

Welcome to the monthly newsletter for Eastbourne walking footballers.

September 2022 Issue

Editorial

I hope everyone has enjoyed the summer (and that it continues a bit longer). It is always a bit of a quiet time for walking football, as players go away and events and tournaments are in abeyance. However, September is when such things start up again. It will be great to welcome our Lanarkshire visitors from 12th to 15th of the month. The local walking football league will soon start up, too. The clubs who played in the Age Concern East Sussex League last year have decided to join a new initiative which will be the Southern Combination Football League. We will be entering a team for their first season. We expect there to be lots of friendly games, too, including some for the over 68s, so there should be plenty of chances to play in the new club colours, which are being purchased, with generous sponsorship from Steve Over's company.

We will have to say goodbye to Jude Hawes and Kim Monroe, in the near future, as they move to East Anglia and France, respectively. Both Kim and Jude will be missed on the pitch, as they are both good players. Both Jude and Kim have contributed a lot to our club. Kim's contribution has been on the field, representing the club, last season but particularly by frequently refereeing our Thursday or Tuesday sessions: Thanks very much, Kim. Jude, too, has appeared in Borough colours, although not since 2019 but principally her contribution has been in how she consistently clears up, after our sessions, quietly ensuring bibs, discs, balls are put away (and she has done way more than her share of laundry). Thank you very much, Jude. Both Kim and Jude will be missed, not just for what they do but because it is always nice to play with them and chat with them.

Best wishes,

Terry

Birthdays:

Congratulations and happy returns to those with a birthday this month:

Paul Lockwood on 1st September
Frank Clements on 8th September
Gary Farthing on 10th September
Terry Stubbings on 12th September
Tom Chapman on 15th September
Mark Read and Kevin Brown on 23rd September
Russell Small on 24th September
Phil Cousens on 26th September

Get well soon

We hope to welcome back these players back soon:

Roger Powell; David O'Toole; Jane Draper; Cole Memzy; Mike Winton; David Blackburn, John Barry
Plus, others, if there are any, that we don't know about.

Congratulations

to Jessie Birdsall, Kim Monroe, Dave Waller and Phil Cousens who have now qualified as Tournament Referees.

Awards Evening have you signed up?

Our "annual" Awards Evening on Friday 20th January. It will be held in the clubhouse at Priory Lane and will include entertainment, dancing and a 3 course meal. Partners are welcome. The cost will be just £10 a head to include everything, except drinks from the bar. If you haven't told David Blackledge or Michael Richardson that you are going, you must do so, as soon as possible.

Who is who?

Last month, we asked you to identify Paul Lockwood and Antonio Forte. Paul is bottom left, Antonio is 4th from left back row - with brown jumper (just squeezing in)



PROFILE – Ken Eason



A young Ken, showing off his trusty left foot

Ken Eason was a South London lad, growing up on the streets of Lambeth. Football was important to him, playing at school and developing his skills, as a left half or inside left, until, at 16 years old he was selected for the South London team. When playing for South London, a scout offered a trial, to Ken and two fellow players, with Walthamstow Avenue, of the Isthmian League. Ken impressed and subsequently signed, working his way through the teams up to the Reserves. Ken had started work as a driver for a Fleet Street newspaper and found he could earn great money by working nights,



Ken with Fulham legend, Jimmy Hill



Ken, as an oldie but goldie

something that didn't fit with the demands of football. After 20 years old, Ken's football was with Sunday and pub teams. In one of these teams, Ken played with the father of Glyn Hodges and young Glyn was often on the touchline, watching. (Many of you will know Glyn as an ex-Wimbledon player and manager: currently he is Assistant Manager at Bradford City).

As well as playing football, as a kid, Ken went along to Cold Blow Lane, to watch Millwall, until he was taken along to Craven Cottage and watched Fulham win 6-0. So, Ken became a Fulham supporter for life (over 60 years, so far).

Ken has been married three times. He has four daughters altogether and one son (Ken says that the son is no problem!). Wife number two was Brenda and with her he moved to Sevenoaks and gave up his regular wage, becoming an entrepreneur, firstly running a petrol station and car sales and later an Estate Agent, opposite the Blue Dolphin in Hastings. Ken has bought, renovated and sold properties for many years and is now in living in Crowhurst and doing-up that house.

In 1996 Bobby Robson was appointed manager of

Barcelona. Ken wrote him a letter, wishing him luck in his new job and saying that he and Brenda hoped to visit Barcelona at the end of the season, in the hope of them being crowned La Liga champions. In return Bobby Robson sent back a letter of four or five pages and as the end of the season approached, phoned Ken, to arrange a visit to Camp Nou. Unfortunately, Fabio Capella's Real Madrid beat Barcelona to the title, that year. Ken and Brenda were treated royally. Bobby's wife had left Spain and gone back to Ipswich, so Bobby shared his house in Sitges with Ken and Brenda, for a few days and remained friends for the rest of his life.

Ken has been playing walking football since 2018. It was Paul Sutton who first persuaded him to come along. Ken's friendship with Paul started after Ken was in hospital and nursed by Mary, Paul's wife and Ken was able to offer a break at a property that he owned in Cornwall.

