



Terry Buck: Chairman, Team Manager 65+  
 Peter Osborne: Secretary, Joint Team Manager 60+  
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 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.14**

**SEPT 2018**

Welcome to Newsletter No14.

Well .... Newsletter 13 seemed to go down OK, so we'll stick with the format.

In this edition I'm introducing 2 new features, Player Profile and Chris' Corner.

As always I hope you enjoy the read.

## **FORTHCOMING FIXTURES FOR YOUR DIARY**

DATE	VENUE	TIME	EVENT	VERSUS
Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2018	Memorial Ground, Little Oakley CO12 5ED	10.00	EWFL o65'	This fixture was cancelled due to an unsafe playing surface. We await a new date
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Len Forge Centre, Southend	10.00	EWFL o50'	Various
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018	Leyton Orient, new venue to be advised	10.30	EWFL o60'	Various
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018	Melbourne 3G pitch Chelmsford	10.00	EWFL o50'	Various
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018	Len Forge Centre, Southend	14.00	EWFL o65'	Various
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018	Melbourne 3G pitch Chelmsford	10.00	EWFL o60'	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**

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August – EWFL 060'**



### **Chelmsford Clarets**

#### **Chelmsford Clarets 3 - 0 Southend Reds**

Slow starters Clarets quickly found themselves in the unusual position of getting swiftly into a tournament and went 2 goals up within the first four minutes, both well-taken strikes by Peter.

The first was a through ball from George, then Terry & Spencer combined to put Peter through for his second. Colin was making his Clarets debut and put in a very solid performance.

The Southend keeper was proving to be their man of the match and then with their own defence being rarely tested Clarets ran out comfortable winners following a third goal by Spencer midway through the game.

#### **Chelmsford Clarets 1 - 0 Little Oakley**

The games against Little Oakley are always hard fought and this was certainly no exception. It was mainly a battle in midfield with both defences looking solid.

Terry came on as a sub and held the ball up well, providing Clarets with several chances. They gradually got the upper hand and started forcing saves from the Oakley keeper until an unstoppable strike from Spencer saw us take the 3 points.

#### **Chelmsford Clarets 1 - 0 Eastwood Yellows**

In the second of the top of the table matches the Clarets controlled the game by having the majority of possession and denying the opposition any clear cut chances. Mark again had to keep himself alert while being well protected by his teammates.

The only goal of the game came from Dave who hit the post with a well-struck long-range effort that the keeper could only deflect into the net. This was Dave's final contribution as he then hobbled off and was unable to take any further part in the tournament.

Jim gave another solid performance at the back and was unlucky when his thunderous shot was tipped onto the bar to deny him.

#### **Chelmsford Clarets 1 - 0 Southend Blacks**

In the final game of the day Southend Blacks proved yet again to be stubborn opposition and although they weren't managing to trouble Mark in goal, their defence was matching the efforts of Terry & Colin and a draw was looking the likely result until Spencer broke the deadlock towards the end. Another very solid performance.

Overall this was a very impressive display from the ever - improving Clarets with the whole team working hard both in defence and going forward. Keeping the ball and denying the opposition any clear opportunities resulted in four well - deserved clean sheets and with just 6 games left and standing 9 points clear at the top of the table they will be looking to close out the season as champions.

### **Chelmsford Blues (playing in Claret)**

#### **Chelmsford Blues 0 – 1 Eastwood Yellows**

Chelmsford Blues had another tough day out, but there continues to be positive progress.

In the first game against Eastwood Yellows the Blues mounted some dogged defending closing out Eastwood for long spells of the game. Bill S in goal was on great form denying Eastwood several times. Bill H and Chris at the back were terriers in disrupting the Eastwood game. Unfortunately the fantastic performance faltered in the last minute and the Blues lost 1-0 to 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Eastwood.

#### **Chelmsford Blues 0 – 0 Southend**

In the second game Blues played more flowing football, gaining confidence from some outstanding goalkeeping again from Bill S, one double save was truly remarkable. There were a number of chances for the Blues to kill this game off with Kevin, Dennis and Chris all coming close. It was frustrating to not get all 3 points and a first league win.

#### **Chelmsford Blues 1- 0 Grays**

This was a bit of a bone cruncher against a very physical Grays side who tried to bully the Blues out of the game. Tough defending from Bill H and Chris eventually resulted in Chris and a Grays player getting blue cards. The game was very hard fought but eventually Gerry broke the deadlock with a wonderful strike. Late on Dennis had his foot stood on as he was advancing on goal, another example of a ruff and tumble of a game. The Blues saw out the game and deservedly gained their first league victory!

#### **Chelmsford Blues 0 – 0 Eastwood Blues**

The final game saw a rampant Blues take control of the game but sadly despite numerous chances, failed to score. The game finished 0-0 when it could easily have been 4-0 and a second league victory.

The team played very well on the day and could easily have seen 3 victories and a draw if they had taken their chances. Having said that, Bill S had an outstanding morning in goal, so maybe on balance the results were about right!

Overall the club had an excellent day, winning 5 drawing 2 and losing 1 conceding just 1 goal in 8 games!!

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August – EWFL o65'**

The o65' were all set to play 5 fixtures at Little Oakley. An improving o65' team (they came 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 21<sup>st</sup> August mini club tournament) were looking forward to ramping up more than a points.

Unfortunately Little Oakley called the fixtures off at 8.00 am on the day because of slippery grass.

Needless to say the Chelmsford City Facebook page was awash with disappointment and humorous comments about the 'perils' of slippery grass. We await a new fixture date (I have ordered snorkels and flippers just in case).

Remember that all of the detailed match reports telling the in depth stories (listing dazzling goal scorers, feats of defensive defiance, moments of midfielder mastery and gallant goalkeeping displays) can all be found on Pitchero.

Also remember that everyone can record their availability for league games and put himself forward for selection.

We want to give the widest opportunity for people to play Essex league football if you want to.

### **TRAINING DATES & TIMES**

Tuesday 10.00 to 12.00 outside on the 3G pitch at Melbourne Park (boots with moulded studs must be worn – no trainers of any type are allowed). Also remember that shin pads are now mandatory.

Thursday 11.00 – 13.00 inside at Chelmsford Sports Centre.

Always remember to check on the Chelmsford City Walking FC website for further up to date information as these times and dates can be changed due to tournaments or poor weather.

### **OTHER NEWS**

#### **A very sad loss – Alan Scott**

It was with great sadness that we learnt that our club member and friend Alan Scott had lost his fight with cancer. He was 67. A number of club members represented the club at his funeral held on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

Alan had been a Chelmsford City walking footballer since August 2016. He was a skilful left footed mid – fielder, sharp in the tackle and a good reader of the game. He had represented the club at several age groups.

Alan was married to Ann for 45 years and had a son and daughter, James and Jacky. He had 5 grandchildren.

He was the second of five brothers and moved to Essex with his work. He was a life long Hartlepool supporter.

Alan was a keen and talented artist, he loved painting images of his favourite songs – red red wine; piano man; and bridge over troubled water to name a few.

The club is exploring having a memorial fundraising tournament to celebrate Alan's life, this is likely to be in 2019.

It is always sad to lose one of our own; Alan will be fondly remembered both as a good footballer and a lovely man.

#### **Social activities**

Thanks to everyone who joined in on the food and a drink at the club after training on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Well over 20 of us had a good chat about ..... mostly football, but I did hear some DIY, holiday and 'my injury is worse than yours' conversations as well!!!

As many of you heard me announce at the 21<sup>st</sup> August get together we have booked the Chelmsford City lounge for **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for a quiz night**, a bit of music and conversation. This is open to club members, friends and family and I would like to now start getting numbers. It will be 7.30 – 11.00, £10 per person, which will include food (to be finalised) and a pay bar. I am now looking for team entries (min 4 and max of 6 people).

**Please contact me on 07850 725691, drop me an e-mail on [chris.jullings1@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.jullings1@btinternet.com) or speak to me at training. I would like to gauge numbers by 22st September please.**

Bill S has floated the idea of a foot golf outing. We can arrange a morning or afternoon at Brentwood on an 18 hole foot golf course with a drink and a bite for c£15 a head. Please contact me to let me know if you are interested, once I have numbers we can firm up on a date.

### **PLAYER PROFILE**

This is the first in a regular series called 'Player Profile'

It is a way to get to know each other a little bit better – perhaps a bit of our sporting past, current hobbies, people or causes that matter to us ..... it can be anything that you think will be of interest to your walking footie buddies.

In this edition we kick off with Spencer Pratten (Spence). I'd like to say I've taught him everything he knows, but sadly.....



Born Plaistow, 1955

Nottingham Schoolboys 1968

West Ham United as a trainee schoolboy 1971/2.



*Spencer playing for Chelmsford City at New Writtle Street in 1981(The Southern League)*

Spencer started his semi-pro career in 1975 with Hornchurch FC in the Isthmian League and had a twenty-year playing career with Dagenham, Rainham Town, Aveley, and Tilbury before joining Chelmsford City for the 1980/81 season in the Southern league.

He played 67 times for Chelmsford City scoring 10 goals including both goals in the 2-0 Essex Senior Cup semi-final win away at his former club Hornchurch.

Spencer then left Chelmsford City to join League Champions Leytonstone & Ilford, managed by John Still before a successful four-season stint at Witham Town (1984-88) where he won player of the year in 1986 and earned a total of six Essex semi-pro caps. He won Essex Senior League and Essex Senior Cup trophies with the club before leaving to end his playing career back at his first club Hornchurch where he became player/coach for two seasons. He finished his long career at Billericay Town in the mid 1990's.

His career highlights include a two-leg cup semi-final battle with Andy Townsend (then centre midfielder for Welling) as well as playing with and against former league players Bill Garner, Martin Chivers, and Micky Lambert. He also played for Tilbury against Oxford City who were then managed by Bobby Moore with a certain Harry Redknapp as assistant manager.

Spencer also captained the British Student side in 1976 and the South East England Colleges side the same year. Spencer obtained his FA Preliminary coaching badge in the early 1980's, going on to UEFA B Licence standard. He designed and ran coaching football schools and for the past five years has coached in Philadelphia, USA.

His management career began with Hornchurch Reserves before moving to Billericay Town where numerous trophies were won over a two-season period. He then moved to manage former club Witham Town for two seasons before the lure of veterans' football took him back to playing with Woodford Town and Maidonians (linked to the heavy metal band Iron Maiden).

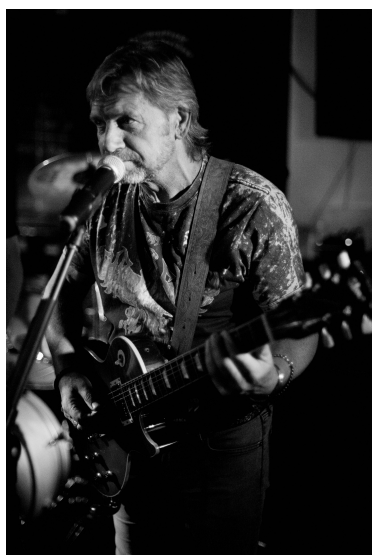
Spencer played for over ten years before recurring injuries meant it was time to call it a day. Until the advent of Walking Football that is!

Spencer joined Arsenal and played for a year before joining his local club Chelmsford City WFC where he currently plays. His walking football career has culminated in an Essex call up and captaincy of the England Over 60's side. The upcoming Wales match in Barry will earn him his second England cap.



Spencer is a qualified Chartered Surveyor and worked as a senior manager with one of the country's largest surveying companies for over a decade. He is now self-employed and works as Spencer James Ltd, based in Chelmsford.

His other passion is rock music and in 2000 he founded (and currently plays rhythm guitar) in covers band Gunrunner who play all over the country at pubs, clubs, and festivals. His other hobbies include oil painting and bird watching.



Spencer has a partner Claire, and two children, James, 28 and Lauren, 27, and a 2-year-old grandson Harrison.

**Next month' player profile: Lance**

### **CHRIS' CORNER**

This is a new little conversational feature where I offer my perspective on things relating to walking footie.

Feel free to offer your own perspectives, use the Facebook page, drop me an e-mail or just chat at training!!

We turn up, we play, we shower, we go home, but what are we really a part of?

Walking football kicked off back in 2011 'invented' by the Chesterfield FC, Community Trust. I say 'invented', but of course many of us invented it in our normal game years ago when we were just not fast enough to keep up with the ultra athletic on a Sunday morning (or as we called them – the blokes that didn't drink on Saturday night!)

As we know the game has gone from strength to strength with over a 1000 clubs now in the UK and the first England internationals being played. I'm sure a walking football world cup isn't far away.

But what are we really a part of?

We were all bought up on a game where the expectation is that players work hard, put in the hard yards, give no quarter and above all are passionate and competitive. We are all old enough to remember Nobby Stiles, Norman Hunter, and Chopper Harris, teeth missing, blood running down their face, grinding themselves into the ground for the shirt.

The game changed, skill, tactics, athleticism, game management, all brought more sophistication, but the bulldog spirit remains in our bones.

So when you come to the beautiful slower game, it is a true test of everything we were.

We have to let go of some of our natural instincts and aspire to a level of discipline and sophistication that most of us only dreamt of when we were playing THE beautiful game.

Wow ..... what an opportunity. 50 /60 /70 odd years old and there is an unbelievable second chance.

A chance to be a better controller of the ball; a better passer of the ball, to have more intelligent positional play; to play the ball on the floor – and no missing teeth (unless the dentures drop out!!), no blood streaming down the face (unless your Spence is at a tournament and they really have it in for him!) – it's a chance to play a quality of football (albeit in slower motion) that by-passed many of us in our younger years.

But it's not only the football ..... there is something else that is magical.

It is a chance for our age group to sensibly maintain and improve fitness. It is a chance to experience camaraderie and form new friendships whilst working up a sweat. Perhaps one of the biggest benefits is that it helps ward off social isolation for many folks at a time of significant adjustment in later life – retirement, health challenges or maybe losing friends or loved ones.

There is something profoundly good about our 6 a-side tussles.

Maybe we are reliving our youth, maybe I really do believe I'm Lev Yashin when I tip the ball round the post, what does it matter. I'm with my football buddies, the banter is flying and all is right with the world.

It's football Jim, but not as we know it (it's better!!)

**Chris Jullings**

chris.jullings1@btinternet.com

07850 725691

### **USEFUL LINKS**

Walking Football United:

Chelmsford City Walking FC:

Essex Walking Football League:

Chelmsford City FC:

<http://www.walkingfootballunited.co.uk/>

<http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/teams/136556>

<https://www.essexwalkingfootballleague.org/>

<http://www.chelmsfordcityfc.com/>