



Wycombe Wanderers Ex-Players Association are sorry to report the death of our oldest member. Johnny Brooks died peacefully yesterday, just two months short of his 97th birthday.

Happily, we were able to track him down a couple of years ago to make him an honorary member. He talked then with great joy about his Blues debut 77 years beforehand.

A promising 18-year when called up to play at Loakes Park, he featured in an exciting 3-3 Isthmian League draw with Kingstonian. It was Frank Avery who made the headlines that day, his hat-trick earning a point for his side. But that match on November 10, 1945 was never forgotten by Brooks who made four more senior appearances in total for the Wanderers in two spells - 1945-46 & 47-49 - plus a lot more for the reserves

His time was interrupted by National Service in the Royal Navy. And there was strong competition in the squad after the War with teammates including such notable Blues' names as Bert Crump, Fred Gearing and Jock McCullum alongside prolific scorer Avery.

To get regular first team football, Johnny eventually moved on to the successful Ernest Turner's Sports side where he featured at full-back with several other ex-Wycombe players and managed by Wanderers' Amateur Cup legend Alf Britnell, scorer of the winning goal in the 1931 Final.

Spending his final years at the Star & Garter Home in the town, it was only when [a trip for residents to Adams Park was planned that Johnny's](#)

links were discovered. The Wanderers' oldest living playing survivor now is Dick Tunmer, a mere 95.

