

# Recalling a hit Wanderers team 25 years on Darby's Dollies are still looking swell

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WYCOMBE Wanderers have fielded some good teams over the years but none more sensational than Darby's Dollies.

Dressed in long white boots, mini skirts and bomber jackets, this team of teenage girls made their debut in 1971 at Wanderers' opening Isthmian League fixture against Ilford at Loakes Park.

The eight 15 and 16-year-olds, nicknamed after the club's development fund organiser Frank Darby, were recruited to help boost sales of the match programme and promote a new Golden Goal competition.

The golden girls became local celebrities, featuring on the front of the Midweek Free Press and on our sports pages under the heading Meet the Dollies.

Four of the original eight reunited with Frank at Adams Park on Sunday to mark the 25th anniversary of the line-up and recall their two seasons together.

Former Dolly Vivienne Matthews has fond memories.

"I enjoyed it. Times do change, but it was all good fun. Regulars would come up and buy their programmes and know you by name. But the best bit was that you got to watch the games for free and chat to the players."

Wanderers' fans from the early 1970s will remember the Dollies parading the touchline holding up the goal time boards. They were paid a flat ten per cent commission on what they sold.

Sue Andrews, who was unable to make the reunion, said the Dollies' days together were good times – but she is less nostalgic about their outfits.

She explained: "We didn't do it



**Hello Dollies: Frank Darby with (L-R) Vivienne Matthews, Sheila Boyce, Claire Wheeler and Vivien Oxlade at the 25-year reunion**

Ref: 96-02587-F22



**Sue Andrews: Hated the boots**

for the money. It was really good fun.

"It was a way of being involved, meeting people and working with



**Heyday: Frank Darby with (L-R) Vivienne Matthews, Janet Smith, Sue Andrews, Lindsey Blow, Lesley Ryder, Sheila Boyce, Claire Wheeler, Vivien Oxlade**

your friends – despite the hideous white plastic boots."

Frank, now 70, also has happy memories.

"We always had nice comments about the girls. They were very popular and I think they did make a difference to our promotions."