

Farewell to four more Wanderers

Gareth Ainsworth, Wycombe officials, ex-players and fans will be saying their farewells to Dave Robertson tomorrow. The former Wanderers' Youth team player who rose to become a Trust Director and the club's first Director of Football will be remembered at a special service at St Paul's Church, Letchworth (11am) followed by a celebration of his life at the Mercure Letchworth Hall Hotel. A popular figure around the club, Dave died of cancer four days before Christmas aged only 73.

It's going to be a sad few weeks for all Blues followers with the funeral of 1960s goalkeeper Ken Brown taking place next Wednesday, January 19 at Slough Crematorium (12.30) with the reception following at Burnham Beeches Golf Club.

WWEPA has also learned of the death of Ron Fryer on December 30th aged 86. The England amateur international midfielder spent three successful seasons at Loakes Park after being signed from Crook Town to replace Geoff Truett who had turned professional with Crystal Palace after the 1957 FA Amateur Cup Final. He forced himself into that very good side, the reigning Isthmian League champions, and played 70 games before heading North again to star with Bishop Auckland. Ron's tally of 12 goals in those matches was impressive for a midfielder and Wycombe were sorry to lose him. His final game was in the victory over Bromley on May 5, 1960.

Our thoughts with the families of all these who made their own special contributions with the Blues. Tributes were paid to all four in the 21st minute of Saturday's game at Adams Park.

John D Taylor (WWEPA)



Time to move over Trevor?

Although there are still lingering concerns over the Covid pandemic that has wrecked our plans for nearly two years, we are still hopeful of making a re-start of regular events. Plans are well under way for the once-annual Quiz to return on Saturday, March 19.

Several eager beavers have already been in touch with organisers Vince Faulkner and John Maskell to provisionally book their tables. That includes super-keen Trevor Stroud who, by the fickle fortune of fate, has somehow kept hold of the trophy that his team lifted back in 2019. The aptly named '*Things Can Only Get Better*' line-up are raring to go again. The former club chairman and his crew (pictured celebrating above), having seen things turn for the better on the field and generally in the club's fortunes since the Rob Couhig take-over, are confident of retaining the silverware.

If you want to try stopping them, or just have a pleasant if possibly social distanced evening at Adams Park, then contact Vince, John or any of our WWEPA committee for further details.
Our other regular events for 2022 are also pencilled in. Make a note of all these below including two dinners! Let's follow our friends on the field and make it a Happy New Year.

WWEPA Diary Dates 2022

March 19 - Annual Quiz

May 6 – Annual Dinner (2021-style)

June 21- Annual Bowls

July 22- Annual Golf

Nov 25 - Annual Dinner (2022-style)

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Blues forever

Wycombe's former goalkeeping legend John Maskell came across this old programme which linked his two former clubs – the Wanderers and Oxford City. It's from an FA Cup preliminary round tie on September 13, 1952 which the Blues won 4-1 with goals from Ken Butler (2), Dennis Atkins and Johnny Blizzard. Although before even Mask's time, interesting that five of that Wycombe side were founder members of WWEPA. Jack Tomlin was our first President. Jim Truett and Jim Moring were regulars at events before their deaths. Happily, Atkins and Dick Tunmer are still involved - in their 90s!



Sounds of Wycombe Wanderers

Ex-players continue to line up for appearances on the Wycombe Sounds Thursday night show - the whole hour from 7pm devoted entirely to the Wanderers past and present. Keith Searle, a key member of Brian Lee's Isthmian League title-winning sides, is this week's guest as we preview on our regularly-updated Wycombe Ex-Players Facebook page.

His 70's teammates Keith Mead and Larry Pritchard were recent interviewees. Others this season included Steve Thompson, Mickey Nuttall, Stuart Cash, Tim Langford, Hakan Hayrettin and Paul Hyde from the Martin O'Neill glory years. Danny Senda, Sean Devine and Dave McCracken have regaled us with stories from the 2000s with Colin Bunting, Mike Brown and Les Merrick representing the 60s. We've also had a slightly different view of times at the club from former groundsman Rod Lavers, ex-Bucks Free Press Blues' reporter Stuart Earp and WWEPA committeemen Alan Hutchinson and John Bignell whose experiences with the club add up to more than 100 years.

Some terrific listening there. This show includes regular interviews with ex-players from the 1950s right through to today's stars. You can catch this on 106.6FM or via the website <https://wycombesound.org.uk/> You can also reprise any of the previous WWEPA interviews in full via <https://podlink.to/TWWS>.

And don't forget you can read regular catch-ups on our Wycombe Ex-players' Facebook page. You can even have your say. Don't forget, we'd love to hear from you. And if you know of former teammates who are not yet members, get them interested! After losing so many members over the past two years, we need to keep up our numbers.