

Welcome to the monthly newsletter for Eastbourne walking footballers.

February 2022 Issue

Editorial

This time of year is quiet, with very little going on, so consequently, this newsletter is on the thin side.

National cup entries will open in February: there will be a draw for the first round of competitions for men Over 50s, men Over 60s, men Over 65's. For men Over 70s there will be a one or two day tournament (and also for women Over 40s, women Over 50s.

The local East Sussex League will be starting again towards the end of this month or the start of the next one.

So things to look forward to, as well as enjoying our Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Have a good month.

Terry Stubbings

Happy Birthday to

John Langton on 3rd

Jesse Birdsall on 13th

Darren Shoesmith on 14th

Mike Winton on 20th

Carl Hodgkinson on 21st

Antonio Forte on 22nd

David Blackledge on 23rd

Get well soon

We hope to welcome back these members back soon:

Mike Winton; Chris Wheeler; Cole Memzy; Stuart Callf

Plus, others, if there are any, that we don't know about.

Visitors

Lawn Court will be visiting us again on 8 February. Lawn Court is a registered care-home providing both long and short-term care for up to 18 people with mental health issues, helping them towards the goal of independent living. Lawn Court is also an active sports club working towards improving the mental wellbeing of residents and members through physical activity and social inclusion. Lawn Court are trying to reduce stigma around mental health.

Memories of warmer days



Player Profile: Graham Skinner

Graham was born in Balham, towards the end of the Chinese year of the snake, and grew up there. He played football, first as a four year old on the street and later for his school teams. Graham played defensive midfield or right back for Balham Secondary School and after leaving school for various local teams, until, he says, he discovered girls.

Because nearly everyone where he lived supported Chelsea and because Graham had a family friend living close to Highbury, Graham became a Gooner and has followed them through the good and not so good times.

Graham had a few different jobs, in offices, in warehouses and driving before joining the Metropolitan Police, undergoing basic training at Hendon and becoming a copper on the beat. While on duty outside 10 Downing Street, a dirty white car approached

and a middle-aged woman wanted access, claiming to be the Prime Minister's wife. Graham was not taken in but allowed the woman to park on double yellow lines, while he went through the motions of checking out her story. Yes, it was Mrs Callaghan, who, after this, gave Graham a friendly wave, every time she saw him.

In 1979 Graham moved to Sussex, with his first wife, joining Sussex Police and soon afterwards joining CID. Graham's marriage did not last long afterwards but a holiday romance on Ibiza with Brenda led to a second marriage in 1985 and the holiday romance is still continuing. Brenda and Graham have two children and three grandchildren (the youngest of whom is less than a week old) Graham had a successful career with the police, largely stationed in Eastbourne: like anyone who has worked in CID he has some stories about some of the horrors he dealt with but doesn't really like to speak about them.

It was meeting, by chance, ex-policeman Bill, who ran walking football at Borough in the early days, that Graham was first prompted to come along and try WF out and he came on the trip to Spain, in 2019.

Graham 's hobbies include Table Tennis, Pickleball, Gym and Swimming. He does part-time work as a gardener and of course gardening is also a hobby. Graham also likes to watch football.