

ERIC BURGESS
Testimonial Match

TUESDAY APRIL 15th 1975. 7.30 pm



Wealdstone XI
v.
Wolverhampton Wanderers

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'Eric Burgess'

*Every Success for his
'testimonial'*

Eric Burgess

It all began in a pair of his brother's boots, three sizes too big, making his debut for his school's under eleven team. From that moment, the seed of ambition was sown.

Graduating through his Camrose County school teams and then on to Harrow Borough and Middlesex County honours. It was while playing for the Middlesex County schoolboys at White Hart Lane that the current Watford manager at that time Ron Burgess (no relation), was among the spectators and an ambition was about to be realised, and Eric became a professional with Watford.

Two seasons later saw the departure of Ron Burgess, and a breath of fresh air swept through the club by the name of Bill McGarry, the manager of tonight's opponents. It was Bill McGarry who gave Eric his debut in league football.

Unfortunately for Eric, shortly after this Bill McGarry left for bigger and better things with Ipswich, but it brought Ken Furphy to Watford as player-manager, and as Mr Furphy explained to Eric, he wished to continue as a player-manager in the right back position, the position Eric was playing at that time. Eric was transferred at the end of the season.

His transfer took him Westward to Torquay, managed by Frank O'Farrell. After three successful seasons with Torquay, in the first of which Eric helped them gain promotion to the third division, the Plymouth Argyle manager Billy Bingham bought him.

Spending two seasons with Argyle his travels then took him across country to East Anglia and Colchester United under Dick Graham. A season and a half, eight appearances and two successful cup runs later Eric left Colchester and moved back to his native Harrow and joined Wealdstone.

He now regards himself lucky to be given the opportunity to run his own fashion agency for the internationally known fashion house Mansfield Ltd.

Married to the lovely Lisa Redfern, sister to Anthea Redfern the Generation Game hostess.

Eric was best man at the wedding of Anthea and Bruce Forsyth, seen pictured opposite at the wedding.

His remaining ambitions are to promote the success of his fashion business and offer his services to football in another capacity.



My Thanks to You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting my testimonial, and would like to pay a special acknowledgement to certain people, for without them, tonight would not have been possible.

My gratitude to Mr. Bill McGarry and his team of Wolves for bringing the skill and excitement of the first division to Lower Mead.

To the Harrow Observer and Phil Sugden for their assistance and publicity throughout the preparation.

To Colin Pope for his efforts, advice and patience.

To the Supporters Club for their ever readiness to help particularly with fund raising.

Last, but by no means least, to the Directors, staff, supporters and players of the Wealdstone Football Club, I thank you all most sincerely.

Eric



Phil Bloss and Eric Burgess with the Watney Cup

WEALDSTONE XI

John Morton
 Roy McKenzie
 Chris Kinnear
 John Watson
 Jim Godfrey
 Bill Byrne
 Vince O'Kane
 John Henderson
 Ray Fulton
 Bobby Moss
 George Duck
 Adriaan Eglite
 Bill Kitchener
 Jimmy Greaves
 Martin Peters
 Les Burgess

**v WOLVERHAMPTON
WANDERERS**

1
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 15
 16

Gary Pierce
 Phil Parkes
 Geoff Palmer
 Derek Parkin
 Mike Bailey
 Frank Munro
 John McAlle
 Ken Hibbitt
 Steve Kindon
 John Richards
 Derek Dougan
 Dave Wagstaffe
 Barry Powell
 John Farley

Match ball kindly donated by Mr. Don Brown

Raffle ball donated by Mr. Joe Bray

Referee: **Mr. C. G. Lawthom** (Ruislip)

Linesmen: **Mr. J. D. Soppitt** (Abbotts Langley)

Mr. B. Bearman (Leavesden)

Spotlight on Local Boys

It is with very great pleasure that during the interval this evening we present a penalty kicking competition for young players from local clubs.

This event has been arranged by Eric Burgess who has arranged the preliminary heats and played them off with the assistance of the Wealdstone club and players.

It is a splendid idea and it is my considerable pleasure to present a tankard for the winner.

Eric, will of course, conduct the event and my good friend the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr. John Harkett, who will be accompanied by his wife, Phyllis, will present the trophy to the winner.

We all wish the lads well and hope, sincerely, that you will really give them your support.

Phil Sugden



A Tower of Strength

"Get out the tea chests Lee, we're on the move again." These are the fateful words Lisa came to fear, but as most footballers wives know, they are words they must prepare themselves for.

Eric has had four moves in his professional career, three times since their marriage.

"This is the time a footballers wife becomes a tower of strength, particularly if the club releases the player on a free transfer, as this can be a morale and pride shattering experience," says Eric.

"I know what success I have achieved in football and latterly in my fashion business I owe to my wife." She has been the restorer of pride, the rebuildler of confidence, and the buffer for all my problems."

Short but Sweet

by Dick Barton

(Colchester Express)

Eric joined us at Colchester half way through our successful cup season signing just before the Leeds game. He was immediately swept on the crest of the wave Colchester were on at the time.

Adding to the scalp of Leeds, Eric helped Colchester win the Watney Cup, the first time a fourth division side had won a national competition. Disposing of Carlisle and Luton in the rounds and defeating West Bromwich Albion in the final at West Bromwich.

"It was certainly a game to remember", recalls Eric, "it finished 3—3 and had to be decided on penalties, our winning penalty being scored by a young player making his debut, called Phil Bloss" (seen with Eric holding the Watney Cup on page 5). Eric was a firm favourite with the supporters, and caused quite a sensation by scoring nine goals in his last six league games with Colchester while playing at centre half. His consistency and stalwart displays were an example to all.

I think the only way to sum up Eric's stay at Colchester is by quoting a long serving member of their supporters committee when he said, "Eric has never been forgotten, and has never been replaced."

Wealdstone F.C. Supporters Club

Good evening everyone, and tonight we are privileged indeed to welcome to Lower Mead the players, officials and supporters of Wolverhampton Wanderers who have agreed to provide the opposition against the 'Stones for tonight's testimonial match for Eric Burgess. On behalf of all our supporters I would like to thank Wolves for playing here tonight and trust that they thoroughly enjoy their brief stay in Harrow and have a safe journey back to the Midlands.

Our best wishes also go to Eric Burgess, our longest serving professional who has been forced to retire from football with an injury to a knee.

During the last four seasons Eric has given loyal service to the 'Stones and has always been a credit to the club both on and off the field.

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