

COMMITTEE REPORTS 2021

CHAIR'S REPORT

This is the second and final report from myself as Chair of Eastbourne Borough Walking Football Club.

It is the second as unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to cancel the AGM due to be held in January 2021. As under our constitution we have to have an AGM in a calendar year it has been necessary to hold it at the end of the year rather than the beginning. No doubt all future AGMs will now be held at this time of the year.

As we all know, the pandemic has caused death and havoc throughout the world and unfortunately, we at Eastbourne Borough WF have not been shielded from its effects. Our sympathies go to those among us who have lost loved ones during this awful period.

Despite the lockdown I am pleased to report that we continued to maintain the progress of the previous years.

Our paid-up membership has again increased to over 70 members with 2 sessions taking place each week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with an average attendance at of about 25-30 on a Tuesday and about 35 on Thursday sessions.

I am also pleased to say that we have continued to provide facilities for all levels of ability with competitive matches in various regional and national tournaments as well as a newly formed East Sussex League of 2 divisions. We still also continue to organise the slightly less competitive Tuesday and Thursday morning sessions.

As you will note from our Captain's report, we had limited success in the National Cup losing out to Worthing again, but slightly better than the previous loss. However, we had better success in the over 70s competition against Bexhill.

Unfortunately, the pandemic meant that the proposed overseas trips to France and Portugal could not take place. However, a group of members did venture in October to Guernsey for a tournament which the Captain has also reported on. I can confirm that the Club is again looking at taking part in overseas tournaments in 2022 with tournaments in both France and Portugal.

Members will also recall the coaching sessions we arranged with Brighton University School of Sport a couple of years ago and I am pleased to confirm that the University have contacted us to see if we would now like to arrange further sessions with them. We have confirmed our interest to the University and I am sure our new committee will take this forward, especially for our squads for the 2 East Sussex Leagues.

Finally, I must say thank you to a number of people.

Firstly, to our referees, who have done a magnificent job for us especially during the last couple of years with the restrictions and the rules and regulations issued by WFA and others. Especially I must single out Phil Cousens for the work he has done for us in organising the referee rota. Without his hard work and the efforts of all the referees we would be totally unable to organise and play Walking Football to the level we do.

Secondly, I must thank again Eastbourne Borough FC, especially the CEO, John Bonar, and the Youth Organiser, Terry Avann, for their assistance and support throughout the year. I can assure you that the Club is fully aware of our growth and the tournaments and tours we engage in and are extremely happy and keen to support us, as and when possible.

Finally, I must thank my fellow committee members for all the work that they do behind the scenes but without which we would not be able to operate. In particular, I would like to thank John Langton for his many years as Treasurer before his retirement from the post earlier this year and to Brian Le Grove for stepping into his shoes at short notice. I would also thank Roy for his tireless efforts in marking out the pitches each week and selecting the teams. I must add that Terry Stubbings has been of considerable help also in selection of teams for the Tuesday sessions and I am also delighted that so many members are now coming down earlier to assist Roy with the marking out of the pitches.

When I took on the role of Chair in January 2019, I was looking forward to it with a certain amount of excitement. I and no-one else had any idea just what was about to happen. Hopefully almost 3 years later, we are through the worst of this pandemic and as a Club, I believe we are now stronger fitter and better prepared and organised and that bodes extremely well for the future of the Club.

My predecessor, Terry Bellamy, said in his 2019 Chair Report that “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”. I wholeheartedly endorse his statement and would hope that others among the membership will put themselves forward for any vacant committee positions.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members for their support during my time in office and I wish my successor and the new committee all the best for the future

David Blackburn
Chair

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have carried out the role of Club Secretary since September 2019. The role involves servicing the Committee, communicating with members, liaising with third parties such as other clubs, acting as a conduit for information from the Walking Football Association and various other tasks.

Since the last AGM in January last year the Committee has met 17 times, generally monthly but less frequently during lockdown although we did hold some meetings via Zoom. We even had Roy beaming in from Australia on a couple of occasions during his enforced stay there.

Last year I made the travel and accommodation arrangements for the planned trip to Portugal which had to be cancelled due to COVID and this year I made the arrangements for our recent trip to the Walking Football Festival in Guernsey, to which we sent a party of 10 players plus Phil Cousens as a referee.

The establishment of the East Sussex Walking Football League, thanks to an initiative by Old Bexhillians, has proved to be a time-consuming job but very rewarding. It allows those players who want to play competitive football to do so more regularly than they have been able to in the past. The league was set up very quickly on an experimental basis and is sure to continue in a more organised fashion next year.

One of the other tasks I have done was to set up the club's website. It is mainly designed to act as a shop window for the club and I have had a number of enquiries from potential new members as a result. The site could be developed to provide more information for members and that is something that the Committee has started to look at. I also set up Instateam when we needed a booking system to ensure that our sessions weren't overloaded in the first post-lockdown period. Instateam has proved invaluable in allowing us to pick teams for each session and to pass this information on to members in advance because we know exactly who is attending.

Finally my thanks to Paul Sutton for his work as Membership Secretary, which is a big task in its own right and was originally part of the Secretary's role.

Dave Blackledge
Secretary

CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

This year, due to Covid 19 there is very little to report on, so this year's report will be shorter than usual.

The membership of the club this year has gone up to 71 members. Some members have left but the club looks as though it will continue to attract new members. Due to the increase in numbers, we are re-opening the back car park so please feel free to park there. Members are requested to arrive at 9.15 am to enable bib distribution and team selection due to members dropping out at the last minute.

Thank you to the people who help mark the pitches out with me, without you it would be a much longer job and it is really appreciated. You all know who you are.

Instateam is working well but it would make the job much easier for me if members who were not going would take the time to sign in and state that. Some members are already doing this so thank you very much to them.

It would be impossible for us to play if it were not for the Referees and I would like to thank them for all their hard work. Please continue to respect their decisions, they do a really difficult job.

I would like to thank the Committee Members for taking over my tasks in my absence, due to illness this year.

Covid 19 has restricted us a lot and it has been a difficult task for everyone who attends the club, but I am pleased to say that everyone abided by the rules that the Government made. Temperature checks were a necessary procedure along with social distancing.

Unfortunately this year there was no summer tournament due to Covid 19, so nothing to report about this here.

On the playing side, we have now entered competitive matches in the East Sussex Walking Football League with an A team and a B team.

Unfortunately we have had our fair share of injuries this year and I would like to remind members to continue to play within the rules to try to avoid this. Tackling is not allowed and as you all know Walking Football is a non-contact sport.

10 Members plus a Referee went to Guernsey in October for four days to play in the Guernsey October Festival. The results were, A Team P4 W1 (1-0) D1 (2-2) L2 (1-0 and 2-1), B team P4 D1 (1-1) L3 (2-0, 3-0 and 4-1). All members supported each other in both the games and in the social time.

We have had one morning session of over 70's games this year. Bexhill came to Borough in June with a 10 man squad and 5 games were played. We won one game, 3-0, we drew three games and Bexhill won the last game 1-0.

In July we played Worthing in the Over-60 Nationals at home, losing 2-0 compared to 6-1 a couple of seasons ago at Worthing.

Some of our players have had regional trials: Jude Hawes, Tony Edwards, Steve Over, Chris Turner, Chris Mottershead and David Blackledge. Congratulations to them all, especially Tony, Chris M and Dave who have all been selected.

The club is continuing to grow and I would like to thank everyone who supports me. Being Captain is a very time-consuming job and all your help is appreciated. I hope you all continue to enjoy the club, keeping fit and socialising.

Your Captain, Roy

TREASURERS REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL-OCTOBER 2021

I agreed to take on the additional role of (acting) Treasurer on 1st April 2021, since my original committee position of Social Secretary had become somewhat dormant owing to issues with Covid. The three previous functions (Summer social, summer tournament & Christmas social) had all been planned, organised and then had to be cancelled owing to Covid restrictions.

The Club's account at Metro bank was frozen with a credit balance of £1606.31

I was handed the Petty cash balance of £126.56, but decided to run a parallel Subscription (Cash) account for record purposes, to register the larger amounts of cash transactions within the club.

A summary for the period April-October 2021 is set out below;

PETTY CASH	Opening balance	126.56
Credits;		
Transferred from members subscriptions		196.00
Membership fees		69.00
Donation		20.00

	Total Income	411.56
Debits;		
Kit purchases (Gloves,balls & Pads)	137.91	
Catering- friendly matches	21.00	
Sundries (Keys, stationery & Tape measure)	21.98	
	Total Outgoings	180.89

Net Balance on Petty Cash Account		230.67
		=====

SUBSCRIPTION CASH ACCOUNT April-October 2021

Members subscriptions for period	7358.00
Donation	37.49

Total income for period	7395.49

CLUB EXPENDITURE

Paid to Eastbourne Borough Football Club	4508.50	
Purchases (Storage trunk, First aid kit, keys)	247.49	
Website email	60.00	
Hire of Sports Park pitch for August	1024.00	
Transferred to Petty cash	196.00	
League match fees	148.00	
Catering for Worthing visiting team	125.00	

Total expenditure for period		6308.99

Cash account surplus		1086.50
		=====

CONSOLIDATED POSITION

Metro Bank	1606.31
Subscription Account	1086.50
Petty cash	230.67

	2923.48

=====

In summary, a very healthy financial position for the club to be in.

Brian LeGrove

PRESS AND PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

Covid 19 has disrupted the whole world and of course disrupted the club's activity. Without much interesting activity to report, I have done very little press or publicity activity.

Monthly newsletter was suspended for many months but was back in May and now has a bit more to report. Contributions from members and volunteers to be 'profiled' are always welcome.

Our website is being updated by myself, David Blackledge and Roger Powell, who has the skills to make the site an attractive 'shop window' for the club.

Terry Stubbings