Welcome to the August newsletter for Eastbourne walking footballers.

August 2021 Issue

Editorial

As I write, the rain is coming down in torrents making it difficult to believe we are in the middle of Summer, however, we always seem to do okay on a Tuesday or Thursday morning: long may it continue. It is great to see so many new members joining (and joining in) since lockdown eased, so a special welcome to Paul Lockwood, Cole Memzy, Keith Chatfield, Michael Wheeler, David Bates, Luciano Del-gaudio, Richard Brook, Michael Strudwick, John Rothnie, Ray Rowlands, James Bacon.(and anyone I've missed).

Best wishes

Terry Stubbings

Happy Birthday to you

Les Ward on the 4th

David Atkins on the 5th

Michael Wheeler on the 13th

Keith Chatfield on 30th

Get well soon

We hope to welcome back these players back soon:

Bob Bagley, Chris Wheeler; Graham Booth; Dave O'Toole
Plus, others, if there are any, that we don't know about.

Turn Up at the right Venue

Because of kids' soccer schools, we are not always at Priory Lane in August, so please note:

Tuesday 3rd: Walking Football at Priory Lane
Thursday 5th Walking Football at Eastbourne Sports Centre, Crosslevels Way, BN21 2UF
Tuesday 10th: Walking Football at Eastbourne Sports Centre, Crosslevels Way, BN21 2UF
Thursday 12th Walking Football at Eastbourne Sports Centre, Crosslevels Way, BN21 2UF
Tuesday 17th: Walking Football at Priory Lane
Thursday 19th Walking Football at Eastbourne Sports Centre, Crosslevels Way, BN21 2UF
Tuesday 24th: Walking Football at Eastbourne Sports Centre, Crosslevels Way, BN21 2UF
Thursday 26th Walking Football at Eastbourne Sports Centre, Crosslevels Way, BN21 2UF

Over 60s National Cup

On Saturday 3rd, Eastbourne Borough took on Worthing, in the first round of the national cup. Having shipped six goals, the previous time the sides met, the overall result could be seen as disappointing but not discouraging. With Antonio Forte suffering from a bad knee, Captain Roy Fouracres chose to start with Terry Stubbings up front, with the role of harrying the Worthing defence and 'defending from the front'.

In midfield, David O'Toole and Terry Bellamy worked hard but found it difficult to get a lot of the ball and only a few chances were created. With Worthing moving the ball quickly and accurately, Les Ward and Roy Fouracres were busy in defence but couldn't prevent a lot of shots coming in. Fortunately, David Blackledge was putting in a man-

of-the-match performance, in goal but was beaten once before halftime. Substitute Mike Bridger put in a useful stint, playing part of the first half and much of the second half and there were cameo appearances from Andrew Dixon and Antonio Forte. With Borough chasing the game, Worthing were still making chances and managed to score midway through the second half. Disappointing but not too dispiriting!

Mark Hardcastle Memorial Challenge Cup

Mark Hardcastle was one of the first members of our club and played a really important part in promoting and growing the club. Mark was the first club secretary and did a lot of work to expand opportunities to play in local, national and international competitions: he took a leading role in arranging our trips to Spain in 2017; 2018 and 2019. Mark was an enthusiastic player and was often picked as a forward in Borough representative teams. In 2019, Mark became ill, deteriorated rapidly and died on 21st October 2019 .
Some of Mark's (and Alan Walmsley's) friends from Birmingham were occasional visitors to walking football sessions at Priory Lane, playing as *The Brummie Boys*.
After Mark's death, the group from Birmingham wanted to give a trophy, for an annual competition between a Borough team and *The Brummie Boys*. The first match was held on Thursday 15th July.

Borough's team was made up of Mark's particular friends: Maurice Lawlor, in goal, Michael Richardson, Steve Benteman, John Bartlett, Terry Bellamy and John Langton. Steve Benteman was wearing his Hull City shorts and socks, in honour of lifelong Tigers fan, Mark Hardcastle. Alan Walmsley'kept goal for *The Brummie Boys.*

The two teams were fairly well matched, with chances for both sides. The Brummie Boys took the lead, part way through the first half, as Borough were caught out, pushing forward too much. Pat from *The Brummie Boys* gave Maurice no chance, with a nicely-taken goal. In the second half, careless defending from *The Brummie Boys* gave Borough a penalty for encroachment. Up stepped Terry Bellamy, to hit an unstoppable shot into the keeper's left hand corner. Both sides pushed for a winner but the match ended one-apiece. The Mark Hardcastle Memorial Challenge Cup was shared.

Player Profile

Antonio Forte

In 1952, in the village of Casalattico, Province of Frosinone, Italy, Antonio Forte came into the world. He was from the same extended family as Charles (later Lord) Forte, the famous Hotelier.

Tony grew up in Casalattico but when he was 10 years old, his Dad, despite making a living from his taxi business and working some land, decided future prospects were poor and took the family to England. To start with, it was to Teignmouth, Devon and Antonio attended school at Cuthbert Main School, Torquay, where he first played football, playing left winger in the school team. At weekends Antonio was regularly at Plainmoor, watching Torquay United or in the crowd at Plymouth Argyle or at Exeter City. Tony is still at Torquay fan but also added Chelsea to the teams he followed, because they played in blue, just like his national team and they had a goalkeeper called Peter Bonetti. There was little chance to see European football in those days, which is why AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus, who were seen occasionally in European Cup highlights, were added to Antonio's list of teams.

In 1965 the family moved to East Sussex and settled in Eastbourne, with a cafe in Hastings. Antonio joined St.Richard's School, in Bexhill, where he also played for school teams. After school, Antonio did a one year pre-diploma in engineering at Eastbourne College of Further Education and, of course, played for the college before taking a break from football, for about a year and a half.

Many people in Eastbourne know Antonio from the Fish and Chip shop, close to the Marine pub, in Seaside, that the family took over in 1970, where he worked for many years.

It wasn't long before Antonio went back to playing football, initially for the Alexander pub Sunday team. He and his brothers founded the Marine football club and at one time ran 3 teams. Other teams that Antonio has played for include Park Royal, Polegate, Hartington, Dental Board seconds, sometimes playing with Paul Lockwood and Luciano Del Gaudio and sometimes against Ray Rowlands.

In 1980, Antonio and his brothers opened a small cafe *Forte Brothers* in Pevensey Road and ten years later, he had a cafe and restaurant in Hastings. He retired in 2016.

In 1985, Antonio married and he has 3 boys and 4 grandchildren, in Eastbourne and Chichester.

It was January 2017 that Antonio first turned up at Shinewater to play walking football and he has been an enthusiastic player, ever since, regular playing in Eastbourne Borough teams. As well as walking football, Antonio is a good bowls player and a keen snooker player but his main hobby, as most of know, is chasing women.