



Welcome to this month's Newsletter for Eastbourne Walking Footballers. May 2023

Editorial

What is Walking Football? As the name suggests, walking is a key element. We ask our referees to try to enforce the *no running* rule but, if we are to be an inclusive club, allowing those who can't run to compete on a playing field as level as the Priory Lane pitch, everyone must make an effort not to run. Yes, sometimes our brains think we are still sixteen and they make us run on to the loose ball ahead of us but we all need to do our best not to break into a jog or a sprint, rather than think we should do as much running as we can get away with! A walking football game can flow, if everyone walks, so don't moan if refs blow up for running that they aren't letting a game flow, but moan at the Linford Christie on your team instead.

Best wishes,

Terry Stubbings

Birthdays:

Congratulations and happy returns to those with a May birthday:

Ray Richards on 2nd May
Richard Dodman on 15th May
Maurice Lawlor on 20th May
Bill Hodges on 27th May

Tony Edwards on 2nd May
Anita Pickles on 16th May
Dave Waller on 25th May
Andrew Dixon on 31st May

Get well soon

We hope to welcome back these players back soon:
Dave Waller, Antonio Forte, Ian Corfe, Roger Powell, John Barry, Jonathon Baugh. Richard Wilson

Eastbourne over 50s Summer Tournament

Will be on Thursday 15th June 2023 10am - 4pm. This will be 6-a-side (squads of 9) and 16 teams are expected, which will be split into 4 groups, for round-robin games, with top 2 to qualify for knock out games (and bottom 2 to play in the *plate* competition). Andy Dixon would like as many members not playing for one of the two Borough teams to volunteer to help with the event. Members should speak to Andy if they are happy to help.

Match reports

Thanks to Les Ward and Andy Dixon for these reports

Southern Combination League

- 1st April Eastbourne Borough 1 The Atha 1

Borough ended the week, where three games were played, with a hard fought draw against The Atha.

The home side failed to recreate the fluent passing and movement of the previous home game although the opponents on this occasion offered a sterner test. Less chances were created by Borough in this game but one very good opportunity was not taken in the first half and although the visitors offered a threat themselves they were also not given many clear cut openings. After the break Borough seemed to lose their shape and within minutes of the restart fell behind when the ball found its way to the Atha front man on the side of the penalty area and he dispatched into the net off the near post.

This setback resulted in a substitution and the hosts went in search of an equaliser but had to be mindful of the threat of the opposition scoring a second goal. The equalising goal came near the end when an Atha player denied the home side a goalscoring opportunity with a sliding tackle which resulted in a penalty being awarded and a sending off.

Richard Brook confidently put the spot kick away but Borough could not make the numerical advantage count to get a second goal. A draw was a fair result on the day and the score line mirrored the previous encounter against The Atha earlier in the season.



Borough squad: Terry Bellamy, Richard Brook, Tony Edwards, Gary Farthing, Mike Gonnella, Ian Nisbet, Mark Reed, Les Ward, Dave Edwards.

Southern Combination League Cup

- 22nd April Eastbourne Borough 0 Old Bexhillians 1

A last minute goal saw Borough exit the league cup at the first round stage against the league leaders Bexhill.

An injury to leading goalscorer Mike Gonnella, and two other players being unavailable, meant Borough had to make changes to the squad from the previous game but this did not affect the team as this was a marked improvement from that encounter against The Atha.

Both sides traded shots, mostly from distance, which both goalkeepers dealt with but it was Borough who came closest in the first half when a shot struck the visitors post but bounced across the goal and away from danger.

The second half was similar to the first with both sides not creating many clear cut chances and it looked likely that the tie would go to extra time when the visitors struck with a goal in the last minute, a low shot into the far corner giving Tony Edwards no chance.

Both games this season against Bexhill have been decided by late goals and this performance gives Borough hope that they can get something when they play at Bexhill in the next league fixture.

Borough squad : Brian Barber, Terry Bellamy, Richard Brook, Tony Edwards, John Kemp, Paul Lockwood, Mark Reed, Ben Trowell, Les Ward.

WFA National Cup Over 65s

- 25th April Worthing 5 Eastbourne Borough 2



Borough went to long-time rivals Worthing and put up a spirited performance, which the scoreline did not reflect. Whilst Worthing were worthy winners, it was a closer game than the scoreline suggested. Borough were boosted by the inclusion of Russell Small, who had the weekend before made his England debut and rallied the team from midfield. A good individual goal was scored by Chris Wheeler before Borough were denied a goal which would have made the score 4-3. With Borough having a strong spell, playing well, it seemed for a while a draw or even a win might be possible, until Worthing netted a fifth.

Everyone got some game time by using the rolling subs and Borough certainly looked the part in their new away kit. The match was a good experience, with several players making their competitive debuts. With a bit more practice, there is the nucleus of a good side for next time.

Borough were well looked after the game with refreshments including bacon babs & biscuits/cake.

Squad - Dave Blackledge, Paul South, Russell Small Captain, Chris Wheeler, Paul Lockwood, Ahmad Lalmahomed, Bob Bagley. Neil Stephenson and Andy Dixon Manager

WFA National Cup Over 70s

- 27th April Eastbourne Borough 1 Worthing 1 (Borough won 2-0 on penalties)

A late penalty from Terry Bellamy after Gary Farthing was fouled took this WFA National Cup fixture to a penalty shoot out at Priory Lane.

A first half of few chances from both teams saw Borough survive a scare when a visiting player struck the post when an open goal beckoned but were not so lucky five minutes before the break when Worthing went ahead to lead at the interval.

The second half saw Worthing have more possession than the home team but were restricted to few shots although Maurice Lawlor did produce a fine save, diving to his left to turn a goal bound effort round the post. Roy Fouracres and Mike Richardson played in unfamiliar wide midfield positions but worked hard to offer cover at the back.



Borough had a couple of efforts from distance but did not really threaten the Worthing goal but were offered a lifeline with the late penalty award and the spot kick was despatched with ease by Terry Bellamy, the offending visiting player was red carded for the offence. Borough had little time left to capitalise on the numerical advantage and the game went to penalties. Worthing's first spot kick hit the post, Les Ward scored for Borough before Maurice Lawlor saved the second penalty from the visitors. Terry Bellamy put away the decisive kick to take Borough through to the next round.

Borough squad: Maurice Lawlor, Les Ward, Mike Richardson, Gary Farthing, Roy Fouracres, Terry Bellamy, Barry Bartlett, John Nelson.

Played two, won two



Following up on their March triumph in the Little Common Charity Quiz, the same Borough team of Terry Bellamy, Mike Bridger, Ian Nisbet, Terry Stubbings, Adam Wood and Paul

Lockwood came top in a Charity quiz at the *Fisherman's Club* on April 27th. Runners up was a team with Borough players Bob Bagley, Alan Walmsley, Dave Blackledge and Richard Dodman, as well as Dave's and Richard's wives. Other winners were the Multiple Sclerosis charity, raising over £500.
