

Peter Roystone dies at 85

WWEPA are sad to report the loss of another former playing member after the recent deaths of Jim Truett, Jack Timberlake, Derrick Draffan and Mickey Hollifield. Peter Roystone died on August 29 aged 85 and his funeral took place last Friday.

A tall, no-nonsense player, he had two spells at Loakes Park between 1963-68 after joining from Wokingham with his great pal Charlie Gale, who himself died in April 2019. Signed by Don Welsh, he played most of his 128 games under Barry Darvill who – when the attack needed some livening up – occasionally played him up front. His ten goals show he was not a prolific scorer. But he was an effective defender, doubling up at full-back and centre-half in a Blues' side that struggled to repeat the successes of the 1950s despite playing alongside such names as Tony Horseman, Len Worley, John Maskell, Johnny Beck, Barry Baker and Paul Bates.

A proud Yorkshireman who came south only when he joined the Army as a bandsman when he had the honour of performing at the Queen's Coronation, Peter eventually returned with wife Delia to South Hiendley, a small village between Wakefield and Doncaster. Although he took sons Mark and Michael and daughter Ann to watch local derbies at Sheffield and Barnsley, Peter wasn't a fan of the modern game. But he continued to play the trombone in his village brass band. Living near Grimethorpe, that was probably mandatory.

Peter lost son Michael to cancer nine years ago, but he and Delia – whom he met at the age of seven – celebrated 65 years of marriage before he died from a heart attack while receiving treatment in hospital. Our thoughts are with all his family.

Below - Peter in his prime at Wycombe during the 1966-67 season when the Blues finished third in the Isthmian League. Back (l-r): Ian Rundle, John Beck, Charlie Gale, Howard Wells, Peter Roystone, Martin Priestley. Front: Len Worley, Keith Samuels, Paul Bates, Tony Horseman, Les Merrick, Barry Baker.

