

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

January 2023 Issue

## Editorial

It is nearly 7 years since I first started playing walking football and it has been a great thing to get involved in, so thanks to Steve Pulman for first telling me about it. He and quite a few others are into their eighth or ninth year. During that time the club has gone from strength to strength and we are looking forward to another great year, *lets hope it's a good one, without any fear.*

Happy New Year to everyone.

Terry Stubbings.

## Birthdays:

Congratulations and happy returns to our birthday-boys:

Michael Richardson on 16th January

David Edwards on 16th January

Terry Whippy on 26th January

Ian Nisbet on 27<sup>th</sup> January

## Stop for a cuppa

Every Thursday, 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:

Richard Wilson, Ian Corfe, Ben Trowell, Roger Powell, Dave O'Toole, Carl Memzy, John Barry, Chris Smith, John Langton, Keith Andrew

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

## Eastbourne Tournament

Will be on Thursday 15th June 2023 10am - 4pm

Andy Dixon would like volunteers to help with the event. Members should speak to Andy if they are interested.

Thanks from Roy



Former Club captain Roy Fouracres wants to say thanks:

*I was so shocked to be presented with a customised Chelsea Shirt when I called in for a cup of tea on Thursday 8th December, as a thank you for being Club Captain for 5 years. I was very touched by this wonderful gesture, I was not expecting anything and was very surprised. It has been an honour to work with all of you over the years and to see the club grow into what it is today. I will miss looking after you all but felt that the time was right for me to step down and let a younger person bring new ideas and energy to the job.*

### Walker of the Year

This award is in the gift of our Referees. Each year (Covid permitting) they make an award to the player who they think has tried hardest to follow the *no running* rule. Deserved winner was Jude Hawes



### Champion Goalkeeper



We always think of Dave Blackledge as a champion goalkeeper and now it is official. The WFA Super League was contested in 2022 by the WFA's Regional teams in all age groups. Dave Blackledge was a member of the successful Championship-winning Over 70s South East squad, which won their league by 7 points. Games were played over several rounds held in Solihull, Gloucester, Barnsley and Billericay.

### 70S

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	POINTS
SE	15	7	7	1	18	7	11	28
NW	15	5	6	4	13	11	2	21
C	15	3	7	5	12	13	-1	16
SW	15	3	5	7	8	18	-10	14



**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND 70's  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 2022**

Back Row: Dave Willis (coach) Jim Mellish John Farrington John Mcrae Phil Pearce Bob Harper Billy Tyrrell Paul Pinch (coach)  
Front Row: Terry Woodgate Mark Hughes Dave Blackledge Eddie Melvin John Burkett (Player Manager)

## Goodbye to Jude



On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December, new club captain, Mike Bridger presented Jude Hawes with a parting gift. It is a measure of how much Jude has been liked and appreciated that so many members wanted to contribute to her gift. Jude has been a stalwart of the club for many years. It has always been good to have Jude on your team, as a tenacious defender and occasional goalscorer. She will be missed a lot.

## OHMs, Watts and Volts by John Langton

I've lived with them for years  
They weren't expensive  
I Always paid them  
Without tears  
They kept me warm  
& gave me light  
Heated my water  
& Kept me in touch  
With family, & friends  
And didn't cost much  
Bill was a friend  
Once a month  
He held out his hand  
I could afford his demand  
He's now big & greedy  
And I've become  
Cold & needy  
I can't afford a bath  
I worry about cooking a meal  
I'm getting thinner & thinner  
Drinking water  
& not much dinner

Good news has arrived  
I'm getting £66 a month  
Now Bill seems not so greedy  
I'm not so needy  
Until March

## Southern Combination League

There were two matches in December. On 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, Borough had a good home win against Burwash, 3-1. On 12<sup>th</sup>, Borough were away to The Atha and secured a 1-1 draw.

### Player Profile: Richard Brook



Richard was born in 1967 in Leeds General Infirmary. Richard's uncle was a coal miner and so was his dad, at Lofthouse Colliery, so as well as growing up in Leeds, Richard lived in Selby, near the pits his dad worked in. From about the age of 8, Richard was going to Elland Road, which was very close to where he lived then. One time, he was caught up in fighting by rival supporters and was rescued by the police, sitting in a police car, until his dad tapped on the window and took him home. Richard has now been a Leeds supporter for nearly 50 years, through highs and lows (such as relegation to League One in 2006). Highlights included reaching *Champions League* semi finals in 2001 and winning the old 1<sup>st</sup> Division title in 1992, the year before it changed to *Premier League*. Favourite players were Big Jack Chalton, Lee Chapman, Mark Viduka and Gary Speed.

Richard did not play a lot of football, as a kid, just a bit of street football but was playing regularly from about the age of 18, in Sunday League teams. By then, Richard had left school and was working as a miner in Wistow colliery. A year later, the miners were on strike. Richard didn't get his head smashed in but was on a few picket lines and also took a barrow into the town, to collect donations for the miners. More important to Richard, at this stage was the sport of Thai Boxing, which he did for 20 years. He fought at the Piccadilly Hotel and was unbeaten in his competitive fights.

10 years in the pit was enough for Richard, so he moved on working in power stations, maintaining the boilers and testing uranium from the reactors.

In his mid-30s Richard was on holiday in Tenerife when he met his future wife, Sandra.

A year later they were married, with Richard moving down to Epsom, where Sandra worked in Audiology and became a cellar man in local pubs. Later, Richard got a job at Epsom College and worked in the Sports Centre for 15 years. Richard was now playing 5-a-side soccer but gave it up due to ankle problems. Just before the pandemic, Richard started playing walking football at Epsom.

For 17 years Richard and Sandra had a caravan at Pevensey Bay and so knew Eastbourne well and chose to move here permanently in 2019 and soon after, Richard sought out our club. We have been lucky to have him, especially as he has been a useful addition to our league squad.

As well as getting the fun we all get from playing walking football, Richard has also got a part-time job- as a driver for Darren Shoemith's laundry firm.

