



Blues' dream team: Some familiar faces pulled on the quarters on Wednesday night for Dave Carroll

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Carroll rolls back years and nets £20k

DAVE Carroll will net an estimated £20,000 from last Wednesday's testimonial match against returning messiah Martin O'Neill's Leicester City.

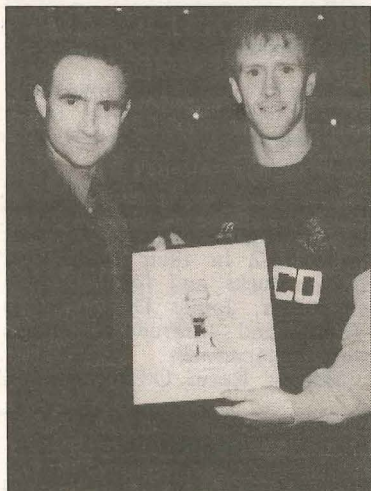
Although only 2,950 braved the cold to see Carroll's Wanderers all-stars from the last ten years beat last year's Coca-Cola Cup winners 2-1, his earnings were topped up by executive box lets and programme sales.

Carroll said: "It has been a fantastic night. I would have liked a few more people to come along to see Martin and some of the players who made Wanderers what they are now. I was hoping for 3,500 or maybe 4,000 but I would just like to thank everyone who did come along."

"I've had a tremendous night. It was an amazing atmosphere with all the old faces in the dressing room. I feel honoured that Martin and so many of the players came back for me."

Manager John Gregory, who played for Carroll's side in the second half, was disappointed by the turnout.

He said: "He probably deserved a bigger audience because of what he's done for the club. I think that those who did come enjoyed it and



Hello boss: Dave Carroll with Martin O'Neill

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REPORT By Dave Peters

those that stayed away missed out."

O'Neill, making his first official return since leaving Wanderers in 1995, said: "I was delighted to bring a team back here for David, if anyone deserves a testimonial he does. He did as much as anyone at this football club to put it where it is.

He has been absolutely magnificent."

"He possessed plenty of talent. I have seen players at a higher grade of football who have less talent than David does. It would have been nice to have had him as an 18-year-old."

"He is not the most orthodox footballer. I used to say to him that if he went on What's my Line no-one would guess he was a footballer."

"But he is one of the few players I have come across as a manager that made me mentally relax when he had the ball because I felt he would know what to do and that, generally speaking, he would pick the right option."

It was an emotional night of nostalgia with many of the old players who won promotion from the Conference, the fourth division and the Trophy at Wembley donning the quarters again.

Even O'Neill said: "I spent more time in the Wycombe dressing room than the Leicester one."

Former Blue Andy Kerr said: "It was an amazing night. The atmosphere in the changing room was unbelievable, it was just like the old days again. We picked up where we left off."

Goalkeeper Paul Hyde said: "It was weird going back in the dressing room and going back out on the pitch, it was a really incredible feeling."

Steve Guppy, now at Leicester, played the first half for the Premiership club and the second half for Carroll's side. He said: "I was just glad to be part of it. Dave has been a great player for Wycombe and deserves this."

Defender Terry Howard who used to room with Carroll on away trips said: "Dave used to make great tea so it was the least I could do to come back and play for him. It was an honour to play for him because he's a smashing lad."

Carroll was substituted after 67 minutes because Gregory wanted to save him for tomorrow's FA Cup clash but his team, managed by press officer Alan Hutchinson, won with two Kim Casey goals cancelling out Gary Parker's fourth minute opener.

Carroll's squad: Paul Hyde, Jason Cousins, Stuart Cash, Matt Crossley, Terry Evans, Dave Carroll, Simon Stapleton, Keith Ryan, Steve Thompson, Kim Casey, Simon Garner, Terry Howard, Tim Langford, Andy Kerr, Aaron Patton, John Gregory, Chuck Mousadick, Gary Wright, Steve Guppy, Alan Parry, Andy Pembroke, Chris Walters, Neil Smillie, Nas Bashir.
Leicester: Arphexhad, Andrews, Kaamark, Wenlock, Fox, Ullathorne, Guppy, Prior, Marshall, Neil, Izzett, Lennon, Campbell, Wilson, Oakes, Parker, McMahoon, Savage, Robins, Claridge, Fenton.