

LIFE AFTER TANFIELD

DEREK WRIGHT

PUPIL AT TANFIELD FROM 1970 TO 1975

MY LIFE AFTER LEAVING TANFIELD



Derek with Malcolm Macdonald at Arsenal



Derek's retirement from NUFC in July 2022

I left Tanfield in 1975 to start an apprenticeship with Arsenal Football Club. Leading up to my O Levels Dr Sharp had made it quite clear to me that if I didn't achieve good grades, he would stop me going! I lived in London for two years playing for the Youth and Reserve teams but never made the grade. I was determined to make my way and always had an interest in Medicine. While at Arsenal I would always be asking the Physio, Fred Street, questions and I think he got fed up eventually and recommended that I train as a Remedial Gymnast. This was at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield and then did further training as a Physiotherapist at Bradford School of Physiotherapy. The 'advice' from Dr Sharp certainly came in handy!

After working in the NHS at Northumberland Miners Rehabilitation Centre I was contacted by Fred Street. He had recommended me for an interview at Fulham Football Club for the position of Head Physiotherapist. Malcolm McDonald the Manager offered me the job and I spent a further 3 years living in West London gaining great experience and making some great friends at Fulham.

Dr Keith Beveridge the Club Doctor at Newcastle United contacted me in 1984 and asked me if I would consider going for a meeting with himself and Jack Charlton, the Manager at Newcastle. I agreed to come to Newcastle as Head Physiotherapist and started my new role in October 1984 at 26-year-old.

I was the only physio at the club and covered First Team home and away and all reserve games. In those days the physio also covered Sports Science, Massage, Strength and Conditioning and I organised hotel rooms and meals!

Jack Charlton left the club the next year and I would eventually work for 32 managers in my 38 years at Newcastle! I retired from Head Physiotherapist in July this year and I do still miss the day-to-day work and each one of my colleagues. CPD was an important part of the job, and I attended The University of Wales in Cardiff to complete a Post Graduate Diploma in Sport and Exercise

Medicine. I am currently studying and training in Diagnostic MSK Ultrasound and work part time in my clinic in Jesmond, Newcastle.

I keep in contact with all my friends from school and now I am semi-retired, hopefully see more of them!

I live in Stannington Village near Morpeth with my Wife Helen and 2 sons Benjamin and James. My eldest son Jonathan lives and works in Abu Dhabi.