

Dave Peters looks back on ten years of Blues stalwart

Dream team set to honour Carroll

DAVE CARROLL celebrates ten years as a Wycombe Wanderers player on Wednesday with a testimonial against Martin O'Neill's Leicester City (ko 7.45pm).

Carroll, who joined the club as a part-time player in the Vauxhall Conference era, has put together a team of ex-Blues to face his former manager's team.

Carroll said: "It's my testimonial but it's just as much a celebration of all that the club has achieved in the last ten years. It's a chance for the supporters to come along and thank Martin O'Neill and some of the players who brought this club so much success.

"Martin left in the summer so fans didn't really have the opportunity to say goodbye and thank him."

Carroll's team includes Paul Hyde, Terry Evans, Matt Crossley, Stewart Cash, Andy Kerr, Glynn Creaser, Simon Stapleton, Steve Thompson, Terry Howard, Simon Garner and Mark West.

Carroll, who cost £6,000 when he joined from Ruislip Manor, said: "It is unbelievable what's happened here and I feel very lucky to be part of it. When I joined we just avoided relegation from the Conference."

Carroll has been there for all of it. Two FA Trophy finals, promotion to the League, a Wembley goal in the play offs against Preston and the London five-a-side victories.

He said: "I think the only bit of Wanderers' history I missed was when we clinched the Conference title against Runcorn. We were so far clear that I didn't play in that one."

International honours even came his way after his performances in the quartered shirt. England picked him for their semi-professional side but hurriedly withdrew the offer when they realised he was Scottish.



Top man: Dave Carroll is the longest serving Blue

Paisley-born Carroll said in his London accent: "We moved down from Scotland when I was seven. It was a disappointment that I couldn't play for England but it was an honour to be picked."

Bizarrely though he played for England schools.

But although Carroll looks back on it all with fondness his home is not a shrine to his career.

He said: "I've got the

programmes somewhere but I don't know where."

He prefers to look forward not back.

He said: "My contract's up this year and I'd love to get another one."

He feels he is good for another couple of years despite his junk food diet.

He said: "I eat what I want. Some players are very serious in their diet, but I never really went along with that pasta thing, it's too late now I'm 31. If I want to have a fry up before a game and eat biscuits I will."

● You can be part of Carroll's big night by playing for Parry Playmates in a curtain raiser on the Adams Park pitch against a side including John Gregory and Neil Smillie. To play make a bid of £100 to Mark Austin on (01494) 472100.



FA Trophy winners: Carroll with Jason Cousins