

Eastbourne Borough Walking Football Club

Annual General Meeting 2022

Committee Reports

Chairman's Report

Firstly, may I thank all my fellow committee members for their hard work over the past few months, and a big thank you to all those who lend a hand week in, week out, to set up the pitches and clear away after our sessions, and also to our strict but fair referees. There is a significant amount of work running this walking football club and everyone should be very grateful to those who make it happen.

These past few months, as we and the country get back to a more normal post-Covid world, have seen many developments in our walking football world. We had a season of regular league games; we entered two teams - one Premiership, one Championship - and both performed well. Out of this trial has come an association with the Southern Combination Football League who wanted to expand by incorporating a WF league, one division based in East Sussex, the other in West Sussex. We are founder members of the East division, along with Hastings, Battle, Bexhill and Burwash. Our league teams were managed by Tony Edwards and Les Ward: one lesson we learned is that we do not have the strength in depth to support two separate teams given that the league rules do not allow players in one team to play for the second team. For that reason we have only entered one team for this season. We have played our first game already resulting in a home defeat to Hastings. It was pleasing to see so many non-playing members of the club turn out to cheer on the team. The League goes on until May 2023, with fixtures arranged between clubs within a strict time window.

For those players not involved in the league squad but wishing to experience the buzz of competitive football, Andy Dixon will be trying to arrange a full programme of friendlies with other clubs. We have already had some guests, a team from East Kilbride (Scotland), a team from Tonbridge and our regular, intermittent, visitors from Lawn Court and the Brummie Boys. Andy will be expanding this programme in the coming months. Earlier this year, we supported South Downs NHS by putting on a session for healthcare professionals to see how walking football could expand their range of available activities for patients.

Financially the club has been able to support our parent club by our weekly donations of 50% of subs, and from our surplus we also donated £500 towards new floodlighting for the 'cage'. We also invested in our own defibrillator, first aid training and have supported a club tour to play some friendlies in Spain. We are grateful to Steve Over who, on behalf of Lottbridge Motor Services, has sponsored two new club kits - unfortunately due to problems with the club's kit suppliers we are yet to take delivery. Also, we have decided to heavily subsidise the club award dinner (20th January 2023) which will only cost members £10 per person, 'plus ones' welcome - for a 3 course meal music and dancing.

Having discovered we are not affiliated with the Sussex FA as part of EBFC, we have put in train the process to affiliate in our own right. We are, and always have been, affiliated to the Walking Football Association allowing us to enter their national competitions.

Your club goes from strength to strength - our membership is around 70 and we have a couple of players in the South East representative squads. We continue to be welcoming to players of all abilities and have recently revived the much-loved Thursday after football sessions of tea/coffee/bacon sandwiches and socialising. Thank you all for your ongoing support of all aspects of the club.

Terry Bellamy – Chairman

Secretary's Report

This is my third year as Club Secretary. The role involves servicing the Committee, liaising with third parties such as other clubs, acting as a conduit for information to members and various other tasks.

Since the last AGM the Committee has met 11 times. Meetings have been attended by a number of other members as this policy was reinstated when Terry Bellamy became Chair last year.

One of my other tasks this year was to organise fixtures for league and cup games with the assistance of Andy Dixon, who took over responsibility for organising the B team matches. We have entered only one team into the new Southern Combination Walking Football League and I am continuing to arrange the fixtures with other clubs, but Andy is organising friendly fixtures, which we hope to expand next year.

My thanks to Stuart Callf for making our tour to Spain in October so enjoyable. I helped Stuart with the travel arrangements and finances for the trip but he organised the matches with the local teams and booked the accommodation.

Finally my thanks to Andy Dixon for his support and to Paul Sutton for his work as Membership Secretary.

Dave Blackledge

Secretary

Club Captain's Report

In the absence of Roy I have been tasked with this years Club Captain's report.

Firstly, I would like to thank Roy for all his hard work in making sure that our Tuesday & Thursday sessions run smoothly & efficiently & that everyone is made to feel welcome. Roy is very often the first person in the ground & last one to leave. There is a lot to organise from selecting the teams to setting up the pitches & clearing up afterwards. Insta Team has been a great success but can be very frustrating when time is spent carefully selecting balanced teams only to find on the day that there have been several drop outs & members turning up having not booked in. I don't think we have ever turned anyone away & Roy has gone out of his way to accommodate everyone.

I would like to formally thank those members who do turn up early & stay behind afterwards to help in setting up the pitches & clearing up afterwards - they know who they are & you are really appreciated. Also to those that regularly take home the bibs for washing.

This year we have started our 9am Tuesday morning training sessions, run by Tony Edwards supported by Les & Gary. These have been fun & the regular 8 or 10 members who turn up enjoy & benefit from some skills training. I am sure Tony would welcome more members turning out, especially those in the league squads as it helps Tony in preparing his team.

We entered two teams in the League this year & finished runners up in both the Premier & Championship Leagues. So well done to Tony & Les for managing the teams & making sure we were competitive & successful. For the new season which has already started we have one team which will make it easier for Tony to manage. There will also be a number of friendly games & other opportunities for members to take part in.

Next June we are running our own Walking Football tournament & will be entering two teams & already we have 14 teams expressing strong interest.

We also participated in the Hastings tournament last May & despite being knocked out on goal difference it was a good experience. Bob Bagley took on the responsibility of team manager & did a great job.

We have had a number of visiting teams joining in our sessions including the lads from Scotland & of course the Brummie lads. Other teams have included Tonbridge, Bexhill & Lawn Court & the NHS. We even had a Saturday session with a very special team of youngsters & Roy managed to bag at least 4 goals in one game!

I should also mention & thank Ken for organising our Charity game which was played on almost a full scale pitch with normal football rules. Quite an experience & probably a long time ago that most of us were allowed to run & tackle without Phil blowing his whistle. This may become an annual event.

This brings me on to thank our wonderful referees & in particular Phil Cousens for both the training, mentoring & organising each week. They have a difficult job, but is run fairly & in the right spirit. If anyone is interested in becoming a ref then please have a chat with Phil.

Phil has also arranged first aid courses & organised the purchase of specialist medical equipment & also the training on how to use it. Let's hope none of us needs it.

Our membership has continued to grow & we now have over 80 fully paid up members & have regularly over 30 members turning out every Tuesday & Thursday. A warm welcome to our new

members & trust they are enjoying their time with us. We could however do with some more goal keepers as we seem to be short most weeks especially when we have 5 sides.

We were back on tour this year with another trip to Spain after a 3 year break with 13 members taking part & thoroughly enjoying their football, go -karting, drinking & eating etc! Thanks to Stuart & Dave for organising a week away in the sun. We hope to run another tour next year when hopefully some of our newer members will come along.

If I have forgotten anything or anyone my apologies.

Finally, I believe Roy is standing down this year so please support your new Club Captain & continue to respect other members whatever their ability & enjoy the wonderful facilities that we have. Remember the reason why most of us turn out each next week is for fun, fitness & friendship.

Best Wishes to all

Andy - Vice Captain.

Treasurer's Report for the period November 2021 - October 2022

I was elected as the new Treasurer at last year's AGM and Brian Le Grove passed over all the balances and necessary paperwork with effect from the 1 December 2021.

The balances at the 1st November 2021 (i.e. the start of the financial year) were:

£1,606.31 in the Metro Bank account

£1,086.50 in the Subscription account

£ 239.86 in the Petty Cash account

The latter two accounts are used for cash transactions and the Petty Cash account has largely remained used and has been reduced so that there is effectively only one account for cash transactions.

Things have run relatively smoothly apart from one or two difficulties in changing the signatories of the Bank account. The Club's financial activities have increased as a result of two teams being entered in the new East Sussex Walking Football League. There were also two items of major expenditure that will not be repeated in the coming year in the form of a defibrillator and the necessary first aid training that many members undertook.

The use of the Sports Park during holiday periods cost the club £535.75.

There was no Christmas social in 2021 and the 2022 event is on the 20 January 2023 so will appear in the 2022/23 accounts (please see Page 3 after the income and expenditure figures).

I would like to thank Paul Sutton for his assistance in helping to collect the subscriptions throughout the year.

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Subscriptions @ EBFC	12,138.06	Paid to Eastbourne Borough FC	6,065.00
Subscriptions @ Sports Park	576.00	Hire of Sports Park	1,111.75
Match Fees	208.00	Match Fees	150.00
Annual Fees	82.00	Referees Fees	255.00
Donations	124.00	Catering	444.22
Acorn Trust (Ukraine Refugee)	240.00	Ukraine Reguee	240.00
		Referee Exams	10.00
		WFA Affiliation & Cup Entries	115.00
		League Affiliation	75.00
		Hire Sports Park (League Game)	60.00
		Worthing Tournaments	80.00
		Website	217.56
		Charity Donations	500.00
		Eastbourne Borough FC Donation	500.00
		Defibrillator	1,125.00
		First Aid Training	345.00
		Purchases (Backpack,Bibs, Disc Markers, Footballs,Goalkeeper Gloves,Kit Bags, Sundry Items,Awards)	759.46
		Spain trip & souvenirs	460.00
TOTAL	13,368.06	TOTAL	12,512.99

Income exceeds Expenditure by £855.07.

Metro Bank a/c	Subscription a/c	Petty Cash a/c
£	£	£
b/f 1,606.31	1,086.50	239.86
c/f 3,784.06		3.68
Diff. 2,177.75	1,086.50	236.18

Petty Cash a/c	236.18
Subscription a/c	1,086.50
Excess Income	855.07
TOTAL	2,177.75

The financial position is healthy with £3,784.06 in the bank.

There is only one uncashed cheque for £305.00 for the new football kit.

The Coming Year

The club are now providing free teas and coffees and in the next year that will cost in the region of £1,600.00.

In addition, the Awards Dinner is estimated to cost the following:

	£
Dinner Subsidy (based on 75 people)	1,387.50
Entertainment	700.00
Total	2,087.50

Ian Nisbet

Social Secretary's Report

We had 11 members go to Plumpton horse racing on the 19th January. Everybody had a good time, made a few bob and they wanted to go again. So, we went again on the 19th March again at Plumpton with the added bonus that one of my horses was running. Sadly he only came second but everybody had a good time.

A group of us for the last 18 months have been going to a pub on a Thursday after football. I have informed members but there has been no interest beyond the 8 people who usually go.

13 of us went to Spain for our "Fun in the Sun" Football Tour at the beginning of October.

Finally we have our awards evening to look forward to – postponed to January because the Priory Lane clubhouse bar is not available during December because of the World Cup.

Michael Richardson

Press and publicity Officer's Report

Last year I admitted that I had done very little press or publicity, putting the blame on Covid 19. This year, I have again done very little press or publicity, since early in the year, the Committee asked me not to, in view of our growing numbers and concerns about exceeding our agreed maximum of 42 members per session.

Monthly newsletters have continued throughout the year: contributions from members and volunteers to be 'profiled' are always welcome.

David Blackledge and I have spent some time on the website but most of the work to make the site the attractive 'shop window' for the club that it now is has been done by Roger Powell: thanks Roger.

Terry Stubbings