29, who is also attracting the interest of Exeter, is currently out of the country on holiday.

Both are free agents and both have confirmed they will leave Dagenham to play in League One next term after the Daggers missed out on making the play-offs.

The pair have spent their entire careers in the London area and a move to Orient, which is just 13 miles from Dagenham, would mean neither of them have to uproot.

Will Cardiff accept Birmingham's bid?
cardiffcityfc.co.uk