

Eastbourne Borough Walking Football Club
Annual General Meeting, January 2020
Committee Members Reports for 2019

Chair's Report

This is the first report from myself as Chair of Eastbourne Borough Walking Football Club and I am pleased to report that in our third year of operation we have maintained the progress of the previous years.

Our paid up membership has again increased to over 60 members with an average attendance at our Thursday sessions of approx. 25/30. We have also continued to provide for all levels of ability namely competitive matches in various regional and national tournaments as well as the slightly less competitive Thursday morning sessions.

As you will note from our Captain's report, we had limited success in the National over 60's and over 65's competition, in each case losing out to Worthing. We again came up against Worthing in the semi finals of our own Summer Tournament and again came off second best.

The Club has again enjoyed overseas travel in 2019 with tournaments in both France and Spain as well as a tournament in Scotland. It is intended in 2020 to continue with attendance at overseas tournaments, as long as we have sufficient interest. For 2020, we have not had sufficient interest expressed in a return to the French tournament at the end of May and therefore we are investigating switching the Spanish tour to May and attending a tournament in Portugal in October. Our secretary will be emailing all members with details of these proposals and an early response (especially regarding the May Spanish tour) would be appreciated.

I am pleased to confirm that the Scottish team is intending to make the trip down to Eastbourne during the summer and a sub committee of Alan Walmsley and Tom O'Connell has been formed to organise this event. They will be in touch with regard to dates and availability in due course.

As has been mentioned by our Captain, we have arranged coaching sessions by the Sport, Coaching and Exercise Science department of Brighton University. This takes place each Tuesday morning at 9.30 to 11.00 during the academic terms. It is hoped that these sessions will assist in increasing the skill levels and awareness of the members and thus help to increase the competitiveness of our teams in the various competitions we enter.

I would also like to pay tribute to our referees, led by Heidi, who do a magnificent job for us. Congratulations must go to Heidi also for being chosen to referee overseas tournaments and a thank you to Phil Cousens and Mike Winton for joining us in Spain. Their attendance was much appreciated by the organisers of the tournament. I must also mention and thank Richard Dodman for refereeing at our Thursday morning sessions.

Finally I must thank Eastbourne Borough FC, especially Football Chairman John Bonar and the Football Committee together with Terry Avann, for their assistance and support throughout the year. I can assure you that the Club is fully aware of our growth and the tournaments and tours we engage in and are extremely happy and keen to support us, as and when possible.

David Blackburn
Chair

Secretary's Report

The role of Club Secretary was undertaken by Mark Hardcastle from January until September 2019 and by me since then. Mark had already announced his intention to stand down in 2020 but his dreadful illness made it impossible for him to carry on. He did a sterling job since the very start of the club and I was honoured to step into his shoes. He supported and encouraged me right up until just before his untimely death.

The Secretary's role is to service the Committee, liaise with third parties such as other clubs, act as a conduit for information from the Walking Football Association and various other bits and pieces. The most time-consuming job for Mark this year was to organise the travel and accommodation arrangements for the October tour to Spain, which he did with his usual efficiency and good humour.

I volunteered to make the travel arrangements for our first trip to France for the tournament in Aulnay at the beginning of June. I wasn't sure what I was letting myself in for but I soon found out when it became apparent that there was a shortage of decent cheap accommodation in the area. Having booked the only place that would be able to accommodate all 13 of us, collected deposits from everybody and paid for it in full in February, I was shocked to receive an email from the booking agency 2 months later telling me that there had been a mix up due to a change of owner and the place was in fact unavailable. A frantic search for alternatives ended with us having to stay in 3 separate places with quite a distance between them. The travel arrangements also turned into a bit of a saga. Three people travelled by motorbike, 9 by car but with some leaving on the Friday and some on the Saturday, and Chris Mottershead arrived on the Sunday by plane, having stayed at home for an extra day for his England trial. Amazingly all of us with the exception of Chris managed to meet up in the designated bar on Saturday night to watch Liverpool demolish Spurs in a very boring Champions League Final, to the delight of one or two and the dismay of some other members of our party.

I want to add that Mark Hardcastle captained one of the teams in France but was too exhausted to play in the last 3 matches of the tournament. That was when some of us realised that he could be seriously ill.

Finally I would like to thank Paul Sutton who as Membership Secretary has kept tabs on people joining and leaving the club, which is a big task in its own right and was originally part of the Secretary's role.

Dave Blackledge
Acting Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Our biggest single expense this year was £1060.45. This was for a new Squad kit, monies received to date £1031.00.

Another big single expense was £700 this was for EBWFC sponsorship of two games, EBFC v Welling 28/12/19 and Braintree 25/12/20

Another big expense £170 is for subsidising partners' costs for the Xmas meal.

All the Spanish Tourists have been refunded £6.00 from the various kitties

Petty Cash as at 28/11/19 is £358.20 and cash in the bank is £550.20.

The Christmas dinner raised £265.00 from the raffle and the Monday morning players have donated £80.00.

£135.00 from the raffle plus £80.00 From the Monday players (£215.00 total) will be donated to Pancreatic Cancer research.

Thanks to everyone who has made our club what it is today

John Langton
Treasurer

Social Secretary's Report

Our Summer Social held for the first time at the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club proved to be a big hit. We were well looked after by the staff & the buffet style meal was of a good standard. We will probably use this venue again in 2020 as it is light & airy, ideal for a warm summers evening.

The introduction of the card magician to entertain guests prior to dinner was extremely well received. I am still trying to work out how he put that small black cross on my palm!

The fact that both the magician & the disco cost was covered from club funds meant the cost of a guest ticket was kept to a reasonable level.

Three lucky club members (Steve Benterman, Frank Clements & Roy Fouracres) were presented with engraved glass paperweights in the shape of a football, for being voted as winners in their respective category, by the club membership.

Our Summer Football tournament organised by Roy, Heidi & myself, held at the Borough ground, was supported by five local teams, in addition to the two from Borough. Worthing once again triumphed, taking home the coveted trophy. The committee have agreed to rename the trophy for 2020, as the Mark Hardcastle Memorial trophy, in remembrance of our dear colleague who passed away earlier this year. We were certainly better hosts this year at the tournament, serving bite size treats to keep up sugar levels during the course of the matches, plus water. After the medal & trophy presentations all participants & officials were treated to "afternoon tea" in the on-site cafe.

We were also able to offer players the benefit of use of the on-site changing room facilities, something which again was most appreciated.

The Christmas Social was held on December 7th, with partners of members having their ticket cost subsidised by the club in an effort to attract more to attend, and I am pleased to confirm a total of 42 tickets were sold for the event. Our annual raffle triumphed all previous years with ticket sales reaching an astonishing £265!! Our sincere thanks to all those who supported the event with donated prizes & ticket purchases. Half the proceeds of ticket sales will be given to a charity associated with Pancreatic Cancer research, as was the condition that untimely took Mark away from us.

This charitable amount (£135) has been boosted by a further £80, donated on the night, from the Monday afternoon Boro' players.

Brian LeGrove
Social Secretary

Press and Publicity Officer's Report

What is entailed in this role is easy to guess from the title. Over the past year, I have sent reports to the Eastbourne Herald and we have had something published on four occasions, allowing Eastbourne residents to read about our Awards evening, our Summer Tournament and our Spanish Tour, as well as an obituary of Mark Hardcastle. Some of these pieces have ended with 'new members always welcome' and an invitation to join us on a Thursday morning. As well as pieces in the Herald, some of you will have read about our club in the Eastbourne Borough football programme, thanks to the support of Kevin Curling.

I have edited and published the monthly newsletter and try to ensure it helps to keep you informed.

I have invited both ITV (Meridian News) and BBC (Southeast Today) along to one of our Thursday session, in the hope of getting a short feature on local television, but, as yet, nothing has materialised. Do let me know any ideas you have that relate to press or publicity.

Terry Stubbings
Press & Publicity Officer

Club Captain's Report

This is a brief summary of this year's events.

It has been a very busy year of football, with many highlights. The Club's membership has more or less stayed the same with some leaving and a few new members joining, making an average of 25 people attending nearly every Thursday.

I thank very much my Lieutenants for their help in marking out the main pitch, so we can play as many games as possible in a morning's session.

The 5 a side Sunday Mini-League played at Eastbourne Sports Park with Shinewater, Atha, Bexhill, Uckfield and Crisp Walkers taking part through until April this year, with Old Bexhillions coming out on top.

In the first round of the over 65's WFA nationals we were drawn to play Bexhill at Priory Lane. Borough dominated for much of the match and took the lead, when Tony Forte beat the Bexhill keeper, before late in normal time Bexhill broke through twice, in quick succession, scoring one and crashing the last kick of the game against a post. A fine Terry Bellamy shot won the game for Borough, 2-1, in extra time.

The next round was away to Worthing and Borough, with a depleted team, crashed out 5-1.

Some of the same players turned out for the over 60's WFA nationals and they had to visit Worthing, in the first round. Despite a terrific performance by Chris Mottershead, Borough went down 1-0.

On Sunday 12th May, we took 2 teams to play at Newhaven but unfortunately, we only had one set of opponents to play. Lots of rolling substitutions meant Borough did not really settle properly and after 3 twenty minute halves, Borough went down 2-1.

Between the 1st and 4th June two teams went to the Aulnay Tournament, in France. Eastbourne Blues scored 20 goals in 8 matches and finished second in the Plate competition. For Eastbourne Clarets, every player scored, at least one goal and they achieved 4th place in the Plate.

Eastbourne Borough's Summer Tournament took place on the last Saturday of June and we entered 2 teams. Borough B were strong in defence but could not score and they drew four of their six matches 0-0 and lost the other two. Borough A won just one of their group matches but this was enough to get them into the semi-finals. Here they were outclassed by eventual winners Worthing, losing 4-0.

In July Chris Mottershead went for a trial for the South East Regionals 70+ and was successful, so many congratulations to him.

Thursday, 1st August we played a one-off, 11-a-side charity match for Prostate Cancer UK: everyone had fun and we raised over £300.

In the second week of September, two 5-a-side teams played in Scotland for the week. England A and England B played North Lanark first at the Broadwood 8,000 seater stadium home of Clyde FC who play in Scottish 1st division. England A won 2 of their games out of 4. England B drew 2. The following day was against Geri-Hatrick in East Kilbride and here England A lost all 5 games including a derby game against England B. England B won 2, drew 1 and lost 2. The final games were again against North Lanark, but this time in Airdrie, on a 3G pitch. England A won only 1 game out of 4. England B won 2 and lost 2.

In late September, 22 club members were on the plane to Spain for the Club's third tour. A great time was had by all, even altering some players picked up injuries throughout the week: thank you to all who showed plenty of sympathy. On the pitch, Borough teams were faced with some younger, fitter players (some under 50). Borough B competed well throughout but were only able to win four of their 12 matches, finishing 4th in the tournament. Borough A's best result was a battling 2-2 draw against Lubrin and they finished sixth in the tournament.

The standard of skills, commitment and team performances are continuing to improve, with results showing that, overall, the gap to opposing teams is closing, although positional play and decision-making are still to be worked on. The running of our members has somewhat subsided, due to stricter refereeing, although it is a concern that players from other clubs get away with running too often.

A major concern is the power of shooting against stand-in goal keepers, in some sessions. As a Club we want everyone to ensure that there are fewer injuries, so we hope that in the future, we will have more warm up time before our sessions, to avoid this.

The Committee have arranged with the Sports Coaching Department at Brighton University to have coaching sessions to help with in-game tactical awareness, which can only help us in the various competitions we enter.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the Committee Members, for their support and guidance and thanks to my Vice-Captain, in my absence and those who help organise the Thursday morning sessions. Thanks, especially, to Brian LeGrove for arranging our Christmas event, our Summer Tournament and our excellent Awards Ceremony.

Thank you also to our excellent Referees, who make the game so enjoyable and safe for us all.

Finally thank you to all the members for the support, week-in, week-out, that you have shown me this year, it is very much appreciated. I hope you all continue to have fun, socialise and keep fit.

Your Captain
Roy