

Welcome to this month's newsletter for Eastbournealking footballers.

March 2023 Issue

Editorial

Our club is going from strength to strength, we now have around 80 members, with 50 to 60 playing once or twice a week. Such is the popularity that the referees list has 3 names on it for each session.

Where possible, we want to play six-a-side games, although sometimes, this won't be possible and teams may have another one or two players.

We expect there will be another referees course soon, so please talk to Phil Cousins about being the man in black, if you think you could join those already taking a turn. Referees make a big difference to the safety and fairness of a game, so don't forget to say *thanks* to the ref on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Have a look at the report of the SCL match against Bexhill, as there is photo of the team that played, wearing their new kit, with sponsorship from Lottbridge Motoring Centre. As many of you know, LMC is Steve Over's business, so special thanks to him for his generosity.

Best wishes

Terry Stubbings.

Birthdays:

Congratulations and happy returns to those with a March birthday:

Chris Smith on 13th March

Bob Bagley on 14th March

David O'Toole and Steven Duffy on 20th March

Philip Birmingham on 28th March

Alec Forbes on 29th March

Get well soon

We hope to welcome back these players back soon:

Dave Waller, Antonio Forte, Ian Corfe, Roger Powell, John Barry, Chris Smith, Keith Andrew

Stop for a cuppa; go for a pint

The last Tuesday of each month, there is an open invitation to divert to the Holly Blue pub, straight after football, for a pint and a spot of lunch: the first time will be Tuesday 28th February.

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.

And keep your eyes and ears open for other social events coming up.

Our website

Have you signed up to the members area on our website (eastbourneboroughwalkingfootball.com)? As well as previous newsletters, club officials etc, EBWF Documents can be accessed. Here you can find the club constitution, minutes of AGMs, insurance details, WFA rules and guide to the game and **OUR NEW DISCIPLINARY POLICY**.

Eastbourne over 50s Summer Tournament

Will be on Thursday 15th June 2023 10am - 4pm. This will be 6-a-side (squads of 9) and 16 teams are expected, which will be split into 4 groups, for round-robin games, with top 2 to qualify for knock out games (and bottom 2 to play in the *plate* competition). Andy Dixon would like volunteers to help with the event. Members should speak to Andy if they are happy to help.

Southern Combination League

Eastbourne Borough 2 Old Bexhillians 3 Saturday 11th February

On a cloudy but mild Saturday lunchtime, Borough welcomed league leaders and local rivals Bexhill to Priory Lane. Due to unavailability, Boroughs starting line up was much changed from the previous game with Ben Trowell making his first start with another new player in Richard Wilson also in the squad.

Borough started slowly unable to retain any sustained possession which resulted in the visitors being given shooting opportunities forcing Tony Edwards into making a series of fine saves. During this period Bexhill took the lead with a shot from the edge of the area after a quick passing move. After going behind the home side started to get more of a foothold, retaining the ball a bit more and this paid off when Richard Brook fired home to level the score.



Like all good teams Bexhill responded and went 2-1 up before the interval after a loose pass in midfield allowed them to gain possession. After the break Richard Wilson came on in midfield and almost scored with his first touch, a shot going narrowly wide and this set the tone for the second period with Borough taking the game more to the opposition in search of an equaliser. The midfield trio and Gary Farthing at the back were still having to be alert to the offensive threat which Bexhill possessed as they also sought another goal to kill the game but it was the home side who scored with an excellent strike from Ben Trowell to regain parity. Once again, having their 100% record put under threat, Bexhill exerted more pressure on their hosts and a lapse in concentration allowed them to regain and retain the lead three minutes from time. Although the result didn't go their way the Borough squad showed some good qualities against a very good Bexhill team and deserve some credit for making it a good contest.

Borough squad: Tony Edwards, Gary Farthing, Terry Bellamy, Ben Trowell, Adam Wood, Richard Brook, Richard Wilson, Tom Chapman, Steve Benterman.

BATTLE KNIGHTS 2 EASTBOURNE BOROUGH 1 Wednesday 22nd February

Borough travelled to Battle on Wednesday evening but unfortunately went down by the odd goal. The light rain made the surface quite greasy so weight of passes were an important factor. Boroughs game plan was to utilise John Kemp's ball retention, allowing the midfield players to get some shots at goal and this paid off after 8 minutes when Mike Gonnella drove home to put the visitors ahead.

After going behind Battle made a change and started to get some opportunities but found Dave Blackledge in fine form in the Borough goal. As in the previous game a loose pass allowed the opposition to regain the ball which was despatched into the net.

A substitution was made at half time to change the attack but it was the home side who took the lead with a goal which some felt should possibly not have been given due to encroachment. It was one of those difficult decisions for a referee to give and there were no complaints from Borough. The visitors pressed for an equaliser and this nearly came in the last minute when a strong drive from Mark Reed was clawed away by the Battle goalkeeper.

Another game and another defeat by the odd goal sees Borough with 4 points from 6 games so there is a need to improve that record as the second round of fixtures begin next month.

Borough squad: David Blackledge, Gary Farthing, Mark Reed, Mike Gonnella, Richard Brook, John Kemp, Adam Wood, Terry Bellamy, Brian Barber.

Player Profile: Michael Brady

Michael was born in Cork, during World War Two, in 1941 but very soon after he was in England, as his Dad, a worker at Ford, got a transfer to the Dagenham plant. So, Mick grew up in Walthamstow. Michael was the youngest of three boys, all quite close in age and he had a younger sister. Like many from an Irish family, Michael is a Roman Catholic and still attends Christ the King Church. He was educated at a Catholic School and, along with his brothers, he played football for the School Team.

After leaving school, Mick worked for Dagenham Cables and he played for the works team before moving on to work in the huge Dagenham Ford works. Michael joined his brothers in playing for a strong local side called Ubique. This was originally the team of the Royal Artillery (motto Ubique quo fas et Gloria ducunt) but in the 1950s was civilian team, playing in the South Essex Sunday League. Michael started with them, while still at school, until 1966, which was the year they won the National Sunday Cup, wearing the strip they adopted in 1961, as also worn by the great Real Madrid.



By this

time, Mick was married to Sylvia and next year will be their Diamond Jubilee! Four children, 3 boys and a girl, were born over the next six years.

Mick liked to watch football, as well as to play: his favourites were the Manchester United Busby babes, so tragically decimated in 1958 and after watching them for the first time play Charlton at the Valley in 1953, tried to watch them whenever they visited London. Mick also frequently went to the Boleyn Ground, since West Ham were a local club. Mick was at Wembley in 1966 to see England win the World Cup.

Mick was briefly an employee of Arsenal, manning the turnstiles at Highbury but his main job was a Ford, until 1984 when he moved to work on security at University College London. Gradually Mick became an important employee at the University, taking on the role of mace carrier at Degree Award Ceremonies, as well as other roles.

Mick became so well thought of that when he retired, UCL awarded him an honorary Master of Arts degree.

Sylvia and Mick moved to a new development in Oaktree Lane, Shinewater in 2011. It was a notice in the doctor's surgery that alerted Mick to walking football at Shinewater Sports Centre and he has played there or at Priory Lane ever since 2015.

Dave is philosophical about missing out, knowing that, as he stopped growing at about 15 years old, he wouldn't have made a professional career.

As well as a footballer, Dave was a talented athlete, becoming Sussex Schools 100 yards champion and winning a gold medal in the English Schools Championship, as part of the Sussex relay squad.

Before he left school, Dave met Stephanie, who later became his wife, the mother to his son and daughter and Grandmother to seven grandkids.

On leaving school Dave was off to Warwick University to study Economics and to keep goal for the University team. A teammate of Dave's was Steve Heighway and one day there was a lot of excitement as Bill Shankly came to the University to sign him for Liverpool.

After being awarded a BA at Warwick, Dave moved on to Leeds University to study a masters degree in transport economics. Dave's working life was in transport planning, working for big transport engineering companies and for local government, before, in 1991, setting up his own consultancy business, which led him to work all over Europe.

The Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and soon after Dave was in Berlin to test the first satellite navigation system. Unlike your satnav today, there was no map and no voice giving directions but the system just showed you a turn left arrow, a turn right arrow or a straight on arrow. Dave was a stranger to Berlin but he successfully crossed the city, with no problems.

After leaving University, Dave played football, at Sunday league level until the age of 32, when some sight issues led to his retirement but one day, visiting his mother he saw his mother's neighbour, Alan Walmsley, in football kit and so found his way to Priory Lane!

Since coming along for the first time, Dave has been selected for the South East region Walking Football over 70 squad and played for them, up and down the country and was part of the 2022 *WFA Super League* winning team. Dave has been a great committee member, doing a lot towards the successful running of the club.

