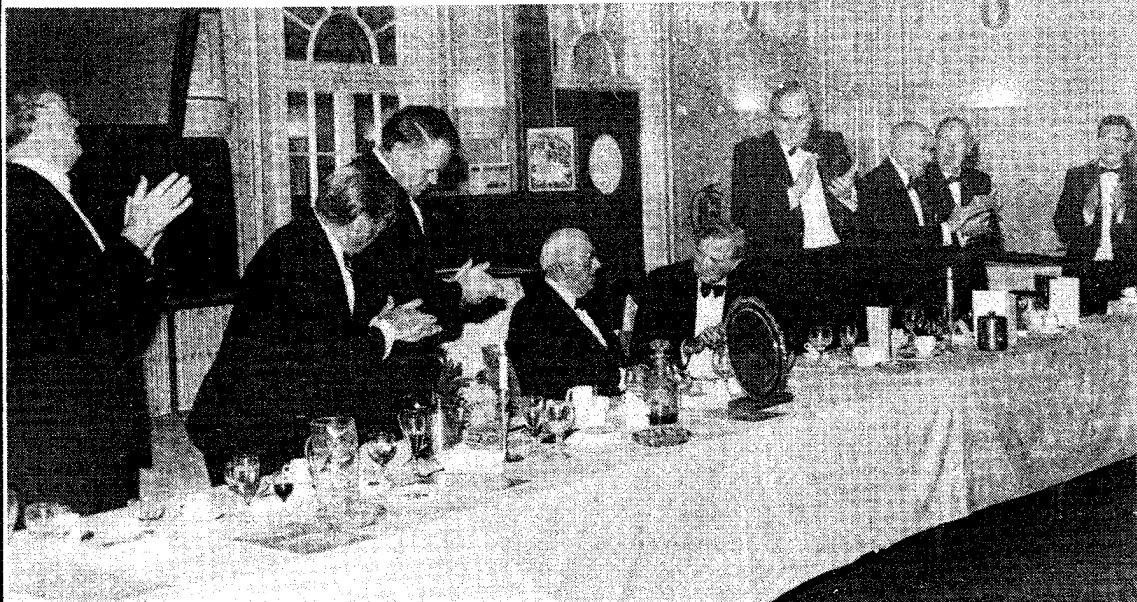




Honorary President of FIFA, Sir Stanley Rous (fourth from left) is given a standing ovation after his illuminating speech at Wanderers' centenary dinner.

BIG-SCREEN video presentations of highlights of Wycombe Wanderers epic FA Cup 3rd round 0-0 draw with 1st division league leaders Middlesbrough at Loakes Park in 1974 was a surprise finale to Wycombe's centenary celebration dinner at Phyllis Court, Henley, on Friday.

There to thrill to it again were players who took part, along with officials and players of other eras among the 100 invited guests representing soccer leaders of today, civic and community life and other sporting organisations.

In a convivial atmosphere of memory and ambition Major Alan Dobson presented an illuminated address from the Football Association — he played against Wycombe when he was sta-

tioned at Windsor — and Alan Turvey, chairman of the Servowarm Isthmian League, presented an inscribed centenary salver, paying tribute to their 61 years in the league, 'the longest serving club and always in the premier division'.

At each table there were souvenir gifts for each guest, lasting reminders of a memorable evening.

Former manager and present chairman Brian Lee, giving the toast of 'The

Game', said that the abolition of amateur status had affected the Wanderers more than many people realised. Though the image of the game, overall, had been tarnished somewhat in recent years the game had made great strides in healthy competition on the field, and there were more people playing than ever before. Through the late Frank Adams, Wycombe had played a great part at FA level.

Taking part, said Mr Lee, was more important than

winning. But professionalism was in and if Wycombe again won the League title the joining of the 'pyramid' would have to be considered.

Proposing the toast of the club, Sir Stanley Rous, President of FIFA, paid tribute to the club and had his own memories of former Wanderers' captain and later patron, Frank Adams, for whom Loakes Park was a shrine.

A club trustee, John Roberts, responding, said that as a club they stood very tall indeed. Club president Monty Seymour, welcomed the guests, among whom were Town Mayor Mrs Betty Barratt and MP Ray Whitney, and there were responses from Tony Hale, of sponsors Norman Reeves, and acting Assistant Chief Constable, of Thames Valley Police, Keith Milner.

Another of the club's vice-presidents, TV sports commentator Alan Parry, enlivened intervals during the dinner with racy and factual comments on the club's history and of its personalities.

Perhaps one of the proudest ex-players there was Tony Horseman, who appeared in a record 900 games, scoring the highest total of goals — 525, with an astounding 76 in season 1966/67.

And perhaps the conversational after-dinner comment of former player Barry Darvill deserves remembering in more than print: 'Young players of my day would have given their right arm to play for Wycombe Wanderers.'



Mayor Betty Barratt meets the Wycombe stars of yesteryear. Left to right: Frank Willmott, George Jackson, Jack Adams, Jock McCullum and Richard Tunmer.