

Fundraising Families

The Val Burrell Memorial Match

The Burrell family raised an amazing £1500 for St Luke's with their annual football match in June this year. They also raised £300 for Forrest United FC who allowed the use of their ground for the day, and without whose generous support the event would not have been possible.

Val Burrell was a patient at St Luke's, attending firstly as a Day Care patient and later in the In Patient unit. After Val died the family took advantage of the St Luke's bereavement service. *"It was just a lifesaver to have someone to talk to"* said Claire Burrell, Val's daughter. *"Being able to work through family issues with someone who had not been directly involved helped us to get things in perspective, and I feel we became much stronger as a family as a result."*

Val Burrell's great passion was football. A keen player for Willesden Ladies herself, at one point having a trial for England, she was also a talent scout, enthusiastic about identifying and encouraging promising young players (including her son Gary, who is now a professional footballer, and started his career with Forrest United). So when the family wanted to fundraise for St Luke's, a charity football tournament seemed the obvious choice.

"The tournament has run for two years now and has gone from strength to strength and the number of teams participating has increased from year to year" said Claire. The excellent turnout each year is a testament to the respect and affection which people felt for Val. As well as the football tournament, there was a penalty shoot out for children, and a disco in the evening. The glorious sunshine was a bonus for what was a lovely family day out. *"And to top things off"* said Claire, *"Gary's team (Hobbsy's Boy's) won the whole tournament – it was very emotional."*



▲ Gary collecting the trophy
▼ Gary and Claire

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