



Above: Richard doing what he loved – talking about Wycombe football with former Wanderers’ Len Worley & Kevin O’Brien with proud dad John standing by. Chelsea’s stars were amongst those also to pay tribute before their match with Spurs on Sunday.

Richard Bignell news stuns Blues & Chelsea

Wycombe players current and past, staff, officials and fans were stunned to hear the news that lifelong Wanderers’ supporter Richard Bignell has died aged 44. From his first game in 1984, the club became Richard’s passion, as it has been for other members of his family, including his grandfather, uncle, father and brother.

Richard leaves his wife Anna and twin daughters Maia and Elsie aged 7. He is also survived by parents John and Jackie, elder brother Darren and his wife Laura, nephews Zach and Ollie, and many others in his extended family.

His father John, a founding official with WVEPA, said: “Rich was a loving, compassionate person who cared deeply about his family and his very many friends and colleagues. We shall all miss him so much. It’s been so clear to see how popular he was from the incredible outpouring of grief at his loss and the messages of condolence we have received.”

Until recently, Richard was Head of Content and Production at Chelsea Football Club, where he had worked for 18 years. He played a vital role in guiding Chelsea TV’s award-winning and industry-leading production and was also instrumental in the successful transition of Chelsea TV from broadcast to digital.

Chairman Bruce Buck gave his personal memories of Richard as he shared the sad news with colleagues. “Over the years I had the opportunity to work directly with Richard on a number of different projects and always found him to be hard working, thoughtful, and an all-round good guy,” he said. “During the last few days I had a chance to talk to some of you about Richard and “good guy” is something everybody mentions. All at Stamford Bridge send our deepest condolences to Richard’s family at this most difficult time.” Chelsea’s players wore black armbands as a tribute during the game against Tottenham on Sunday.

Richard’s final match watching his beloved Wanderers was on January 8 against Sunderland. As well as being a season ticket holder, he attended virtually every Ex-Player Association event and enjoyed mixing with all his heroes off the field as much as watching them on it.

In a statement, WWEPA said: "Richard was a true fan who will be missed by so many from every aspect of the club's life. Our thoughts are with colleague John and, of course, his entire family at this terrible time."

John D Taylor (WWEPA)

Words of comfort

John Maskell (WWEPA President): "It's such hard news to take in. Richard was a true fan and was so proud his father helped found the Ex-Players Association. It enabled him to get even closer to the men he admired and supported on the field."

Alan Hutchinson (WWEPA Chairman): "Everyone at WWEPA is so sorry to hear about the early passing of Richard. All are thoughts are with John and the family at this very tragic time."

Neil Peters (WWFC): "Rich was a close friend of mine and my three brothers for pushing 40 years. It's simply the saddest, hardest thing to comprehend."

Steve Brown: (WW 1993-2004): "I'm shocked to learn about Richard - a true WW fan and a key person in the formative years at Chelsea TV production. A great guy who helped and got involved in my Testimonial season. You will be sorely missed Richard."

Many more tributes from fellow fans and friends on the Wycombe Ex-Players Association Facebook page

Welcome to team Phil



Wycombe have made a significant new signing during the transfer window. Not so far on the field. However, the capture of Phil Catchpole to be the new Head of Radio, TV and Film as the Wanderers launch a new TV service to replace iFollow from February 1, could be an equally important acquisition.

The current voice of BBC Three Counties Radio at Adams Park will be linking up with the multi-talented Matt Cecil to give the Blues as strong a media team as any – including many in the Premiership. We wish this dynamic duo all the best as, hopefully, they'll be reporting along with Bill Turnbull as in the picture below, on Championship football again next season. As well as lots of activity involving WWEPA.

Terry helps Valley turn more Blue



The Valley at Charlton is fast becoming a new home for ex-Wanderers. After Danny Senda joined the staff last month, Terry Skiverton was appointed first team coach this week.

He was new boss Johnnie Jackson's choice to work alongside Jason Euell with the senior side. A centre-back in his playing days, Mile End-born Skiverton began his career with Chelsea before representing Norwegian outfit Sandefjord BK, Wycombe between 1994-97 and Welling United, but it was with Yeovil Town where he would make his name.

The 46-year-old spent a total of 23 seasons with the Glovers, making 382 appearances and captaining his side to promotion to the Football League and into League One. He then managed Yeovil for three years between 2009 and 2012 and remained at the club as Assistant Manager and Academy Head of Coaching, playing his part towards promotion to the Championship in 2013, before his departure to The Valley.

It may be a while before Skiverton returns to Adams Park as the Wanderers have already completed a Division 1 double over the Addicks. But we wish him well – except when he comes up against the Blues.

Fond farewells to Wanderers' trio

Family and friends have said their goodbyes to former Wycombe goalkeeper Ken Brown. A celebration of his long life, which included six years with the Wanderers, was held at Slough Crematorium with a reception following at Burnham Beeches Golf Club. WWEPA were represented by Mick Brown – no relation – who is one of the survivors of the late 50s squad. Ken passed away peacefully on Christmas Eve just six days after his 90th birthday. RIP. And the farewell to long-serving 1980's goalkeeper Gary Lester, who died suddenly on December 22, has now been arranged. His service at Seer Green Baptist Church on Tuesday, February 15 (3pm) will be followed by a wake at The Hit & Miss pub at Penn. Those ex-teammates and fans wishing to attend the send-off should contact WWEPA so the family can make the necessary arrangements.

WWEPA members and club officials including manager Gareth Ainsworth were among those attending the funeral of Trust Board member Dave Robertson who died of cancer on December 21. The family have set up a fund in his memory which will aid Wanderers' SET and their Ladies team.

Details: <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/in-memory-of-david-roberton>

Quiz looks positive

A positive response to plans for the return of our once-annual Quiz on Saturday, March 19. More than ten tables have been provisionally booked which means over 100 already want to challenge for the crown won by Trevor Stroud's team when the evening was last held two years ago. Organisers Vince Faulkner and John Maskell are keen to hear from anyone else keen to make up eight-person teams. Contact them or any of our WWEPA committee for further details. Our other regular events for 2022 are also pencilled in below.

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)