



Wycombe Wanderers are deeply saddened to report the death of former manager and chairman Brian Lee, just two days after the funeral of his wife of nearly 65 years.

He was due to attend Adams Park on Saturday as part of the family celebration for the life of Shirley Ann but was unwell and taken to Wexham Park Hospital where he died in the early hours of this morning just two weeks short of his 87th birthday.

Son Bryn tells us he had a heart attack whilst sleeping and the doctors were unable to resuscitate him. "It goes without saying how much Wycombe, its players, officials and everyone meant to him," says Bryn. "When he heard the match score yesterday, he gave a fist pump. Again, please pass this news on to others who knew him."

Brian was a giant in the club's history, taking the Blues to four Isthmian League titles in four years in the 1970s after becoming their very first manager in 1969. He moved upstairs and became chairman before instigating and planning the move from Loakes Park in 1990. He was involved in appointing Martin O'Neill as manager, the man who took the club into the Football League in 1993.

Brian also managed the England semi-professional team and became firstly Vice Chairman of the Football Conference in 1991 before taking up a role as a Vice President two years later prior to his elevation to Chairman in 2007. He stepped down from that position after eight successful years before becoming President under its new name of the National League.

But his first love was always the Wanderers, taking them to new heights of professionalism while in his 'day' job as Director of Bisham Abbey Sports Centre. There he hosted the good and the great of international sport – with Shirley Ann always by his side as she was at Buckingham Palace when he received his MBE for services to sport.

His expertise was invaluable to Wycombe Wanderers Ex-Players Association who invited him on to their committee and took full advantage of his experience and wise counsel. We will miss him for that as will the club.

Ivor Beeks, who followed Brian as Chairman and is now club President, was stunned by the news – having chatted to him only on Thursday at Shirley Ann's funeral. "He was the man who got me involved in Wycombe Wanderers. He flew out to Portugal in 1987 when I was on a golfing holiday and got me hooked. His work on the move to Adams Park is a wonderful legacy alone without all the other fantastic achievements."