

# Welcome to the monthly newsletter for Eastbourne walking footballers.

April 2022 Issue

## Editorial

Will we have an autumn trip abroad? There seems a chance we will be playing Walking Football under blue skies, on the Iberian peninsula. To get everyone in the mood, here are a few words penned, in 2018, by the club's poet, John Langton.

18 went to Spain

To *Vera* and a barren terrain

Got to our apartments, spic and span

Then off to the Cactus bar, for refreshments and to plan.

Our first game, it was a friendly,

Until Paul was brought down, he was one of three,

And lost the skin off one knee.

The beach was near, we went in the sea,

The waves were bigger than you and me.

Roy joined us for a game of catch,

Against the waves, he was no match.

A wave knocked him over by the shore.

He stood up and said "my finger's very sore"

The medics attended, and when they spoke,

They said "Roy, your finger's broke"

Another match and Roy's knocked to the ground,

An opposition boot stamped on his hand.

After an X-ray, a broken bone is found

The Cockroach Arms was the place to meet,

Steve B's music, was a real treat.

It was open for late night drinks and a chat...

I mustn't say any more than that!

The meals made by Stuart & Terry

We're much better than those by Mary Berry.

For those who haven't been to Spain, go this year, and you will want to go again.

If you don't get selected for team A or B, there's always Sea...and the sand

Have a good month.

Terry Stubbings

Happy Birthday to

Ray Rowlands on 14<sup>th</sup>

Ahmed Lalmahamed on 15<sup>th</sup>

Judith Hawes on 30<sup>th</sup>

Get well soon

We hope to welcome back these members back soon:

David Blackburn; Jane Draper; Graham Booth; Mike Winton; Chris Wheeler; Cole Memzy; David O'Toole; Mike Gonnella; Graham Skinner; Brian Le Grove

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

Things to look forward to

WFA National Cup Over 60's game v Bexhill on Tuesday 5th April

WFA National Cup Over 50's game v Range Rovers from the Isle of Sheppey on Saturday 9th April at Priory Lane, kick off 1200.

Hastings Tournament on the evening of May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Another outing to Plumpton, for Ladies Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May

The Brummie Boys will be down on 12th May and will play an Eastbourne Borough team, picked by Terry Bellamy and Maurice Lawlor for the Mark Hardcastle Challenge Trophy.

North Lanark lads will be coming down some time in September.

Club's Christmas do will be on 25<sup>th</sup> November (11 months after Christmas Day 2021) in the clubhouse at Priory Lane.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Gary Farthing who has been recommended for a trial for the newly formed WFA South-East Over 65s squad. The trial will be at the end of April when the trialists will play against 3 teams from the Over 70s squad, in which David Blackledge and Chris Mottershead will be playing.

### Drink?

After Thursday football, some members go to the pub. If you want to join them, talk to Stuart or Michael Richardson, on the day, as the venue varies. All welcome.

### Age UK East Sussex League

There have been 2 Premiership matches and 2 Championship matches. On 12 th March Eastbourne Borough A played out a 0-0 draw with Crisp Walkers at Priory Lane. This was a good result, considering the Borough side were on the defensive a lot of the time, against a strong *Walkers* side. Chris Turner, up front had few chances. Special mention to Steve Benterman and Tony Edwards, in goal, who played major roles in keeping it scoreless.

(Borough squad: Tony Edwards, Steve Benterman, Richard Brook, Andrew Dixon, Roy Fouracres, Chris Smith, Chris Turner)

On 15 th March Eastbourne Borough A played Battle at Priory Lane. An early goal, from a strong shot by Richard Brook, meant Borough could sit back, a bit. They did well at keeping the ball, and Chris Turner had a good chance to make it 2-0, just before half-time, shooting very narrowly wide. However, Chris Turner was frustrated by his lack of opportunities and quit the field! Battle had won the reverse fixture 4-1 but this time, Les Ward did a great job limiting opportunities for their striker and the whole team worked well, as a unit.

(Borough squad: Tony Edwards, Steve Benterman, Richard Brook, Andrew Dixon, Roy Fouracres, Graham Skinner, Chris Turner, Gary Farthing, Les Ward)

On 19th March Eastbourne Borough B played Ringmer at Priory Lane. Borough started strongly, keeping control of the ball well, Mike Bridger and Steve Over combing well. This resulted in a chance for Steve Over to put them ahead, half way

through the first half. However, then errors crept in, giving the ball away, which Ringmer punished, with two quick goals, from fierce shots, that gave Maurice Lawlor little chance of stopping. Ian Nisbet had been playing very well at the back, supported by good covering back from Terry Bellamy and Paul Lockwood, in particular. With about 10 minutes to go, Terry Stubbings came on for Ian Nisbet. This was not a good move because although Steve Over scored, almost immediately, to make it 2-2, Terry Stubbings let the Ringmer striker beat his three times, resulting in two good saves by Maurice Lawlor but also a well-taken Ringmer winner.



(Borough squad: Maurice Lawlor, Stephen Longbottom, Mike Bridger, Terry Bellamy, Ian Nisbet, Steve Over, Terry Stubbings, Alan Walmsley)

On 31st March Eastbourne Borough B went to Robertsbridge, to play Burwash. It was a cold night, so a positive was that the match was indoors but this was also a negative, as Burwash were used to playing on the surface and Borough were not. From the start Borough were under pressure and soon down one-nil, although most felt the goal was scored by a player who was in the box. Shortly after this, Michael Richardson had to leave the pitch, after an unfortunate ricochet sent the ball into his left eye, with Terry Stubbings substituting. Burwash were putting in lots of shots and another Burwash goal came before half-time. At half-time Paul Lockwood was replaced by Stephen Longbottom and soon after, it was 2-1, thanks to a Steve Over strike. Steve was getting plenty of chances but some shots missed the target, while others were saved by the Burwash goalie, who was saving everything up til then-lucky, as well as skillful. Unfortunately, Borough gave away two penalties for incursion into the penalty area, both of which hit the woodwork but the second rebounded to a Burwash player and that was 3-1. Soon after, a quickly taken corner meant Steve Over was able to score a second Borough goal but rather than find an equalizer, Borough conceded again- Maurice Lawlor saved with his legs but the ball spun into the corner of the goal.

(Borough squad: Maurice Lawlor, Stephen Longbottom, Mike Bridger, Paul Lockwood, Ian Nisbet, Steve Over, Terry Stubbings, Michael Richardson)

### First Aid

On 17<sup>th</sup> March about 19 members attended a 2 hour Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation and Defibrillation session. The intention is to follow this up with a day's First Aid course. If you are interested in attending please let Phil Cousens or Terry Stubbings know asap.

### Welcome Guests

It was good to entertain a group of mainly nurses from South Downs Health and then later the same week a group of Brighton University Occupational Therapist students. Thanks to Terry Bellamy and Roy Fouracres for arranging it.

### Charity donation



*John Langton presented a cheque for £250 to Eastbourne Foodbank, on behalf of our club*

### Afternoon at the races

Our Social Secretary is a horse-owner and a regular attender at Plumpton racecourse. On a couple of occasions, a small group of members has been to watch the racing at Plumpton.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March they saw Michael Richardson's horse, Legal Rights narrowly beaten by Morfee, in the Sky Sports Publicans Day Out Novices' Handicap Hurdle



### Super National Cup Update

The 2nd round of the Over 70s Super National Cup was held in Gloucester on 11<sup>th</sup> March. This is the WFA competition between the Regional Teams except the North-East, who have not been able to form a squad.

It wasn't the best weather for walking football – cold, wet and windy. The South-East manager named a squad of 10 to take part including two goalkeepers – Chris Mottershead (ex-Eastbourne of course), who is allowed to stay with the South-East squad until the end of the season even though he has moved west, and myself.

It was a strange day for Chris and me. The North-West team turned up without a goalie and asked if they could borrow one so Chris and I played throughout the tournament, alternating between South-East and North-West. I wasn't completely happy with my performance and let in a couple of soft goals playing for the South-East, but ironically my best game was when I played for the North-West in a 0-0 draw against the South-East.

Each team played each other twice with matches being 20 minutes straight through. The South-West won the day with the South-East coming second, but South-East still head the table when the first round results are added, four points clear of South-West and North-West with Central trailing in fourth place. A further couple of rounds will be played before the competition ends.

*David Blackledge*

## Player Profile: Gordon Harrison

Gordon was born 78 years ago so is one of our more senior members. His schooldays were lived in Lincolnshire and East Anglia. At teacher training college he met Manx-born Carole with whom he shares his life.

Whilst teaching in Norwich he became a qualified FA referee enabling him to referee inter-school matches . On one occasion he officiated at Carrow Road for a match between Norwich and Southend schoolboys in front of several thousand spectators and you can imagine the flack he received when he disallowed a Norwich goal! Gordon's teaching experience included a year of voluntary work in Kenya during which time he climbed Mount Kenya (1600 feet) and also helped with the coaching of local footballers.

Four years of further studies at the University of Birmingham .....where again Gordon played some football .....enabled Gordon to branch out into church based community work. This took him to Manchester, Nottingham, Sheffield and London (where he watched Charlton Athletic, at the Valley), before retirement here in Eastbourne.

In recent years Carole and Gordon have organised a table tennis club for over 60's. They enjoy daily walks and have travelled quite widely in Europe and North America. Gordon swims in the sea between June and October and enjoys 'trial and error' gardening which he says 'is a bit like his footie'!

Gordon has an eclectic taste in music and enjoys film, current affairs and television drama.

Gordon became a Walking Footballer a few months after the inauguration of our club. It has fulfilled for him a decade's long desire to play footie again and he feels that he is only now beginning to fulfil his potential....albeit at a slower pace! Gordon with us, on our first trip to Spain: it is a pity that Stuart's snoring drove him from his bed, so he had to sleep in the kitchen and that he managed to be stung by a jellyfish! The picture shows him at Vera Playa, with some of the touring party.



John Langton has been thinking about the war in Ukraine and the violence in the world, generally

Words v Bullets, A poem by John S. Langton

I feel Safe

I can shoot you dead

But I'm worried you'll Shoot me instead

Let words be our weapons of war

We don't want guns any more

Our words cannot kill or maim

Let's talk, be friends again

Words may hurt

But never kill

I can take my words back

A bullet, you never will

One hundred a day killed by bullets in USA

If bullets were words

There'd be more alive today

Guns bring pain and grief

Words bring joy and relief

Lock your guns away

Life's too precious, don't take it away