



John D Taylor

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Farewell our champ

WWEPA are deeply saddened to announce the death of one of their most active founder members. Les Merrick passed away last night at his home in Bledlow Ridge, just six weeks after celebrating his 81st birthday. A graduate of the highly successful Wanderers Youth team of 1960 (pictured below), he made 186 senior appearances for the Blues between 1961-69 and scored 47 times.

Although a free-scoring centre-forward in his Castlefield Primary School days, he was forced to play in the No 11 shirt at Wycombe because of top-class striking rivals likes Tony Horseman, Keith Samuels and Paul Bates. But he turned out the ideal partner to Len Worley, the king of dribble, on the other flank at Loakes Park.

Despite those talents, the hard work of Barry Baker, Dave Thomas and Charlie Gale in midfield and the goalkeeping of John Maskell, the highest placing the team of that era could manage was third in the Isthmian League. But Les was still a real fans' favourite under Sid Cann, Graham Adams, Don Welsh & Barry Darvill before the arrival of Brian Lee.

Nicknamed The Stag, he admitted to being less than that slender figure in later life. But he still showed his other sporting talents on the squash court and at golf where he met up every week right up to the present with old teammates Martin Priestley, Keith Samuels, Vince Faulkner, Keith Searle, Colin Bunting & Bodger Horseman. Les, a regular at all our events, even had the temerity to beat his friends to become WWEPA Golf Champion in 2018 after partnering to the bowls silverware two years earlier.

Running several highly-successful engineering businesses, he lost lovely wife Sue four years ago. But our commiserations to the rest of his family including two sons and grandchildren – one of whom is carrying on the Merrick sporting tradition as a young goalkeeper on Chelsea's book of which Les was immensely proud.

REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND



LES MERRICK
WW 1961-69
(186 APPS / 47 GLS)

👍👍👍 Tom Wyc-shirts, Claire Reardon and 33 others

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