



Wycombe Old Boys show the way

Dear Ex-Players & Friends Sept 27 , 2019

On the day Wycombe Wanderers' future was secured by the takeover of American investors, a group of ex-players showed the incoming Couhig family exactly what they are buying into in terms of long-term loyalty and commitment.

Twenty former Blues, whose playing careers stretched back to the early 1950s, met for their annual get-together and reminisced for nearly four hours. They included Dick Tunmer, 91 next birthday, and all surviving members of the Blues' 1957 FA Amateur Cup Final squad. Dennis Syrett, Jim Truett, Mike Wicks and Len Worley – who all played at Wembley against Bishop Auckland – and Dennis Atkins, who played in most of the early rounds, relived every moment. They were joined by other well-known players of that era, all got together by Derrick Draffan.

Apart from WWEPA Chairman Alan Hutchinson, and myself, honoured guests included former Fleet Street journalist Neil Harman who is writing a book on the Inside Story of Wycombe's year. The current rise towards the top of League One, and the American takeover from the Wanderers' Trust, will take centre spot when it's published at the end of the season. But I'm sure there will be more than a few paragraphs on the heroes he met at this convivial reunion at The Bull at Bisham.

John D Taylor - On behalf of WWEPA

Above, all smiles at Bisham. Back (l-r): Vince Free, Len Worley, Mike Wicks, Alan Hutchinson, Dennis Atkins, Mike Brown, Martin Priestley, Dennis Syrett. Front: Arthur Burgess, Dick Tunmer, Derrick Draffan, Jim Truett, Ray Howson, John McCullum.



New US bosses get WWEPA invite

Wycombe's new owners – American Rob Couhig, wife Missy and nephew Peter – along with Director Mark Palmer – have been invited to be our special guests when we stage our eleventh annual dinner on Friday, November 22.

The quartet convinced the Trust Board and, more importantly, over 75 per cent of the eligible Trust voters to put their faith in them to take the club forward. Their company, Feliciana, will invest £2.2m to settle all outstanding debts, and support working capital needs at the football club. All charges currently held against Adams Park will be lifted, and the stadium and club memorabilia will remain 100% owned by Wycombe Wanderers Trust's subsidiary company, Frank Adams Legacy Limited (FALL).

Feliciana will make available an additional £1m for working capital, and the club will enter into a new 15-year lease with FALL to use Adams Park, paying an annual rent of £150,000, subject to a discount in the first five years, and will be responsible for maintaining the stadium.

Two additional directors will be nominated by the current Trust board, allowing influence and involvement in the decision-making processes. Trevor Stroud, current chairman of Wycombe Wanderers and Wycombe Wanderers Trust, said: "This is a hugely significant step forward for the club and we are delighted that the Legacy Members have followed the Trust board's recommendation to welcome Rob Couhig and his team into the club as 75 per cent majority shareholders.

"Rob has demonstrated real expertise, determination, integrity and ambition over the past four months since the Trust nominated him as its preferred partner going forward, and we believe that those attributes, coupled with his financial contribution, make him the ideal person to build on the progress that the club has made under supporter ownership in recent times.

"Wycombe Wanderers Trust have been immensely proud to be custodians of the football club for the past seven years, but I believe we have reached the upper limit of what we can achieve in terms of the sustainability of the club going forward. We are extremely grateful to the contributions of all supporters and volunteers throughout that time and I know that culture will continue to play an integral role in the club under Rob's stewardship.

"We look forward to completing the transaction and working with Rob to help build a strategy to develop the club on and off the pitch in the short and long term, and truly believe that the foundations are in place for Wycombe Wanderers to continue its upward journey through the football pyramid."

Rob Couhig said: "It is a privilege to join the team at Wycombe Wanderers and I'm honoured to be arriving at a time when the club has achieved such fantastic progress in recent years. I pledge with my hand on my heart to do the very best that I can for this proud football club."

The WWEPA look forward to working closely with the new team during the coming weeks and months.

West & Keen link up again

The new will meet the old when we stage our eleventh annual dinner at Adams Park. Apart from new American owners, current boss Gareth Ainsworth and his backroom squad will hopefully be joining us. As well as celebrating present success, we'll be taking a nostalgic look to the past. The decade under the spotlight this time round will be the 80s. Already over two dozen players from that era have booked their places including possibly THE PLAYER of that era, Mark West – scorer of 251 goals in his 509 games.

He will be joined by former teammate and ex-Wycombe Schoolboy colleague Kevin Keen who will also fill us in about Dad Mike's important role as manager between 1980-84. Two more former bosses from that decade will also be with us – Alan Gane and Jim Kelman. Isthmian League champions in 1983 and 1987, we'll remember the golden moments and some of the heartbreak. We'll chat to many of the men who played in this the last decade at Loakes Park – and who still have Wycombe etched in their hearts. And as always, we'll have some laughs along the way. And we'll be honouring three new WWEPA Life members. Join us for this night of memories. Ticket prices have been held to £35 for members. You need to get your places booked now.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS EX-PLAYERS ASSOCIATION DINNER November 22, 2019

Name:..

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Wycombe Wanderers Playing Details (Yrs).....

Address:

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Contact Tel No:

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E-

mail.....

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I wish to book () tickets at £35 (£40 non members) for the WWEPA annual dinner on Friday, Nov 22 (Caledonian Suite, from 6pm).

Menu

Tomato & Basil Soup

Braised featherblade steak with roast potatoes & seasonal veg

Mango, lime & pistachio cheesecake

Vegetarian main option (to be pre-ordered) Red Cabbage & Brie Roulade

Coffee & Mints

Please give details of any other special dietary requirements.

Please return this questionnaire form with your details and cheque(s), made payable to Wycombe

Wanderers Ex-Players Association to our Chairman, Alan Hutchinson at 32 Southbourne Drive,
Bourne End, Bucks SL8 5RZ (01628-523026 / (alanhutch43@gmail.com))

Or if you wish to make payments by either BACS or Bank Transfer our account details are: Lloyds
TSB Bank / Sort Code - 30-95-36 / A/c No – 40180260 / A/C name - Wycombe Wanderers Ex-
Players Association.

Nice One Cyrille



Cyrille Regis's trailblazing career has received further recognition after the former Wycombe striker was inducted into the National Football Museum's Hall of Fame. The prestigious award was presented to Cyrille's widow Julia and his brother Dave by former England and Liverpool winger John Barnes during a ceremony at Aston Villa's stadium.

The presentation fittingly took place during a 'Strike A Change' event, the flagship-mentoring programme of the Cyrille Regis Legacy Trust. The fledgling charity was officially launched in the forward's memory by members of his family in July at West Brom, the club where Cyrille became a pioneer for black footballers in the '70s.

Cyrille, awarded an MBE in 2008 for his services to charity and football, scored more than 200 goals in just under 750 appearances during a professional career spanning two decades. That included a successful spell at Adams Park under Martin O'Neill when he made 38 appearances and scored ten times between 1994-95.

After being snapped up from non-League Hayes, he went on to become one of Albion's greatest players before spells with Coventry, where he won the 1987 FA Cup, Aston Villa, Wolves, and Chester City as well at The Blues. Capped five times by the Three Lions, Cyrille passed away suddenly in January 2018. He was 59.

Have you paid YOUR membership fee?

Membership of WWEPA means you pay only £35 for your annual dinner ticket – apart from so many other attractions. So a reminder if YOU haven't renewed YOUR membership yet, that subs are overdue. £20 is all it costs to continue being a member of the best supported ex-players association in the game. That's true. We boast over 100 active members, with more supporting different events we stage throughout the year – like our hugely successful, bowls, golf and quiz competitions along with the popular annual dinner.

This Newsletter is just another way we keep old friends together. We entertain a box-full of guests every home League game; try to help out those in distress and raise large sums for different football-associated charities every year. Nearly £3,000 will be going to Prostate Cancer UK this year. And after our own Treasurer Peter Suddaby was felled by a stroke, the

local Stroke Association at Wycombe and Amersham Hospitals will be our next beneficiaries. Happily, Peter is now recuperating at his new Chalfont St Peter home after an 11-week stay in both hospitals.

So if you haven't paid your subs yet, our £20 annual membership fee is due now. We look forward to hearing from you very soon and receiving a completed membership form and a cheque for £20 made payable to Wycombe Wanderers Ex-Players Association. Please use the full name. Or, preferably, a signed Standing Order form. Details here: