

Welcome to this month's newsletter for Eastbourne walking footballers.

November 2022 Issue

Editorial

Have you put your nomination in yet? There are only a few days before nominations to serve on Eastbourne Borough Walking Football Club committee. The current club captain; social secretary and publicity person have all said that they won't stand again but all posts are open to nominations. All you need is one member to *propose* you and another to *second* you.

We have been so lucky to have such an enthusiastic and organized Secretary, in David Blackledge who has done a great deal for the club over the past 3 years and it is great that he is standing again, Thanks to Terry Bellamy, for leading the committee, as Chair; to Ian Nisbet, Treasurer, for managing the finances and to those of us standing down, Michael Richardson; Roy Fouracres, who has been a fantastic club captain and myself.

Best wishes

Terry Stubbings.

Birthdays:

Congratulations and happy returns to our November birthday-boys:

John Bartlett on 14th
Bill Shuttleworth on 19th
John Kemp on 23rd

Stephen Longbottom on 15th
Brian LeGrove on 23rd
Chris Turner on 25th

Tea Vicar?

From Thursday the 3rd and every Thursday for the near future, there will be free tea or coffee provided in the club house, after the walking football session, as well as sandwiches etc, to buy. So, stay behind for a chat and a snack.

Get well soon

We hope to welcome back these players back soon:
Ken Eason. Roger Powell, Dave O'Toole, Carl Memzy, John Langton, Mike Bridger

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

Southern Combination League

Eastbourne Borough 0 Hastings United 2

Borough started off their league campaign against a very strong Hastings side. Tony Edwards played really well, in goal, as a lot of shots rained in, though many of them from distance. Mark Reed and Gary Farthing defended well but it was difficult to mount attacks, with John Kemp often isolated up front, despite the efforts of Adam Wood and Terry Bellamy. There were cameo appearances from substitutes Ian Nisbet, Steve Benterman and Tom Chapman

Trip to Spain

After leaving Eastbourne at a ridiculously early time, on Sunday 2nd October, 13 players from the *Eastbourne Borough Walking Football Club* were in *Anton's Bar* (aka The Cactus Bar), by early afternoon, at the start of a six day trip.

Next morning, it was time for our first football and we made the short trip to Turre. This is where *Los Amigos* now play, having relocated from Los Gallardos to a lovely stadium, set against the town and mountains.



The touring party sporting their tour shirts before kick off at Turre

With just 11 fit players (plus Steve Over who really wasn't very well) Borough fielded a team of 8 players, with the remainder forming a B team of Borough and Los Amigos players, including a goalkeeper not used to playing in goal! This team took to the field first and were soon up against it, playing a strong *Los Amigos Yellow* team. Mike Richardson played well, in defence and Andy Dixon tried hard to create something but the result was a 3-0 defeat. *Borough A* was next up, against *Los Amigos Red* and this match was soon one way traffic too, with Ian Nisbet

combining well with Antonio Forte, on the left and Steve Benterman, Darren Shoesmith and Mike Bridger attacking on the right and through the middle, plenty of chances were created for Steve Over who, despite his heavy cold, was in great form, scoring three fine goals before Darren Shoesmith scored, the best goal of the game, to make it a 4-0 win.

Borough A v Borough B gave the second team some bragging rights, as their defence held out and they secured a point from a fine 0-0 draw.

Borough A v Los Amigos Yellow was a tight match, with the Borough team, taking an early lead, as Steve Over created space for a shot into the corner but then Terry Stubbings' pass to Antonio Forte went astray and the *Los Amigos* team broke rapidly and despite Dave Blackledge's efforts, equalised. With time running out, Darren Shoesmith cut in from the right and found Steve Over, who scored with virtually the final kick of the game.

The morning finished with short reverse fixtures and *Borough A* achieved two wins and a 0-0 draw, while *Borough B* had three narrow defeats.

On Wednesday there was an early start for a trip into the mountains and games against *Lubrin* on a pitch at over 1,700 feet above sea level. Our drivers, Mike Bridger, Steve Over and Darren Shoesmith raced up the mountain roads, leaving behind the odd stomach. Also left behind was Ian Nisbet, who was feeling very unwell.

When the football started, *Borough B* was another composite team, with another stand-in goalkeeper but welcoming back Roy Fouracres, despite him still feeling under the weather and not fully recovered from his hamstring strain. Against *Lubrin Yellow*, the team struggled to create opportunities but battled defensively before going down to a 3-0 defeat. Their other results were a 2-0 loss to *Lubrin Green* and a 2-0 loss to *Borough A*, where Steve Over and Darren Shoesmith were the scorers.

Soon after *Borough A's* first match against *Lubrin Green* started, Terry Stubbings latched onto a loose ball and smashed it into the net. However shots from outside the 15 metre shooting line are discounted, so 'no goal'. Terry and Antonio were combining well on the left and Antonio took a chance well, to open the scoring. A further two goals from Steve Over meant a 3-0 victory, with *Lubrin* having no real chances, as Steve Benterman and Terry Stubbings and Dave Blackledge, in goal, played calmly and competently, with excellent support from the midfield (Darren; Mike; Antonio), covering back. *Lubrin Green* had a slimmed down Manchester Phil up front but he got little of the ball, as the defence again looked secure. Mike Bridger, in the centre of midfield was using the ball well to bring Antonio, on the left and Darren, on the right, into the game, with each of them netting a goal, along with two more from Steve Over, making it a 4-0 victory.



Roy presented a match ball by Manchester Phil, Lubrin



Celebration after football at Lubrin

On Friday, the trip was to La Alfoquia to play against *Almanzora Valley*. On the Monday, at Turre, the referee had told us that he would play for us on the Friday and that we were lucky because he was a very good player! Immediately we christened him 'the world's greatest player (WGP)' and now, playing for *Borough B*, we were about to find out! Before the matches started, we were told by the referee that jogging was allowed but not running and that he could tell the difference between the two! First up *Borough B* played *Almanzora Valley Orange*, this time with Dave Blackledge in goal and WGP all over the place, often giving the ball away, Stuart Callf and Neville Rooney managed shots on target, while Michael Richardson and Andy Dixon helped make the defence more secure, before *Borough* went down to a 1-0 defeat. *Borough A* first played *Almanzora Valley Maroon* a match that finished 0-0, as Steve Over was well marshalled by the *Almanzora* centre-half. There was a lot of running by both sides (perhaps the ref couldn't tell the difference from jogging!), including Darren Shoemsmith sprinting back to cut out a very dangerous *Almanzora* attack. *Borough A* had been allocated extra players from the home club and to allow them game time, *Borough* players sat out for the next two games. It soon emerged that the new players' main skills were giving the ball away, in dangerous positions and so *Borough A* suffered their first defeats of the week, going down 2-1 against *Almanzora Valley Orange* (Steve Over the scorer) and then facing *Borough B*, who battled extra hard to get a great result. This time WGP played quite well, scoring one and setting up a fellow local for a second. Again Steve Over was on the score sheet, with the final result a *Borough B* win 2-1.

With time left in the session, reverse fixtures were started, this time *Borough A* were at full strength. Again, it was another tight match against *Almanzora Valley Maroon*, with *Borough* winning 1-0 (Steve Over scoring again). Against *Almanzora Valley Orange*, they went behind after a rapid *Almanzora* attack, before Terry Stubbings got forward to crash a shot against the post, Darren Shoemsmith followed up and shot against the same post, then gathered the rebound to set up Steve Over, who took an easy chance (making it 15 goals for the week). With time running out, Darren Shoemsmith attacked on the right and slotted his fourth goal of the week inside the post. Just before the final whistle, *Almanzora Valley* attacked, shot and Ian Nisbet, trying to block, diverted the ball past Dave Blackledge, making it 2-2.



Steve Over gets a shot in at La Alfoquia



All the players at La Alfoquia

Borough B lost their reverse fixtures 1-0 against both the *Almanzora Valley* teams and 2-0 against *Borough A*, although at 1-0, Stuart Callf was through on his own, put in a strong shot but saw Dave Blackledge dive to his left and push the ball wide. Neville Rooney had promised his wife that he would score a goal and was true to his word (other end next time, Nev!).

After the match, everyone went across the road to Heather's bar, where Almanzora had put on a super spread of sandwiches, quiche, cakes etc. Despite not realising we had played in what was seen as a tournament, there was a presentation, where *Almanzora Maroon* won the trophy for winning the most points and Dave Blackledge was rightly declared the player of the tournament, winning a nice trophy.

Of course, there was more to the week than just football. Vera Playa is a pleasant, quiet seaside resort. Our apartments has good facilities and a lot of time was spent round the pool, at the beach, in the bars and restaurants, Go-karting at Garrucha or walking in the local area.



Karters at Garrucha

Special mentions go to our drivers Mike Bridger, Steve Over and Darren Shoesmith; to Stuart Callf for organising the trip and, along with flat-mates Steve B and Michael R, for always being sociable to those who dropped by; to Dave Blackledge for booking flights, cars etc and handling the finances; to Andy Dixon, who with no thought for his own safety, saved the life of someone floundering in the swimming pool; to Michael R who scored, although not on the pitch; to Mike Bridger, who drove Ian Nisbet to the Health Centre, when we were worried that his condition may become serious and for his determination to find an open pharmacy, so Ian could get his antibiotics; to Neville Rooney for leading the walking group; to Darren Shoesmith for winning the Go-karting (twice); to Roy Fouracres, as Club Captain, for coming despite feeling ill; to Steve Over for all his goals.



Out for a meal in Mojacar

Another successful trip to Spain, with Borough A unbeaten, when at full-strength and everyone have a good time.