



# Wrekin Juniors F.C. Newsletter Special

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## In Memory of Peter Meakin

Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> the executive committee was informed of Peter Meakin's passing after an illness bravely borne.

Peter was a founder member of Wrekin Juniors; our first chairman and a life member of the club and will be greatly missed by all.

The committee requested that a minute's silence or applause for Peter's life and his immense contribution to our club be held at the weekend of February 13/14<sup>th</sup>.

He was the best ever at getting people to volunteer for positions, be it manager, chairman, subs collector. He was so persuasive you just couldn't say no to him! Everyone from Wrekin will have their own personal memories of him – myself included.

I joined the club with my son Kenny a few months after Wrekin was formed and soon became a subs collector for his team – I met Peter and he "encouraged" me to become the Newsletter editor, followed shortly by being asked to be club secretary. Suddenly my phone bills trebled and Peter became a frequent visitor to my home. I remember being on the phone for hours at a time and his late wife Shirley bringing him cups of teas whilst we talked of his ideas on how to improve and move forward with Wrekin Juniors. I always turned to Peter whenever I needed advice on club matters – he always had the answer.

Peter became a very good friend to me and my family and I am so glad I had the privilege of knowing him. Rest in peace, Peter. I so miss you.

Chairman Brian Chambers says: "It is very difficult to put into so few words what Peter Meakin did for Wrekin Juniors FC. In 1998 he was becoming disillusioned with the club he was with and how it was being run so he decided, with a few others, to form a new club and become its first chairman. He then set about making Wrekin Juniors FC the best in the area. This did not mean to win everything but to be run as a good football club and to give as many children the chance to participate in the game of football regardless of their ability.

"He gave up so much of his time to ensure that this was so. It helped him being retired but he still had his family to think of. He would always be thinking of how to improve the club and discussing this with many members of the club.

"I first met Peter when I was asked to cover one of the coaches whilst he was on holiday. I admired him straight away for his enthusiasm, sense of humour and dedication to the club, especially the younger ones where I became head coach for the 628s.

"Peter took a particular interest with this group of players being the future of the club. I later coached with other teams as my youngest son progressed through the age groups.

"Peter and myself became good friends and he helped to support me through the death of my wife and kept me involved although I had to give up the coaching due to time constraints.

"I was later able to comfort Peter when his wife Shirley died and we often went out for a beer very often at the Cock Hotel in Wellington where we would put the world to rights and always discuss how Wrekin Juniors was going and how the club could improve as well as having a good laugh and joke about football in general.

God bless you, Peter. I shall miss you. "

**W**rekin Juniors' personnel officer Christine McLean says: "Peter was one of the first people to welcome me to Wrekin Juniors and persuade me to take my position! He always had time to say hello and have a chat."

Sharon Gwynne, Wrekin's league representative, says: "He was a lovely man, very persuasive in getting us to help out with Wrekin Juniors and very passionate about the club."

Club Development Officer, Mike Nadal says: "I am very saddened and upset by his passing. Peter was so proud of this club and the work it does. He is watching us now smiling when every Wrekin Juniors goal is scored and every child smiles."

Coach to the Under 8s in season 1998-1999 Steve Haynes, wrote the following for that season's annual report: "My son Nicholas couldn't wait for Friday's training. We arrived 10 minutes early and there were lots of children about and parents legging it back to their cars. I also remember the strong smell of rubber as they were leaving the car park."

"We went to find someone in charge and noticed a man with white hair and tracksuit top and clipboard in his hands. There were about 100 kids swarming round him giving him money, his trouser pockets bulging with pound coins."

"When all the kids had paid their subs and gone off to join their groups we approached him. He was very pleasant and helpful explaining the set up to us. We paid our pound and Nic ran off to join his group."

"This was now to be a regular fixture on Fridays, I thought, and I did enjoy standing on the touchline with other mums and dads watching the kids and exchanging conversation with other parents. I also got to know the man with the clipboard quite well – his name was Peter."

"A month or so passed when, one cold wet Friday it happened.....I saw Peter coming towards me and he said those dreaded words: 'Steve, can you give a hand putting the goals up?'"

"I became a coach, referee, first aider, grounds man, taxi driver etc. So be warned – if you see a man with white hair, clipboard and trousers dragging on the floor approaching you – RUN. Seriously, though, I have really enjoyed my time with the club and I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys working with children."

There is nobody like Peter for getting people to "volunteer" – he will be sorely missed. A really good man with a heart of gold.

Our thoughts are with Peter's family at this sad time.

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