



Terry Buck: Chairman, Team Manager 65+  
 Peter Osborne: Secretary, Joint Team Manager 60+  
 Gary Murphy: Kit Manager, Joint Team Manager 50+, 60+  
 Mark Elnaugh: Treasurer, Joint Team Manager 50+  
 Chris Jullings: Social Secretary  
 Bob Willis: Committee Member  
 Gerry Howard: Welfare Officer

## **CHELMSFORD CITY WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB NEWSLETTER, No.21**

**September 2019**

Welcome to Newsletter No21.

In this edition we have another 'Player Profile', 'Chris' Corner' reflects on the growing greed in football club ownership; 'You Gotta Laugh' shares some humorous anecdotes whilst a new section called 'Crazy Missed Opportunities' gets us thinking about what might have been. The good old 'Footie Quiz' is still here and there are updates on the Essex League tables and the usual run through of our social and other news.

As always, I hope you enjoy the read.

## **FORTHCOMING FIXTURES FOR YOUR DIARY**

DATE	VENUE	TIME	EVENT	VERSUS
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Melbourne Park Chelmsford City Sport & Athletics Centre, Salerno Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2EH	10:00	o65 Play-offs	Various
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Melbourne Park Chelmsford City Sport & Athletics Centre, Salerno Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2EH	10:00	o50 Play-offs	Various
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Melbourne Park Chelmsford City Sport & Athletics Centre, Salerno Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2EH	10:00	o60 (6)	Various
12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019	Melbourne Park Chelmsford City Sport & Athletics Centre, Salerno Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2EH	10:00	Memorial Cup in memory of Alan Scott	Various

Unless otherwise advised please arrive at the venue at least 30 minutes prior to kick-off to allow for registration, changing etc. In the event that you are unable to play in any match that you have been selected for, please make sure you notify your team manager without delay. Referees are instructed that anyone not wearing shin-pads will not be allowed to play. As always, please check on our website <http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/teams/136556> for further information on the above fixtures.

## **RECENT MATCHES - Geoff' roving report**

Many of our match reports appear on Pitchero so there seems little point in replicating everything again here.

However, we do have our roving match reporter Geoff Stockley who tells it as it is, so I will be regularly featuring a selection of Geoff's reports here.

**HELD AT CHELMSFORD – 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019**

**ESSEX WALKING FOOTBALL – OVER 65s**

**FOURTH ROUND – WALKING FOOTBALL OVER 65 LEAGUE (NORTH)**

**HELD AT CHELMSFORD – 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019**

### **Little Oakley v Chelmsford Blues**

Blues Team

Gary 'Smudger'Smith (GK)

Jim Prophet

Colin Haydon

Chris Jullings

Terry Buck

Alec Rose

George Keogh (Captain)

Kevan Anderson

Little Oakley started strongly forcing a corner in the opening seconds. Smudge was called into action a few moments later making a good save low to his left. Neither side showed any obvious dominance, it was only after 8 minutes that the Blues managed a shot from Terry to the keeper's right that was well saved.

Two minutes from half time the referee Jenny Hill judged that Colin had committed a combination of contact / running offences and he was shown a blue card. Colin hotly disputed this, but the ref wasn't interested. Then one minute later Jim was also penalised by the referee for a sliding tackle and shown a blue card. Little Oakley quickly took advantage of the 4-man Blues and took the lead with a shot across Smudge that crept in off the inside of his left post. 1 – 0 Little Oakley.

The second period resumed with George on for Chris and Kevan on for Alec.

Colin was immediately back on the pitch, but Jim was still side-lined. It was only after a minute' play and after being reminded that his two minutes had now been served that the referee waved Jim back on!! Neither side were getting their heads in front, but a dubious decision saw a 'good' Blues goal disallowed for an earlier transgression following a little Oakley appeal! A few confusing decisions followed affecting both teams with some understandable dissent from all players both on and off the pitch.

**Final Score: Little Oakley 1 – 0 Chelmsford Blues**

## Chelmsford Blues v Chelmsford Clarets

### Clarets

Bill Sedgwick (GK & Captain)  
Ian Inglis  
Peter Wyatt  
Dave Clarke  
Eddie Melvin  
Lance Gooch  
Tony Escott  
David Howes

### Blues

Gary 'Smudger' Smith (GK)  
Jim Prophet  
Colin Haydon  
Chris Jullings  
Terry Buck  
Alec Rose  
George Keogh (Captain)  
Kevan Anderson

The battle of the Blues and Clarets began.

After only 4 minutes Eddie shooting from distance on the left strikes the ball with Smudge making a good save tipping the ball over the crossbar. Being outplayed in most positions by a determined Clarets team the only chance of the first half to fell to Terry who really could have done better, hitting his attempt wide of the advancing Bill Sedgwick's right-hand post.

GOAL: In the 9<sup>th</sup> minutes Ian after a good through ball shoots past Smudge to put The Clarets in the lead 0 – 1.

The second half resumes with Jim and Kevan coming on.

Clarets led by Bill's encouragement in their goal still with the bit between their teeth and taking the game to the Blues who were struggling to find any cohesion in their passing. Bill makes a good save low to his left from Chris only for Ian on the counter to shoot wide from close in.

GOAL: The excellent Eddie for the Clarets again from the left shoots from distance curling the ball under the crossbar and into the net 0 – 2.

Jim is forced to leave the pitch with a hamstring strain and is quickly followed by Colin. the Clarets have their heads up now and are searching for another goal. With the Blues in disarray it is not long coming.

GOAL: Ian nets again with a shot from close in 0 – 3

GOAL: A couple of minutes later Eddie scores his second with a low shot that seems to be deflected off Chris's leg past Smudge 0 – 4.

Clarets are very worthy winners!

Final Score: Clarets 4 – 0 Blues

## **ESSEX WALKING FOOTBALL – OVER 65s**

### **FIFTH ROUND – WALKING FOOTBALL OVER 65 LEAGUE (NORTH)**

**HELD AT CHELMSFORD – 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

#### **Chelmsford Blues v Harwich Hornets**

Colin Haydon (Captain)  
Gary 'Smudger' Smith (GK)  
Jim Prophet  
Chris Jullings  
Terry Buck  
Tony Escott  
George Keogh  
Mick Andrews

Blues, as usual, were slow off the mark, but Harwich didn't take advantage. The first attempt on goal fell to Colin whose customary fiercely struck shot was deflected wide for a corner. Blues were awarded a free kick, the ball laid back to Jim whose shot was slightly wide of the goal.

The Blues have woken up now and another shot from Terry was deflected for another corner. Harwich at last attempted a shot on The Blues goal but it was comfortably turned around Smudge's left-hand post for a corner.

Terry up again for the Blues firing slightly wide after a great through ball from Chris.

GOAL – Colin gets his reward, striking the ball low and past the Hornets keeper after a great build up and through ball from Chris.

GOAL – Chris's turn now. Down the right-hand side after a pass from Jim, hammers the ball low past the keeper's left hand.

A slight controversy as the Hornets pull one back. George passes back to Smudge but the under struck pass was comfortably intercepted by the Hornets and the ball was put into the Blues goal. It was felt that the ball was struck from just inside the Blues penalty area and therefore ought not to have been allowed.

Having received two warnings in the first half and to avoid a possible 'blue card' Chris made way for the returning Mick Andrews. It wasn't long before Mick left his mark on the game now being easily controlled by the Blues.

GOAL - Terry, switching the ball from the right to left of the pitch found Mick clear in space on the left side of the Hornet's area and he struck a sweet shot low to the keeper's right.

GOAL – Possibly the best goal of the game from Terry. Controlling a pass from Chris, his first shot was very well saved by the Hornet's keeper, but the rebound fell back to Terry who controlled it and placed the rebound low to the keeper's right who had no chance. Next up to have another crack at goal was Jim. receiving a pass from Chris, his shot was saved by the keeper.

Smudge after a quiet second half was called into action with a minute of play left making a great save to his left to deny the Hornets. The final minute saw some intricate passing by the Blues resulting in a shot from Mick, but sadly wide.

**Final Score: Chelmsford Blues 4 -1 Harwich Hornets**

## **ESSEX WALKING FOOTBALL – OVER 65s**

### **FIFTH ROUND – WALKING FOOTBALL OVER 65 LEAGUE (NORTH)**

**HELD AT CHELMSFORD – 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

#### **Chelmsford Blues v Little Oakley**

Colin Haydon (Captain)  
Gary 'Smudger' Smith (GK)  
Jim Prophet  
Chris Jullings  
Terry Buck  
Tony Escott  
George Keogh  
Mick Andrews

This was always going to be the decisive game. Little Oakley had already secured the winners position in the North league, but the Blues were determined to grab runners up on goal difference.

Blues were 'up for it' with Colin striving as usual for goals and getting the first shot at the visitor's goal but it was saved by the keeper. Terry now blasts high after another great through ball from Chris.

Little Oakley begin to apply some pressure but to no avail, they were being well contained by the Blues defence.

Chris threads another ball to Terry whose low shot was well saved by the Oakley keeper.

Little Oakley were definitely not having this their own way, with some minor bickering surfacing. Slack defending and a great shot from Jim on the right-hand side slammed off the 'wrong side' of the beaten keeper's left-hand post denying Jim a rare but deserved goal. The lad has his shooting boots on today and is not trying to take out any low flying aircraft... next up Colin with his shot deflected for a corner.

Blues are dominating the game with Smudge in the Blues goal untroubled. The first shot of the half by the irrepressible Colin sees his low shot well saved again by the keeper. Next, possibly the hardest shot that many of us have seen, Colin gets hold of the ball and sends the ball smashing into the top of the visitor's crossbar, physically lifting the goal off the turf.

If the keeper had got in the way he would have woken up when West Ham United are crowned Premier League winners! Smudge is at last called into action touching a little Oakley attempt over the crossbar.

A late corner from George picks up Chris on the edge of the area, his first time shot just shades the outside of the post.

Taking nothing away from the Blues performance, the whole team played well and were unlucky not to be victorious. Little Oakley perhaps had the foot off the gas after already securing the North championship, but a great all - round performance.

**Final Score: Chelmsford Blues 0 -0 Little Oakley**

## OTHER NEWS

### Social

You will have received an e mail from me about the social evening on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 7.30 -11 .00 at Chelmsford City FC**

This time it is a race night (horses, dogs and pigs – pigs??). We will also have a celebration of the year and a raffle in aid of the Prostate Cancer Charity. There will be a fish & chip supper and of course the bar will be open.

Tickets remain at £10 per person, **please continue to let me know how many tickets you want.**

### Developing club membership – update

I have talked with a number of you along the way about our recreational footie promotional poster and leaflet. Thank you for the feedback.

We now have them printed (and will let you have some leaflets shortly).

We have a contact plan for a broad range of organisations including Provide; U3A; local sports centres; doctors surgeries; local newspapers and free rags; Chelmsford library.

As you will see from the leaflet, we are appealing to those taking their first steps back to sport, fitness and more social contact.

A big thank you to John G, Tony E and Steve W for being our ‘poster boys’. We will use Steve in the next print of the leaflets. Thanks also to John G who has committed to be an ambassador for promoting recreational footie. Thanks as well to Bob for the joint collaboration on the material.

You can see what the poster and leaflets look like below. Hopefully our efforts will stimulate an influx of new interest in playing walking football at the club.

### Promotional A4 and A3 poster



**ARE YOU  
OVER 50?**

**Would you like to come  
and play football in the park?**

If so, why not join us and  
kick a ball around for fun

.....

If so, why not join us and kick a ball around for fun  
It's open to men and women.  
You will meet new friends and exercise  
in a recreational group of like-minded people.  
Anyone can join, over 50, 60 or 75.....or beyond!  
We have players in all of these age groups  
You might be recovering from injury, perhaps have  
been advised by a doctor to get exercising again or  
maybe you just want to try something new to keep  
you active and connected?

.....

It's just  
£5 per week,  
but newcomers  
are FREE if you want  
to give it a try.  
Why not bring a friend  
as well! The more  
the merrier.

Recreational walking football takes place  
on Tuesdays between 10-12.00 at Melbourne Park,  
Chelmsford, CM1 2EH

For further information contact Chris at  
[chris.jullings@chelmsfordwalkingfootball.co.uk](mailto:chris.jullings@chelmsfordwalkingfootball.co.uk)  
or call on 07850 725 691



Chelmsford City  
Walking Football

## Promotional A5 leaflet



**ARE YOU OVER 50?**

**Would you like to come and play football in the park?**

**If so, why not join us and kick a ball around for fun**

.....

If so, why not join us and kick a ball around for fun

It's open to men and women.

You will meet new friends and exercise in a recreational group of like-minded people.

Anyone can join, over 50, 60 or 75.....or beyond!

We have players in all of these age groups

You might be recovering from injury, perhaps have been advised by a doctor to get exercising again or maybe you just want to try something new to keep you active and connected?

.....

It's just £5 per week, but newcomers are **FREE** if you want to give it a try. Why not bring a friend as well? The more the merrier.

Recreational walking football takes place on Tuesdays between 10-12.00 at Melbourne Park, Chelmsford, CM1 2EH

For further information contact Chris at [chris.jullings@chelmsfordwalkingfootball.co.uk](mailto:chris.jullings@chelmsfordwalkingfootball.co.uk) or call on 07850 725 691

 Chelmsford City Walking Football Club

**Recreational walking football - so what's involved?**

**The first step is to get in touch!**

We will have a chat about what you are looking for, understand your current levels of fitness / wellbeing and answer any questions that you may have.

If it sounds like it's for you, then we'll agree a date for your first taster session.

In advance of the session we will ask you to complete a medical form (everyone does this, it's our duty of care as a club).

We will also direct you to the basic laws of the walking football game so that you can get a feel for how to play the game.

.....

**When you attend your first session we will -**

- give you a great big welcome and introduce you to other folk!
- run through some early do's and don'ts (like don't overdo it in the first session!)
- take your completed medical form from you
- do some basic warm-up exercises
- do some walking football skills practice
- go over some of the basic laws of walking football (no, you can't run!)
- play some short 15min team games to get you started

.....

This will be more or less be the pattern of each session and as you become more experienced you may want to start helping newer players.

The session is supported by trained first aiders and we also help to get members to join first aider training courses.

This not only benefits your teammates but also your family if needed.

If you wish we can help you progress to more competitive walking football with a view perhaps to playing for one of our over 50', 60' and/or 65' teams.



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**Why not get in touch, it might be the best thing you ever did!**

## Age UK Cup success



The Chelmsford City team receiving the Essex Age UK Trophy

The Essex Age UK Cup is a competition with mixed age groups. Each team can have a squad of nine with 3x o50', 6 x o60'. This year's competition was structured in 2 groups of 5 with the top 2 teams from each group progressing through to the semi-finals.

Chelmsford City had a strong side out and won their group convincingly, including a very pleasing 1-0 win against the fancied Wakering boys. The semi-final saw the lads play Cheshunt in what turned out to be a close-run thing. They had gone into half time 1-0 up. Chelmsford pulled one back early in the second half and the tussle continued. It looked like it was going to extra time when Paul H hit a cracker. Cheshunt were a great bunch of lads and took their 2-1 defeat very graciously.

The final was against our old rivals Leyton Orient. As expected, it was a very tight affair with both sides playing some great football in very wet and challenging conditions. Paul popped up again with another great goal, Chris made a full-stretch save late in the game and the boys managed the game out. A great 1-0 win!

Chelmsford were worthy winners of the trophy on a very wet day at Melbourne Park.



## WFU national cup – o65's success



o65' WFU Cup South East champions



o65' WFU Cup Essex champions

This borders on being a fairy tale.

The o65' had battled their way to be Essex champions back in early July beating Romford; Harwich and Little Oakley in an extra time play off. The side marched on to the South East regional final against Bexley and Leyton Orient.

The games were arranged for late on a Tues afternoon at Leyton Orient. The team took just six players. The team drew 1-1 with Bexley then went on to beat Leyton Orient 1-0. This meant a play -off decider against Bexley, which ended 0-0 so a penalty shoot - out loomed

Chris had saved a penalty way back in July against Little Oakley, expectations were high. Bexley had missed one and Chris had saved one when Terry B stepped up to net one for Chelmsford. Chris just had to save the final penalty, which he did. Chelmsford became WFU Cup South East champions!

The team now goes forward to the national finals against Leggy Mambos (Barnsley); Manchester Corinthians (Rochdale / Bury) and Hartshill Strollers (Kingswinford, West Midlands)– a fantastic achievement for the club to make a national final!

## The 2019 league season – league tables

### Over 50's Division North





POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Cornard United Dynamos	16	15	0	1	32	45
2	Chelmsford City	16	9	3	4	13	30
3	Clacton Knights WFC	16	9	3	4	13	30
4	Ball Payne Hammer	16	2	0	14	-12	6
5	JPS Clacton WF	16	2	0	14	-46	6

The Chelmsford City o50' have had a much stronger season than last year. There have been a lot of close games, but character and good football have seen them into second place in the o50' Division North. To say it was a tight affair would be an understatement – with the same goal difference they made it into the tier 1 play-offs by scoring 1 more goal than Clacton!

### Over 60's Division



POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Wakering WF	17	13	2	2	32	41
2	Leyton Orient	17	10	5	2	17	35
3	Chelmsford City Clarets	17	9	6	2	17	33
4	Eastwood Falcons Yellows	17	8	7	2	12	31
5	Little Oakley	16	8	3	5	13	27
6	Eastwood Falcons Blues	17	7	5	5	2	26
7	Grays WF	17	5	6	6	-1	21
8	Southend WF 'A'	17	5	4	8	-15	19
9	Concord Rangers	16	3	3	10	-25	12
10	Chelmsford City Blues	17	0	4	13	-15	4
11	Southend WF 'B'	16	1	1	14	-37	4

The o60' league is finely poised. Wakering look to be tough to catch, but the Chelmsford City clarets have everything to play for in the chase for second place. Leyton Orient are just two points clear and the pair have to play each other in the final round of games. The Blues have suffered this season for failing to put a side out twice, automatically losing seven games.

## Over 65's Division North



POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Little Oakley	16	8	8	0	14	32
2	Paringdon Pirates	16	5	9	2	3	24
3	Chelmsford City Blues	16	6	6	4	0	24
4	Chelmsford City Clarets	16	2	8	6	-4	14
5	Harwich Hornets	16	2	3	11	-13	9

Heartbreak for the o65' Chelmsford City blues after a strong performance at the last round of league games at Harlow.

Just needing to beat Little Oakley (which they did in the cup) to pip Paringdon Pirates to second place they hit the woodwork 3 times and had a late effort just skim wide. The 0-0 draw meant that Paringdon crept through to the tier 1 play-offs on goal difference. The clarets were again unable to field a team, automatically losing all the games.

## The Essex League Representative sides

The Essex League rep sides have continued to train at Chelmsford, participating in mini – tournaments. This has given the Essex sides valuable training time together as well as create some enjoyable competition for the Chelmsford sides. Too enjoyable sometimes, I think the Chelmsford boys have given the Essex lads a run for their money at times!!

The Essex sides went to Coleshill FC on the 27<sup>th</sup> Sept to play Birmingham and Nottingham. Sadly, Nottingham dropped out at the last minute. It was a long 260-mile round trip to play in the rain, but all the Essex sides gave a good account of themselves. What became obvious is how far the game has developed in Essex in terms of organisation and standards.

## A message from Steve George

As you all know Steve had a problem with his leg which turned out to be a rare type of soft tissue cancer. The treatment required Steve to travel into central London every day for 5 weeks for treatment to shrink the tumour in preparation for an operation to remove it.

Steve has asked me to pass on his profound gratitude for the support, generosity and kindness that everyone has shown him, he was overwhelmed. Despite this he said we are still a bunch of rag bag footballers (no he didn't say that, I made it up for humorous effect!).

Steve' treatment is progressing well; he has just had the operation to remove the tumour.

It was great seeing Steve recently when he popped by to a Tuesday training session. We all wish you well my friend and look forward to you being back playing in the not too distance future.

### **Farewell to Jeremy**

We were sorry to see Jeremy leave the fold. That cunning left foot (and occasional use of a concealed table tennis bat) made him an awkward and dangerous opponent. I'm sure one of Jeremy' lasting memories will not be the fabulous footie played at Melbourne Park but the road trip to the game at Fulham entertained by Bill H' endless stories of his youth!! We all wish you and your family well in your new life in Hopton, you are welcome back for a guest appearance anytime!

### **Great support behind the scenes.**

We host a number of competitions throughout the season, that don't organise themselves, so a big thank you to Terry, Peter, Mark and Gary for their hard work. Thanks also to Bob for his media work (much of which captures how bad we are!!) and Gerry for keeping us safe.

We also have help on the day, keeping score and organising. I snapped a couple of rogues who do a lot of this – our good friends Dave and John G



Finally, a thank you to Geoff for being the roving reporter for the o65', Dartford to Harlow is some commitment!

### **Alan Scott – memorial game**

Many of you will remember that we sadly lost Alan Scott last year.

We have put in place a memorial cup event in his memory. It will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Melbourne Park in the form of a mini – tournament. There will be 3 or 4 Chelmsford sides together with two other invited sides. Teams will play for the 'monkey hanger' memorial cup.

By way of explanation, Alan was from Hartlepool and would often tell the story of the 'monkey hangers'

Legend has it that during the Napoleonic Wars of the early 19th century, a shipwrecked monkey was hanged by the people of Hartlepool, believing him to be a French spy! To this day, people from Hartlepool are affectionately known as 'monkey hangers'.

Apparently, a French ship was spotted floundering and sinking off the Hartlepool coast. Suspicious of enemy ships and nervous of possible invasion, the good folk of Hartlepool rushed down to the beach, where amongst the wreckage of the ship they found the only survivor, the ship's monkey which was dressed in a miniature military-style uniform.

Hartlepool is a long way from France and most of the populace had never met, or even seen, a Frenchman.

Some satirical cartoons of the time pictured the French as monkey-like creatures with tails and claws, so perhaps the locals could be forgiven for deciding that the monkey, in its uniform, must be a Frenchman, and a French spy at that. There was a trial to ascertain whether the monkey was guilty of spying or not; however, not unsurprisingly, the monkey was unable to answer any of the court's questions and was found guilty. The townsfolk then dragged the poor monkey into the town square and hanged him.

Over the centuries the legend has been used to taunt the residents of Hartlepool. At football matches between local rivals Darlington and Hartlepool United the chant, "who hung the monkey" can often be heard across the terraces. Most Hartlepudlians love this story. Hartlepool United's mascot is a monkey called H'Angus the Monkey, and the local rugby union team Hartlepool Rovers are known as the 'monkey hangers.'

Whatever the truth, the legend of Hartlepool and the hanged monkey has endured for over 200 years.

It was a story that Alan loved telling, so we have named the memorial cup in memory of our very own 'monkey hanger'

## **YOU GOTTA LAUGH**

Ex-soccer star Leroy Rosenior was appointed boss of a struggling club - then sacked after ten minutes. The former West Ham and Fulham striker broke the record for English football's shortest managerial reign after being introduced with the usual fanfare by Torquay United.

Sports journalists were summoned to a press conference which finished at 3.30pm. Then - at 3.40pm - Leroy was told by the chairman that the Devon club had been sold to a business consortium. That meant he was out ten minutes after the press conference finished announcing his arrival! Leroy smashed the previous record for the shortest time as manager - Dave [Harry] Bassett's 72 hours at Crystal Palace in 1984.

He joked that they obviously thought that he had done a fantastic job after ten minutes and let him go.

You might not know but Chelsea fans have been taking celery to the Bridge for decades —most likely in order to pay homage to their chant.

However, according to a club statement from 2007, the Blues have reminded fans that bringing celery to the ground is in fact outlawed and that any fan caught bringing the "dangerous" vegetable to the ground could face a lifetime ban from Stamford Bridge.

The statement reads 'the throwing of anything at a football match, including celery, is a criminal offence for which you can be arrested and end up with a criminal record. In future, if anyone is found attempting to bring celery into Stamford Bridge, they could be refused entry, and anyone caught throwing celery will face a ban.'

The statement then goes on to direct fans to a hotline they could call to report others seen carrying celery, promising that "all calls will be treated in confidence."!!

A truly embarrassing moment for HFS Loans League team Congleton occurred in 1993 when holding a minute's silence before the match to mourn the death of the club's oldest fan who had 'passed away' during the week.



You guessed it, during the minutes silence at the home game on the Saturday he walked into the ground, removed his hat and quietly said to the person next to him, who died. The predictable response was, you did!

The Congleton PR team are polishing up their act.

### **CRAZY MISSED OPPORTUNITIES**



Would you believe me if I told you that Blackburn Rovers turned down an offer to sign Zinedine Zidane because they had Tim Sherwood? Yes, you heard it right, that was the reason given by the late Jack Walker, then owner of Blackburn Rovers, for rejecting an offer to sign one of the greatest footballers ever.

He was linked with Newcastle as well, who turned him down because the club authorities believed he was not good enough to play in the Premier League. At the time, Zidane was playing for Bordeaux, after which he moved to Juventus then Real Madrid and the rest is history.

Just imagine what might have happened if either Blackburn or Newcastle had actually signed him. Blackburn might have won more league titles and Man U might never have caught Newcastle!



Could you even imagine that Sheffield United had the chance to sign Diego Maradona? Sheffield United's coach spotted a 17-year-old Maradona on a scouting trip to Argentina and was so impressed that he struck a £200,000 deal there and then. Maradona's club, Argentinos Juniors asked for more cash, Sheffield United's board refused and signed fellow Argentine Alejandro Sabella instead.

Sabella spent two years at Bramall Lane and went on to have a career that wasn't particularly distinguished. He also coached Argentina to last summer's World Cup final. Maradona was later signed by Barcelona after the 1982 World Cup for a world record fee of £5 million and then inspired Argentina to win World Cup in 1986 and established himself as one of the greatest players ever to have graced the game of football (despite the 'hand of God' incident')

Sheffield United might have avoided relegation to the old fourth division that year (maybe that's why he didn't sign!).





This pair were on the opposite side when Barcelona beat Juventus in the Champions League final.

But 13 years ago, in what was one of the most bizarre transfers at the time, Tevez and Mascherano were signed by West Ham United from Corinthians. Even the players looked more than a little confused when they were unveiled.

In the end, the third - party deal was ruled illegal and West Ham had to pay a £5.5 million fine and £20 million compensation to Sheffield United, who were relegated when Tevez's goals kept West Ham in the league later that season.

Carlos Tevez was loaned to Manchester United in the next season, where he won two League titles and a Champions League medal and Mascherano went to Liverpool on loan, before signing permanently with them. All a bit odd, poor old Hammers.

## **Bobs videos**

If you want a refresh on the basics of the game why not view Bob & Peter demonstrating the dos and don'ts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CeLWHaKcY8&t=20s&list=PL4CI0rmUZMVhfNw0CLVIDL4EsDjWqKWj&index=4>

Bob recently videoed the o65'at Harlow and has put together an interesting slo mo video showing what running actually looks like. I can't believe Terry wasn't running, but he wasn't. Jim and I didn't do so well!

<https://youtu.be/xx7oQaajDJI>

Thanks to Bob for all his efforts on the video work!

## **PLAYER PROFILE**

### **Kevin Anderson**

This edition features the ever-versatile Kevin Anderson.

Kevin was born in Brentwood in 1949 where he lived for 24 years. He married his wife Sally in 1972 ('72 – Telegram Sam; Let's stay together; Star man ..... ) they have been married 47 years, which means another 3 years and Kevin gets to bring doughnuts to Tuesday training!

Kevin and Sally have 2 children, Hayley and Paul and 5 grandchildren.

Kevin left school to go into a 6-year print apprenticeship. He had various printing jobs including Essex Chronicle and East London newspapers.

He has played football and cricket for many years and frankly has an impressive record.

Kevin played on Saturdays for Brentwood in the Essex Olympian League and also represented the League. He was the first player to receive a representative Olympian League badge three times.

He also played in the Essex Senior League – playing for Tiptree, Wivenhoe, Coggeshall and Billericay, captaining all four sides. He was in the FA Vase final squad at Wembley for Maldon and played for Tilbury in the Isthmian League.

This explains why the bloke can still score a cracking goal at the age of 70!

Not content to frighten the life out of defenders on Saturdays he then went on to frighten them on Sundays.

He formed a Sunday side in Brentwood called Blenheim Sports which later became Roblin Sports. Both became the most successful teams in the Chelmsford / Brentwood league.

Kevin had the distinction of having the most appearances for Roblin at 400. He also captained Cherry Tree Brentwood to the Essex Intermediate Cup final.

Kevin also represented the Chelmsford and Brentwood Sunday League.

Not content to play for every team in Essex, Kevin decided to take the UEFA Coaching Badge, he reached Level 2. He took Dagenham and Redbridge reserves and Billericay second team to County Cup success.

He also coached Danbury and Bicknacre (a boy's team) for 10 years, winning six league & cup doubles.

Having read Kevin's long list of playing and coaching experience it now prompts me to revise my Tuesday morning training phrase 'come Kevin have you ever played football' to something a bit more respectful!

Of course, Kevin wasn't content to just kick a ball he wanted to throw it and hit it with a bat as well.

Kevin played cricket for both Roxwell and Writtle in the Essex Premier League. He has also played for the Essex over 60's and gained two England Caps for over the 60's against Australia.

Kevin recalls a funny moment at an Essex game when he was shouting at one of his players on the pitch, but he wasn't responding to him. He turned to his assistant and said, "Tony has to be substituted, he's not doing what I ask". Kevin's assistant stared back at him and said, "I'm not surprised, his name is Steve!"

Kevin recently had more cricketing success when Essex won the national o70' competition.

There were 170 fixtures UK-wide that led to Essex v Cheshire in a hard-fought final at the Cirencester Cricket Club. The victorious Essex hammered 134 off 38.4 overs all out. Cheshire started brightly but soon came under the bowling cosh with Kevin taking an early 2 for 11. Cheshire were only able to hit 113 before running out of overs.



The victorious 2019 70's Cup Winners Essex

Finally, Kevin's main likes in life are his family and trying to keep fit. His biggest dislike is dishonesty (remember that when the ball goes out and you tell him it didn't!).

A great sporting career, well done Kevin!!

### **Next month' player profile: To be confirmed**

#### **FOOTIE QUIZ**

This is another chance to test your footie knowledge. The answers are at the very end of the newsletter (no cheating and taking a peek before you get started!!!).

1. Which Geordie played for England and managed the Republic of Ireland?
2. Which ground hosts the FA Cup Final?
3. Which Joe managed Everton when they won the 1995 FA Cup?
4. Which lane do Sheffield United play at?
5. Which London side did Rudd Gullit join in 1995?
6. Which London striker has played for Arsenal, Crystal Palace, Queens Park Rangers, Spurs, Chelsea, West Ham and Millwall?
7. Who was the England manager for the 1990 World Cup in Italy?
8. Who was Ian St John's partner on TV?
9. Who was the England manager when the side failed to reach the 1994 World Cup finals?
10. Who was the first Footballer of the Year in England and Scotland?

## **I'M KNACKERED IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE? – recommendations for sport injuries help**

This is where club members recommend people or products that they have successfully used to help them get over sports injuries and niggles.

### **Sam Robinson (Sports injuries /rehabilitation) NOTE Sam' new address**

TST Fitness & Wellbeing, Cornell Estate  
Hill Rd South (off Navigation Rd)  
Chelmsford,  
CM2 6HE  
07587054854

Recommended by Spence; Chris; Paul; Steve; John; Chas;

### **Paul Irvine (Chiropractor)**

Complete Chiropractic  
88 Broomfield Road  
Chelmsford  
CM11SS  
01245358742

Recommended by Tony E

## **CHRIS' CORNER**

Walking football goes from strength to strength, with us aging folks coughing up our hard -earned fivers for two hours of valued -packed entertainment and fitness generating exercise.

In 2014 there were just over 400 walking football clubs in the UK. There are now over a 1000, its growing, fuelled by our baby-boomer generation and it will be here forever. It's comforting to be a part of something that feels permanent, that will be here as long as you are.

It has long been one of the great attractions for the football fan, a sense of identity (it's your tribe); with its roots in your family and community ( your grandad stood where you sit today); it is evergreen ( there is next season and the next season and the next season); it has a familiar pattern ( friendlies start in July, the first league game is in August ; there'll be 5 or 6 mid-week games ; the third round of the FA cup and giant killing starts in January.....). It has predictability.

It's the same every year and whether we are conscious of it or not it is strangely reassuring.

I guess the folks of Bury FC thought the same in 1877 when their club was one of the founder members of the football league. 'It's here forever'.

For 132 years that was true. Even at the end of last season when Bury won promotion to League One people must have thought it was true. Except it wasn't.

Sadly, the honesty of 1877 and the dreams of the honest fan have slowly been eroded by greed and the football club owner who has no heart for the club; no root in the community; no grandad who stood on the terraces; no fear that it might not exist.

Many of them are a different breed. They want a toy; they want to be fashionable; they want to asset strip.

Many of them have no care for the true fan who grew up not far from the ground; the fan whose parents and grandparents (even great grandparents) supported the club; the fan who turned up on a cold ,wet winter' night when the team were propping up the foot of the table. They don't understand it and don't want to.

There is something profoundly disturbing about the financial predator in our game.

As for our football brothers and sisters at Bury FC, we can only imagine the despair of having 132 years of heritage ripped from their hearts. All information suggests that this happened because previous owners mortgaged the ground at loan shark rates and defaulted, leaving debts of £3.7m and rising every day. The EFL (under current regulations) were left with little choice but to expel them.

In my view it is time to respect the heritage of our game and recognise that first and foremost a football club belongs to the hearts of its fans. Whatever financial arrangements operate they have to respect protecting this.

I firmly believe that the time has come to regulate football ownership and its financial dealings. I hope this happens soon.

Meanwhile the good news back at sleepy Melbourne Park is that your weekly fiver is safely under lock and key ; we haven't mortgaged the 4G pitch and there seems to be an eternal supply of baguettes in the clubhouse after Tuesday training – we love our club and are reassuringly here to stay (and grow!).

**Chris Jullings**

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### USEFUL LINKS

Chelmsford City Walking FC:	<a href="http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/teams/136556">http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/teams/136556</a>
Essex Walking Football League:	<a href="https://www.essexwalkingfootballleague.org/">https://www.essexwalkingfootballleague.org/</a>
Chelmsford City FC:	<a href="http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/">http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/</a>
WFA	<a href="https://thewfa.co.uk">https://thewfa.co.uk</a>
FA WF league Fixtures and Results	<a href="http://fulltime-league.thefa.com">http://fulltime-league.thefa.com</a>
Walking Football United:	<a href="http://www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/">http://www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/</a>

### Answers to the Footie Quiz

1. Jack Charlton
2. Wembley Stadium
3. Royle
4. Bramall
5. Chelsea
6. Clive Allen
7. Bobby Robson
8. Jimmy Greaves
9. Graham Taylor
10. Gordon Strachan