



Eastbourne Borough Walking Football Club AGM Reports January 2019

1: Chair's Report: Terry Bellamy

This year is the second year of Eastbourne Borough Walking Football Club and it has seen us continue to go from strength to strength. We now have almost 50 paid up members and our Thursday morning sessions have an average of between 20 and 30 players.

We continue to meet our goal of being an inclusive club catering for all levels of ability whilst being able to offer some competition for those who want to test themselves against other teams. This year we entered two teams in the National WF championships in the over 50 and over 60 divisions. Both teams unfortunately fell at the first hurdle losing narrowly to Bexhill and Worthing respectively. For those who demand more competition there is the monthly Sunday morning WF league at Eastbourne Sports Centre. Thanks to Carl Hodgkinson and others for organising our own tournament in June of this year - won by Worthing. Finally, we sent two teams out to Spain to compete in a tournament which was great fun for the 18 players who travelled. On a less competitive level we have our weekly sessions almost without fail come rain or shine and we also regularly entertain sides from Lawn Court, Bexhill and Birmingham - these games are always played in a friendly and sporting fashion. I am pleased to say that the club offers more than just football by providing companionship and mutual support amongst its membership.

We have been aiming to offer the chance to improve players' skills by holding sessions prior to the Thursday games. This was run for us by coach Bill Simmons but due to personal circumstances Bill has bowed out. We are filling the gap ourselves by trying to set up our own skill sessions and there will also be a goalkeeping skills session provided by the Borough coach. On the refereeing side we are fortunate to have Heidi who has already set up one referee coaching course and herself is now regularly refereeing at a high standard nationally and internationally.

So, all in all, 2018 has seen us make substantial progress. We are a recognised member under the umbrella of Eastbourne Borough FC and as your chairman it has been my privilege to represent you on the monthly main football committee meeting. The club has always been supportive towards us - no one more so than the late Mike Spooner who is sorely missed. It is a tribute to him and others in the club that Eastbourne Borough was recently awarded Community Club of the Year by the National League. The club now caters for all ages from youngsters of five to the more senior members of the community in the WF section.

As you know I am standing down as chair this year having served two years. It has been a pleasure to work with my fellow committee members who work very hard on your behalf to ensure we can continue to enjoy this great sport and the camaraderie it brings. We have decided that we will ensure regular rotation of committee members to give others a chance to steer the club and to create a fully democratic environment. I urge you to put yourselves forward for any vacant committee positions. Thank you all for your continued support.

Terry Bellamy
Chair

2: Secretary's Report: Mark Hardcastle

Thank you for supporting me in my secretarial post this year. It's been a good year. As well as servicing your walking football committee and letting you know the latest news from the Walking Football Association there has been other bits and pieces to do, mainly associated with competition entries and correspondence to third parties. My goal was to keep you informed as much as possible and to pick up any comments that I could bring up at committee. I hope you feel I have mostly succeeded in this. There has been a little bit of mission creep by virtue of organising the two corporate sponsorship packages at Borough and being the travel agent for flights, accommodation and collecting the money for Spain but 'hey' its been a labour of love.

Thank you to the committee who have supported me in my role and specifically Membership Secretary Paul Sutton who has done a sterling job in sorting out new people who join us. This role was originally part of my job but with Pauls input this has meant a better organised process of joining.

The club, and by definition yourselves would benefit from the greater involvement of the wider membership to volunteer to take the lead on some of the projects that come up such as the Summer Tournament or anything else you fancy doing. Don't be shy, it's your club after all.

If re-elected this coming year it will be my final year of serving on the committee in this role. I can wholly recommend this post to anyone who fancies standing next year. It's a great way to get more involved in the running of the club.

Mark Hardcastle
Secretary

3: Treasurer's Report: John Langton

Income.

Subs.	£1393.10
Total income (incl. subs)	£1893.10

Expenditure

Major expenditures.	
Spain Pennants/shirt	£248.00
Trophies.	£225.50
Hosting.	£196.00
Competitions.	£326.00

Major expenses due are, EBWFC sponsors of two home games at EBFC £700.00

Xmas dinner for members (assumed 16) club subsidy £14.00 each £224.00

Current monies as of 23/11/18

Cash.	£455.00 approx. (Coins assessed)
Bank.	£1812.93 as at 30th September 2018

Receipts are available for inspection. I will organise an independent qualified auditor to check my accounts. A hard copy of the detailed breakdown of income and expenditure will be made available at the AGM.

John Langton
Treasurer

Social Secretary's Report: Carl Hodgkinson

The focus for 2018 was to increase the opportunities for members to interact socially. This was achieved in a number of ways. Many members now stay for a drink, which some supplement with a bacon or sausage sandwich after WF session on a Thursday. The club pays for teas/coffee the first Thursday of each month which has proved popular.

Our tournament in June was a success with teams from Worthing and Bexhill complimenting EBWFC on our organisation and hospitality. We have also successfully hosted Lawn Court and the Brummie Boys on a number of occasions through the year.

Our first ever Awards evening was held at the Fishermen's in June with nearly 60 members, partners and friends enjoying a great evening.

The tour to Spain was a great success socially enjoyed by all 18 players who are already looking forward to touring again next year with EBWFC.

At the time of writing about 50 people have booked for our Christmas Dinner and Disco at the Fishermen's club on 8th December. With thanks to Mark for organising a quiz and Terry for organising a trip to the races. It has been a privilege to serve on your committee for the last 2 years. Thank you for your support.

Carl Hodgkinson
Social Secretary

Press and Public Relations Report: Terry Stubbings

What is entailed in this role is easy to guess from the title. Over the past year, I have sent reports to the *Eastbourne Herald* and we have had something published on three occasions, allowing Eastbourne residents to read about our Awards evening, our Summer Tournament and our Spanish Tour. Each piece I have submitted has ended with 'new members always welcome' and an invitation to join us on a Thursday morning, although I don't think anyone has come along as a result of this. As well as pieces in the Herald, some of you will have read about our club in the *Eastbourne Borough football programme*, thanks to the support of Kevin Curling.

I have taken over the monthly newsletter and try to ensure it helps to keep you informed.

Over the next 12 months, I intend more of the same but it may also be possible to get a short feature on local television, as suggested by one of you. Do let me know any ideas you have that relate to press or publicity.

Terry Stubbings
Press and PR

Club Captain's Report: Roy Fouracres

Early in 2018, at the A.G.M., I was appointed Club Captain, along with Ahmad Lalmahomed, as Vice Captain and this is a brief summary of this year's events.

The club's membership has reached a record high of 52, in total, with more than 20 people attending on nearly every Thursday.

It has been a busy year of football, with many highlights. On Saturday 13th January, at halftime during the Eastbourne Borough v Hampton and Richmond Borough match, we put on a demonstration match, to promote *Walking Football*, which all those playing really enjoyed, even though it was a bitterly cold day.

We have played in eight tournaments this year, the first being the 5-a-side *Sunday Mini-league*, played at Eastbourne Sports Park, with Shinewater, Bexhill, Seaford, Uckfield and Crisp Walkers taking part.

In February, we took part in the over-50s *F.A. Challenge People's Cup*, at Falmer but struggled against younger and fitter teams.

On Sunday 29th April, a team went to Bognor Regis, on another bitterly cold day and played well in a tournament, without quite managing to reach the final.

In the first round of the over 65s WFA Nationals, we were drawn to play Worthing Strikers away: a hard fought match on May 9th, resulted in a narrow loss 2-1. The following day, some of the same players turned out for the over 60s WFA Nationals, this time playing Old Bexhillians but with the same result, a 2-1 defeat.

A large group of Eastbourne Borough Strollers' players went on Saturday 13th May to see the first walking football internationals, England against Italy, at Brighton's AMEX Stadium, with our own Heidi Emery running the line.

On Sunday 20th May, we entered the Walking Football Cup but unfortunately were knocked out. Our own Summer Tournament took place on the last Saturday in June and we entered two teams, one of whom reached the last four before losing to eventual winners Worthing Strikers, in a penalty shootout. Old Bexhillians A were the beaten finalists.

In early October, 18 players were on the plane to Spain. A great time was had by all and the teams' performances, including in the Friday Tournament, were a clear step-up from last year. Several players were injured, so thanks to those who helped nurse them and those who showed some sympathy.

Thursday mornings begin with optional skills sessions, before starting any games: Bill contributed a huge amount to running these but has now stepped down, due to injury and workload: thank you Bill for all your hard work, enthusiasm, ideas and your time. The standard of skills, commitment and team performances has increased fourfold: the gap to other teams is closing, although passing accuracy, decision-making and positional play are still to be worked on (and for some players, so is cutting out running). I am very pleased with the commitment and improvement shown by all. We want everyone to stay fit, so it's important to warm up properly, every time, to avoid injuries.

I would like to say a special thank you to Ahmad for supporting me, as Vice Captain, throughout the year and also to all the Committee Members, for their support and guidance. Without our excellent Referees, Phil Cousens, Richard Dodman and Heidi Emery, walking football wouldn't be as enjoyable or safe, so a very big thank you to them, too. A big thank you, too, to all members who have taken a turn to wash the bibs. Finally, thank you everybody for the support that you have shown me this year, it has been really appreciated.

Roy Fouracres
Club Captain