

Chairboys pay tribute to Howard Kennedy

Midfielder passed away on Wednesday evening, aged 66.



Blues boss Gareth Ainsworth has paid his respects to former Wanderers star Howard Kennedy, who passed away on Wednesday evening at the age of 66.

Howard sits ninth on the all-time list of appearances makers for the club, playing for the Chairboys from 1974 for nine years.

Ainsworth said: *"Howard was a top, top guy and a real gentleman. I was lucky enough to meet him on a number of occasions and he would always offer his help, such as scouting players free of charge. I played golf with him at an Ex-Players Association event and he teased me the whole way round because I had a dreadful round and he made no bones about telling me!"*

"He had a smile every time I met him, even despite everything he was going through, and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family because he was a Wycombe legend. Please remember him as a top guy who cared so much about the club and he'll be sadly missed and fondly remembered as one of the Wycombe family."

Ex-Wycombe teammates have been lining up to add their tributes:

'Howard was an outstanding player and could have moved into the professional

game and been comfortable. The match he played against Graeme Souness, when the Blues faced Middlesbrough in the FA Cup in 1975, was so good Boro manager Jack Charlton took off the Scottish international with 20 minutes to go. Always a very positive person, Howard was a fine addition to the Ex-Players Committee.' Alan Hutchinson (**WWEPA Chairman**).

'Such sad news. Howard was somebody I looked up to as a person, footballer and friend. He always said what he thought, but he helped me a lot when I joined the Wanderers. I have great memories of him in the dressing rooms, on the pitch, on the training pitch, in the clubhouse.... and in the Angel pub' **Bob Dell (WW 1979-86)**.

'Given the unenviable, some would say impossible job of replacing Larry Pritchard in the Blues' team, Howard Kennedy soon won over fans and team mates alike with his all action style, no nonsense approach and powerful shooting. So much so that he remained a regular choice for nine seasons. Those on field qualities served him well in recent years as he battled his illness. A pleasure to have seen him in his prime and great to get to know him better in recent years.' **John Bignell (WWEPA & Trust Director)**.

'Friendship....Loyalty.....Enthusiasm for life.....RIP Howard.' **Peter Suddaby (WW teammate & Ex-Players' Association colleague)**