

It's 90 and out for Ken Brown

Former player passes away.



Pictured: Ken Brown was a key member of the Wycombe side that lifted two Isthmian League Reserve team titles with many of those pictured here in 1956 – and with the likes of Ray Howson & Arthur Burgess whom he attended many get-togethers.

Team shot

Back: Roly Kipping, Ken Brown, George Dawes. Second row: Bill Hayter (Sec), Jack Hathaway (Trainer), Dave Worley, Ron Stagg, Ken Crook, Arthur Burgess, George Jackson (Res Manager), Sid Cann (Coach).

Front: Dave Twitchen, Ray Howson, Ray Butler, Norman West, Derrick Draffan, Terry Lambert, Dennis Way.

WWEPA are sad to announce the death of former goalkeeper Ken Brown, just a week after he celebrated his 90th birthday.

Son Richard revealed that his dad passed away in his sleep on Christmas morning and that he would have been content to leave this way - without carers or nursing homes etc. Still sad news though, coming only a few days after the sudden death of another former Blues' 'keeper Gary Lester.

Ken was doubly unlucky in his time at Loakes Park, having to battle with international-rated Dennis Syrett for the No 1 shirt during his six years at the club from 1956. It didn't stop him making 104 senior appearances and being a regular for the all-conquering reserve side. But in the days before substitutes, it meant he wasn't in the eleven chosen for the famous 1957 visit to Wembley for the FA Amateur Cup Final against Bishop Auckland.

However, Ken – and late wife Maggie – thoroughly enjoyed their time at Wycombe and made life-long friends whom he met up with regularly at various WWEPA functions and on the golf course. He also worked hard, running his own stationery and print business before reluctantly retiring at 79. “All in all, not bad from a lad that started life in a tiny cottage in Stoke Poges that had no indoor toilet or bathroom,” says Richard. “He had much to be very proud of.” His family, which includes three grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, will agree with that.

Ken also spent three years at Maidenhead and was assistant manager at Slough Town after starting his career with Slough Centre. All will have fond memories, along with every Wanderers' ex-player of his generation.