



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

## Editorial

Goodbye, games on Tuesday  
Will I bang a goal in now  
We are changing to a new day  
Still I'm going to miss them

Don't question why we had to change the day  
Playin' on Mondays is now the way  
By moanin' that it's changed there's nothing's gained  
And nothing's lost, at such a cost.

Goodbye, games on Tuesday  
Is all I want to say  
Now the day is Monday  
Why not shout 'hooray'?      *Thanks to Rolling Stones (Ruby Tuesday)*

Switch the silicon chip inside your head  
So you come along on Monday  
'Cause nobody's gonna be there on Tuesday  
So then you can stay at home  
And if you cannot understand it  
Don't say you haven't been told  
You don't need the reason  
There' no real reason  
What reason do you need to be sure  
Oh, I won't tell you why  
It will be great on Mondays

I won't tell you why  
But it will be great on Mondays  
I want to shoot the whole day through

Shoot the whole day through      *Thanks to Boomtown Rats (I don't like Mondays)*

Monday, Monday so good for us.

Monday morning will be all we want it to be, I trust

Oh Monday mornin' we got little warnin' about when we would play  
But Monday, Monday, will be a fantastic day

Oh Monday mornin', Monday mornin' can't you see  
That Monday morning's great for you and me

Not every other day of the week is fine, (no)  
But come on a Thursday, Monday and Thursday  
It's just turned out that way (yeah). *Thanks to Mamas and Papas (Monday, Monday)*

Best wishes,

Terry Stubbings

### Birthdays:

Congratulations and happy returns to those with a July birthday:

Michael Gonnella On 1st July (today!)

Richard Brook on 6<sup>th</sup> July

John Barry on 17<sup>th</sup> July

Brian Daniel, on 24<sup>th</sup> July

Steve Over on 27<sup>th</sup> July

Tom O'Connell on 30<sup>th</sup> July

Stephen Pulman on 31<sup>st</sup> July

Mike Bridger on 31<sup>st</sup> July

### Get well soon

We hope to welcome back these players back soon:

Dave Waller. Antonio Forte, Michael Richardson, Carl Hodgkinson, Roger Powell, Ron Bishop, Jonathon Baugh

### WFA National Cup

Commiserations to our over 65 squad who have bowed out of this year's competition, following a 2-0 defeat at home to Herne Bay and also to our over 70s squad who suffered a heavy away defeat away to Kingston-upon-Thames.

Best wishes to our Over 50 squad, playing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of their competition soon.

### Southern Combination League

Old Bexhillians 4 Eastbourne Borough 1 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Borough suffered a heavy defeat in their final league game of the season losing 4-1 to table toppers Bexhill.

The game, played on a sunny Saturday morning, started badly for the visitors, going a goal down after 3 minutes, to a left foot drive struck firmly past Dave Blackledge. The home team pressed hard for a second goal but were pegged back halfway through the first half when Ben Trowell hit a fine equaliser to give Borough a much needed lift and hope of better things to come. Unfortunately parity only lasted a few minutes before the hosts regained their advantage with a low shot into the bottom corner to give them the lead at the interval.

Borough needed to start the second half on the front foot if they were to get anything from the game and although there were periods where time was spent in the Bexhill half no real clear cut openings were created, although the home goalkeeper had to keep out a couple of long range efforts. Borough's possession football, which had shown an improvement in the last couple of games, was lacking on this occasion and several times the home side broke away creating two on one situations, which saw them score twice late on to secure the win.

The last league game was expected to be played on Saturday 10th June against Battle Knights but, due to the visitors being unable to field a team, had to be cancelled, with Borough expected to be awarded the 3 points.

Borough squad: Dave Blackledge, Richard Brook, Gary Farthing, Mike Gonnella, John Kemp, Mark Reed, Ben Trowell, Adam Wood, Les Ward.

*Thanks to Les Ward for this report.*

### Eastbourne Borough Invitation Tournament

Bright sunshine all day on Thursday June 15th. By 8am Andy Dixon and his group of volunteers had almost finished setting up 4 pitches and made all the necessary preparations for a great day's walking football. 8.45 and the first teams arrived to register for the tournament.



*Registration Team of Paul Sutton and Michael Richardson*



Andy Dixon and Mike Bridger, in the control room, with the help of the Pitch Marshalls and the referees made sure that kick was dead on time at 10am. Teams had been grouped into two round robin groups of seven teams, although a late withdrawal by Stratford meant that Group A only comprised six teams.



Eastbourne Blue: Maurice Lawlor Chris Smith Richard Brook Terry Bellamy (c) Paul Lockwood Ian Nisbet Mark Reed Dave O'Toole  
Eastbourne Red: Tony Edwards Terry Stubbings Les Ward Adam Wood Gary Farthing Chris Turner Steve Over Ray Richards Mike Gonnella

Borough had two teams, one in each group. First of them to play was *Borough Blue*, who looked really good against the *South-east England Over 70* side, with Dave O'Toole and Mark

Read combining well in midfield and Richard Brook up front, with Ian Nisbet and keeper Maurice Lawlor keeping it secure at the back.

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*Borough Blue* versus the *South-east England Over 70* side

Unfortunately, *South-east England Over 70* had a fit young goalkeeper called David Blackledge who was largely responsible for the score staying 0-0. This was followed by a hard fought draw against *Worthing White*, the eventual finalists. Two good results were followed by two disappointing 1-0 defeats to *Ringmer* and to *Burwash* and a great result against *Hastings*, where Terry Bellamy scored the winner, resulted in qualification for the plate semi-final.

Meanwhile *Borough Red* were in action, playing with dual strikers Chris Turner and Steve Over. First up were *Worthing Blue* (who confusingly were wearing red kit that they had to cover with green bibs). The *Borough Red* tactic of keeper Tony Edwards sending a long ball up to Chris or Steve looked promising and there were some near misses (and good saves by the *Worthing* keeper) before the game finished goalless.

Playing two up front inevitably leaves the midfield a bit light but Adam Wood and Mike Gonnella played their part well and Les Ward inspired confidence at the back, as he so often does.

Against *Tonbridge*, the system worked really well, with Chris Turner netting twice, Steve Over once and Mike Gonnella also scoring for a 4-0 win. Next up were *Seaford* and this time it was one for Chris Turner and one for Steve Over.



*Pevensey and Westham* had had some disappointing results but raised their game against *Borough Red*, creating a couple of chances and battling hard to limit Borough's chances, with a great goalkeeping display, as well: 0-0 was the result. Another 0-0 against group leaders, *North Lanark* was hard fought, with *Borough Red* perhaps having slightly the better of the encounter. Both these teams qualified for the Trophy semifinal.



Action from Borough Red v Worthing Blue

Losing a semi-final is really disappointing and neither Borough team made it through to their respective final. *Borough Red* were up against *Worthing White* and took a deserved lead before losing the ball in a dangerous position and letting in their first *goal-against* of the day before losing the sudden death penalty shootout. For *Borough Blue*, they faced *Worthing Blue* (playing in Red), although Borough held them in the first half they were unable to maintain the performance in the second half, with Chris Smith sent off for denying a goal scoring opportunity. Maurice Lawlor saved the penalty that followed but the remaining five players were unable to hold on and Worthing ran out 2-0 winners. Worthing then went on to defeat *Tonbridge* in the plate final. *North Lanark* was the Trophy winners, defeating *Worthing White* 1-0.



Worthing White attacking the North Lanark goal

The whole tournament ran very smoothly with the football finishing only a few minutes later than planned, despite a medical emergency that took one pitch out of action for an hour or so. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the event, especially the volunteers and the referees who did a great job and to Andy Dixon and Mike Bridger who took on the organisation of the event.

The afternoon finished in the bar with the presentations,



*Mayor, Vaughan presents the Cup to North Lanark captain*



*Simon Leslie presents plate to captain of worthing Blue*

where Eastbourne Mayor, Councillor Candy Vaughan presented the *Mark Hardcastle Cup* and new Eastbourne Borough Football Club owner, Simon Leslie, presented medals.



*Cheque presentation to a representative of Men's Shed*

Representatives of three local charities (Men's Shed; Prostate Cancer Support Organisation. Say Aphasia) were presented with cheques to support their work: thanks to the Acorn Trust for this.

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