



## WWEPA Dinner - decision due

We had a full house for our last annual dinner in 2019 when we celebrated successes of the 1980s as you can see from above. Will we be able to go-ahead again after last year's interruption because of the Covid pandemic? Wycombe's Ex-Players will be making a final decision next week whether or not to proceed with plans for our hugely popular event on November 26. Because of the age groups involved and the close proximity of guests keen to attend, there are still some concerns although a large number have already expressed an interest in returning to Adams Park for what is traditionally the highlight of the Association's social year.

Your views matter. Let us know what you think. Should it take place with all the now normal precautions in place, the focal point will be a look back to Wycombe's first Wembley triumph. The FA Trophy victory over Kidderminster was the start of a success-laden five years under Martin O'Neill. The man himself has promised to attend along with many of that 1991 squad who are all still heroes to the Blues' fans.

Despite his 14 broken ribs sustained in recovery efforts after his terrifying cardiac arrest nearly a month ago, Glyn Creaser is ready to round up his gang in the same manner as he bossed them on the field 30 years ago. That squad included players who were to go on to become Wanderers' legends – men like Dave Carroll, Matt Crossley, Steve Guppy and the deadly scoring duo of Mark West and Keith Scott. Can we re-unite them all? Decision time ahead.

John D Taylor (WWEPA)

## Spurs reminder for Len Worley - 62 years on



Above: Len Worley's great day back in 1959 was re-lived when Paul Valdez (bottom centre) and Ian Woodley (bottom right) handed over the programme listing the Wanderers' hero alongside the greats of Bill Nicholson's Spurs.

Can it really be 62 years on from one of the greatest days in the sporting life of a Wanderers' legend?

Yes, October 17, 1959 was the afternoon when Len Worley went from being an Isthmian League upstart from Wycombe to a fully-blown First Division player with the mighty Spurs.

With Welsh international Terry Medwin called up for international duty, Tottenham boss Bill Nicholson had no hesitation on giving the 22-year-old amateur his chance in the big time. His debut on the right wing alongside such stars as Danny Blanchflower, Dave Mackay, Bobby Smith, John White and Terry Dyson could have led to a full-time professional career with the club that only a season later was to land the dream double of League One title and FA Cup.

Amazingly, Len had the courage to turn down 'Nick' and returned to spend a further 11 years at Loakes Park. The dribble king eventually clocked up 512 appearances for the Blues, knocking in 67 goals but making scores galore for talismen like Tony Horseman and Keith Samuels.

He was handed the opportunity at White Hart Lane two years after helping the Wanderers to the 1957 FA Amateur Cup Final – his two goals in the semi-final at Highbury helping clinch victory over Corinthian Casuals. Given the chance to compete with the likes of international wingers like Cliff Jones and Terry Medwin appealed. But the £20 maximum wage paid to professionals in those days did not.

"I was getting married and training to become a quantity surveyor which meant long-term security. I also had the chance to return to Loakes Park and play again for one of the best amateur clubs in the country in front of huge crowds every week," remembers Len. "Like Wycombe coach Sid Cann, Mr Nicholson was a pretty dour character and he just shrugged his shoulders when I rejected his offer."

So did the man dubbed the Chalfont Wonder ever regret his decision? "Never," says Len – still sprightly at 84. "I was in the British Olympic squad, was winning amateur international caps for England and enjoying my football at Wycombe. I was playing alongside characters like Dennis Atkins and Mike Wicks who, frankly, were different to the professionals of the day that I met."

Len does remember his one senior Spurs appearance with pride though. "I made my debut against

Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on the very day that John White also pulled on a Tottenham shirt for the first time. He was a great player whose career was tragically cut short when he was killed in an accident five years later when struck by lightning while sheltering on a golf course.”

Len has happier memories of his year at Tottenham. He played regularly for the reserve side alongside such accomplished players as Terry Dyson and Johnny Brooks. And he’s still friends with another Spurs legend, Cliff Jones. “We were billeted together with the King’s Troop Horse Artillery when we did our National Service. Several other excellent players, including Maurice Setters and Scottish international Willie Ormond, were assembled by a football-mad Sergeant Major and we spent most of our time playing soccer.”

Len had another permanent reminder of his Tottenham days only this week. While walloping a rival at tennis – he still plays several times a week – the vanquished Paul Valdez mentioned that friend Ian Woodley had the very programme from the Spurs First Division match in which Worley featured. A get-together was quickly arranged and Ian kindly handed over the Hillsborough programme which shows Len’s names among the Lilywhite greats.

When I had the honour of interviewing Bill Nicholson for BBC Radio many years ago, I mentioned Len’s debut as an amateur. The great man denied Worley had ever played for his first team - that was until he’d carefully sifted through several season’s copies of the Playfair Football Annual as I squirmed anxiously. Pity I didn’t have this programme to hand.....

## Good Luck to Sam Stockley



Wycombe Ex-players turn up all over the world, still involved in the game long after leaving Adams Park. The latest to make his mark is Sam Stockley. A full-back from the Paul Lambert era of 2006-07, he’s heavily involved with the start-up of a new USL League One club in Lexington, Kentucky. Devon-born, he started his eventful pro’ career with Southampton but made most impact at Barnet and Colchester before signing for the Blues with whom he made 58 appearances. A soccer wanderer, he played for 12 clubs including spells in Turkey, New York and Carolina. Now 44, he’s helping construct a world-class soccer academy in the USA.



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