

Old



Git

The sausage-like organ of Over Veterans Football Club

INSIDE:
The Man With
No (Nick)name:
Ian Sutton speaks to
the 'Git'

All the News, the Gossip, the Scandal as . . .

Clarkey Cleans Up at Awards Night

HISTON—Sept. 27. On a night of high drama, tears and tantrums, Paul Clarke cleaned up at the Over Vets Awards Dinner, using a Panasonic upright vacuum cleaner and a squirt of Lemon Jif, writes Charlie Snorter, showbiz correspondent.

As the rest of the club looked on, our favourite sex-dwarf got down to business. "I'm never happier than when I'm on my knees giving it a good polish", he explained.

Quote of the night came from the recently retired Garry Swain who was heard to remark "I'm alright on grass".

The award winners, together with the judges' citations were:

The Nobby Stiles Award for Pussycat Tackling

Nominees: Mark Armstrong, Bob Bainbridge, Geoff Rule, Mike Little. And a late nomination - Malcolm would like to nominate Bill Handley.



Mike receives his award from Bob and instantly recognises the shard of bone

Whilst considering this award, the committee received an item in the post together with a sworn affidavit. It comes from a Mustapha Limp, ex-left winger of The Omani Desert Gerbils Sunday Casbah team who still play in the Sultan of Oman's Junior League Division 93.

" I, Mustapha Limp, do hereby confirm that the sliver of bone mounted on this plinth is a shard that was sent flying from my left shin on Sunday February 21st 1983 by one Michael J Little. I must also confirm that at no point did I attempt to wind up Mr Little by suggesting that he had all the tackling power of a paralysed mouse or that he couldn't catch a one-legged tortoise struggling in a force 10 headwind. I am indeed proud to have been the recipient of a classic British 'through-the-back-of-the-legs' challenge that has since forever in my country been known as the 'Little Chop' and I wear my limp with pride. I do hereby bequeath to the famous Over Veterans Football Club this small memento of one of their greatest player's finest moments.

Yours

Mustapha Limp"

The John Smiths 'Ave It Award for Endangering Neighbouring Buildings to the All-Weather Surface

Nominees: everyone.

The judges citation read as follows:

Throughout the history of the Vets one of the greatest challenges has been to volley the ball not only to clear the fence surrounding the all weather surface, but also to land a ball in one of the gardens beyond the car park. It is fair to say that one member has honed this skill to a fine art with his unique ability to leave the goal nets and the goalkeepers completely undisturbed with punting of the finest order. Rarely does he let an opportunity slip to belt a



football into the Vets' equivalent of Row Z.

This year's John Smiths Ave It Award went to our popular treasurer Mr Richard 'Dicko' Dickinson.

Dicko cannot understand why he received the 'Ave It Award.

The British Rail Award for Outstanding Punctuality

The judges citation read as follows:

The judges were particularly impressed with the credentials of this year's winner of the British Rail Award for Outstanding Punctuality. No matter what the weather, rain or shine, heatwave or snowstorm and no matter what the time of year, this player never fails to turn up until the sides have been carefully picked for their balance and fairness and the game is well underway.

Gentlemen, I give you this year's Winner of the British Rail Award, Mr Geoffrey Rule

[Sadly Mr Rule was unable to be with us but sent the following email to Club Secretary Sean Baker.]

Shane, contrary to my previous email, I can confirm that I will be at the Awards do next Monday, although I might be a bit late. What time was it? 10 o'clock in the Admiral? Save some food for me.

Rottweiler Rule

The Tunnel Vision Award for the Player who has Most Consistently Ignored the Obvious Pass in Favour of a Shot, Roughly Towards Goal

Nominees: Andy Carman, Muggsy, Milney.

The committee thought long and hard about this with all the nominees having an excellent claim, but in the end it came down

/cont overleaf

continued from previous issue:

. . . member of the Committee for the Furtherance of the Lost Art of Toe-Clippings Sculpture, Secretary to Over & Willingham Garden Gnome Lovers Group, founder and chairman of the com

Disclaimer:

The views expressed in The Old Git are not necessarily those of Over Veterans Football Club. Indeed they could only be regarded as the mindless ramblings of a blithering idiot (and his contributors).

to one simple fact and one simple player: as the man himself so succinctly put it – cramming stiffs into farm ponging mot failures – which I think sums it up nicely.

Gentlemen, hands together please for Mr Robert Milne.

The Bill Wilson Award for outstanding performance in a foreign country

Nominees: Bill Wilson, Martin Dollard, Bob Bainbridge.



In place of a citation, the judges performed a re-enactment of the recipient's finest moment in a Vets' shirt.

Winner: Martin 'Safe Hands' Dollard

*Left: Bill does his best
Martin Dollard impression
(or is that David Seaman?)*

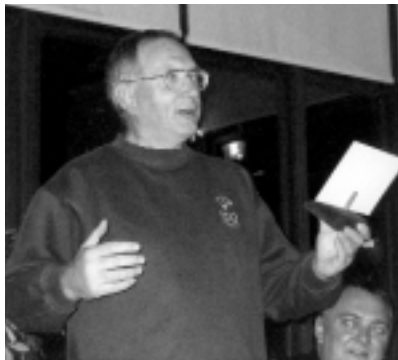
The Ian Purkiss Award for most inappropriate use of a hotel towel

As every member who has travelled abroad with the vets will know, our tours are life-affirming experiences where ethical and moral standards shine at all times. One is made to feel proud, not only to be a Vet but indeed to be a member of the human race. This year's recipient continued our proud tradition of holding his head up and fighting on through adversity, when despite almost insurmountable odds, he found a way to spare his poor a*** any more sandpapery loo roll. Yes, The Ian Purkiss Award for Most Inappropriate Use of a Hotel Towel went to Ian Purkiss.

Unfortunately Mr Purkiss could not be with us as he was receiving his monthly colonic irrigation. To collect the award on his behalf was his room-mate on the Irish trip and someone who instantly recognised the piece of towel – Mr Mark Marshall-Nichols.

The Ron Atkinson Award for the Demonstration of Complex Tactics in an Irish Pub

Very occasionally in this life one is privileged to witness something life-changing, something revelatory that will change your very outlook for ever. The birth of a child, for example, the experience of a miracle, seeing man walk on the moon for the first time. But those of us who were there on that cool, Spring afternoon one Friday in May on the banks of the Liffey know that we were in the presence of genius and that the only response was to go down on our knees. The lucidity of his explanation, the clarity with which he described previously impenetrable concepts will stay with us to our dying days. The winner of The Ron Atkinson Award for the Demonstration of Complex Tactics in an Irish Pub was Billy Wilson (aka Liam ò Liam).



*Bill expands on his diagonal runs
theory whilst Kev looks on in
wonder*

The Bill Handley Award for Devotion to Getting Messy on the Eve of a Big Game

The three nominees and their credentials were:

Ian Purkiss v Börçs, Hungary, May 2001

With a kick-off of 10am, Purky retired to bed at 5am, following a 12 hour bender of drip-fed whisky, brandy and Red Bull, supplied by an uncomprehending Hungarian barmaid. Despite this he rose 3 hours later to have a traditional Hungarian breakfast of fried eggs and ham (twice) and present himself fit and raring for action. Having started the game on the bench, it was only a matter of time before his finely-honed skills would be called upon and when the

time came he did not disappoint. Told to play up-front, he waddled uncertainly to a position just in front of his own goalkeeper and was pointed upfield, whereupon a weaving, swerving walk of barely perceptible straightness saw him wobble carefully to the centre circle. There he stayed, unmoving, save for a gentle swaying to left and right, for the next 10 minutes before the manager took pity and hauled him off. The Hungarian coach summed it up when he was heard to remark 'Y manski hip eye be pissoles in snowski'.

Dave Gordon v Börçs, Hungary, May 2001

Purky's drinking partner was Dave 'Fantastic' Gordon. He was better equipped to deal with the situation because he was playing in goal and was thus able to use the goal-posts to stay upright. Dave made a string of athletic saves to repeatedly thwart the opposition. He was later to admit (once he had regained consciousness) that each of his saves had been not for the real ball but for the three others he thought were coming at him. Dave later demonstrated the lost art of passing out at the dinner table and was used by his teammates as a clothes horse.

Bill Handley v Coolock, Dublin, May 2002

Bill made the fatal error on the eve of the big game of drinking with Purky, Safe Hands Dollard and Slim Nichols. Initially thinking this was merely a gentle sociable drink, after 8 pints of Guinness it became a matter of personal pride. At 5 in the morning he vaguely remembers a horse's a*** with Purky, still lucid and just entering his 24th consecutive hour of drinking, suggesting they find another watering hole without delay. His last memory of the day is of the colossal kebab with various fats and white hot sauces having the strange property of tasting more or less the same in regurgitation some hours later.

It was a tough decision for the judges but based on his performance of stunning ineptitude and his insistence that no matter how knackered his teammates were, there was no way he was coming onto the pitch, the Bill Handley Award for Devotion to Getting Messy on the Eve of a Big Game had to go to Bill Handley.

The Alan Ball Manager of the Year Award

Nominees:

*Bill Handley for Hungary
2001 with a peerless Won
0, Drew 1 Lost 1 record.*

*Sean Baker for the Vets
Tournament 2001 when he
took the brave and indeed
controversial decision to
leave Muggsy on the bench
for the semi-final and
final.*

*Chas Cook for season
2001-2002, in which he
has masterminded the
SuperVets to a record of
played 15, won 4 including
the famous win over
Swavesey in May.*

The award went to Chas Cook



*Chas and his award: spot the
turnip.*

The Billy Smarts Award for Putting Your Head in the Mouth of a Lion, also known as The Award for Inappropriate Use of a Policeman's Helmet and formerly known as Performing Feline Dentistry with a Blunt and Slightly Bent Instrument.

When it was suggested to our winner that he be photographed putting his head in the mouth of a lion in a Hungarian restaurant, no-one suspected which head he would use. Having taken advice from the RSPCA and knowing that this recipient would be present, the Committee decided to recommend to the landlord that he remove the hunting trophies of the stag and dog fox as well as hiding the 6 foot grizzly bear that normally stands by the entrance.

The judges had no hesitation in awarding The Billy Smarts Award for Putting One's Head in the Mouth of a Lion to Garry Swain.

More photos (and in glorious colour too!) can be seen on the Over Village website: overvillage.co.uk/overvets.fc.htm

CRICKET SCANDAL UPDATE

Following last month's cricket match-fixing exposé our investigator interviewed a number of the central players who commented as follows:

Bill Handley: "I did not expect to pay for my new extension so quickly"

Martin Dollard: "I was going to look for a new car anyway"

Paul Clarke: "He is only a friend, there is nothing going on"

Dave Gordon: "Early retirement pays well"

Statto: "The last time Chas knew what he was talking about was March 15th 1995" (that recently eh? - Ed)

The investigation continues . . .

Ivor Brewery

LETTER TO THE OLD GIT

From: *Chairman Bill*

Dear Sir,

I feel moved to write and complain at the deeply offensive article that appeared in last month's edition of the 'Old Git'. Mr Strumpet was inaccurate in a number of ways. For example, I am not known to be on "a number of village committees", I am on *all* of them. Moreover, Mr Strumpet failed to list my achievements as an author of some repute, such as 'The Discoverer's Guide to Hungarian Bars (and their exits)', 'How to Drink With the Best (and keep it all down)' and 'Imaginary Friends and Pink Elephants'. Also entirely overlooked were the now standard football textbooks 'Playing Football With A Hangover' and 'Playing After A Liver Transplant'.

I can say categorically that I am fully committed to all of these projects. Indeed, the only committees that I have found to be entirely pointless are the ones related to Scottish football.

Correction

In last month's Old Git, Herbert Strumpet stated that Bill Handley was "secretary of the Guild of Master Fog Knitters". This should have read 'secretary of the Guild of Master Frog Knitters'. We apologise to Mr Handley for any distress caused by this error.

This Month's Competition

This month's prize is a Chest-hair Removal Waxing Machine, complete with Russian shot-putter (possibly female) to operate it.

The question is:

Which film star shares his name with a famous Vet?

Send to:

Jerry Lewis Competition, The Old Git, Viagra House, Alzheimer's Place, Over.

Last month's winner was Mr R Tassell of Willingham who was the only one to point out that the answer was given in the competition address (oops! silly us).

In the event of a tie break, complete the following in not more than 10 words:

I deserve the chest-hair removal waxing machine because.....

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome into the Club the following:

Andy Smart (now officially the youngest Vet after Muggsy finally decided to admit to being more than 35).

Adam Stephenson

Mike Oswell

Pray Silence for our Esteemed Chairman . . .

"In the next 'Old Git', can you please put in a piece about the **next trip to Kegworth**. It is on **Saturday 23rd November**. We will leave at around midday and take part in some sort of mini tournament. This could be on grass or all-weather and we could field one or two teams depending on the interest. This will be sorted out nearer the time.

For now, I need to know who wants to go and whether they want to stay overnight or not. Overnight accommodation is likely to be in The Station Hotel (as last time) and will cost in the region of £20 B & B.

Set a deadline for member's responses at two weeks from the date of publication of the Old Git."

So there you have it lads - "some sort of mini tournament", "could be on grass", "could field one or two teams", "overnight accommodation *likely to be* in The Station . . . costing *in the region of* £20".

All clear? Good. Answers to B. Handley esq, Muddled Towers, Notsure Avenue, Sitting-on-the-Fence, Cambs.

OLD GIT SAYS . . . Ignoring our over-zealous sub-editor for a moment, anyone who wishes to make this trip, please contact Bill Handley by Friday 25th October so that we can firm up the arrangements with Kegworth.

Profile

Top hack Herbert Strumpet is currently incommunicado whilst he investigates the strange lifestyle and peculiar personal habits of his latest subject. Whilst we at the 'Old Git' do believe his life to be in any danger, we are having forensically examined a small shard of bone that has been anonymously sent to our offices . . .

INJURIES ROUND-UP

Bobby Bainbridge Breaks Big Toe

In the 'Battle of Over' aka our match against the Over Gonads, our former chairman and leading on-pitch encourager, suffered an injury which subsequent tests revealed to be a broken big toe. Old Git wishes him well and trusts he'll be back soon on Thursdays still pointing out that he has to go to work tomorrow.

Man Bites Rottweiler

In a previously unheard of act of foolhardiness, a member of the St Ives team actually managed to crock our favourite lovable little midfield rottweiler, putting him out for a couple of months. Geoff sustained knee ligament damage and is even now said to be plotting his revenge (apparently involving handcuffs, a mallet, a large watermelon and a particularly sharp pencil).

Mystery Man 'Back Soon'

As has often been the case with the Vets, the rigours of playing football for the first time since childhood took their toll on a new member, leading many to ask "Nigel who?" Well, readers, Old Git has received a communiqué from Mr Nigel Corley who played three times with us in early Spring and has not been heard of since. Apart from his knees, achilles tendon and eyes, he's well on the mend and expects to be back with us on Thursdays sometime before his seventieth birthday (which is next week apparently).

Statto and his groin

Old Git editor and former statto of the club, Sean Baker, would like it known that his groin is now undergoing vigorous daily work-outs and he expects to be 'up for it' soon.

Miserable Old Git's Column

At last that rascally young pup who styles himself the Old Git has given me a column to write and the first thing I'd like to talk about is something that troubles me greatly. Word has reached me here in my potting shed that some members of Over Veterans have complained that their 'womenfolk' are *reading* the Old Git and that they might find out something about what we're up to.

In case you hadn't realised, women **can't read!** So they are not *reading* it, they are simply looking at the pictures, so you have nothing to worry about. If it does bother you however, buy them a copy of 'House & Home', which has lots of lovely colour pictures in it (according to Mrs Old-Git).

Ta!



AGM poorly attended

Despite plenty of notice and reminders, less than 10 Vets attended our 7th AGM. With apologies from another 4 members, this meant more than half the club decided to ignore the one chance in the year when they can voice an opinion in a formal setting rather than just sound off in the bar on a Thursday night.

A summary as follows (full minutes will be circulated in due course):

Present: Bill Handley, Sean Baker, Richard Dickinson, Ian Sutton, Richard Cox, Jerry Lewis, Andy Muggeridge, Dave Gordon, Garry Swain.

Apologies from: Andy Buck, Bob Bainbridge, Chas Cook, Dave Tassell.

1. Last year's minutes approved.

2. **Treasurer's Report:** income up £800 on last year. Tournament made profit of £68.45, Christmas party made loss of £8.62. Bank account on 1st October stood at £1,478.73.

3. **Chairman's Address:** Thanked Albert for work on Vets' pages on village website; welcomed Martin Dollard, Nigel Corley and Richard Tassell as new members since last year's AGM and bade farewell to Duncan Munro and Andy Collett who left the club, and to Garry Swain and Dave Gordon who have retired as playing members. Noted that the average age of the club is increasing and our on-field performances against visiting opposition is suffering. Expressed disappointment at lack of numbers for the AGM.

4. **Secretary's Report:** Reiterated that wherever possible, everyone should take their turn at washing the bibs after Thursdays and taking the kit bag after friendlies.

5. **Committee** was re-elected en bloc: Bill Handley (Chairman), Richard Dickinson (Treasurer), Sean Baker (Secretary), Chas Cook (Football Manager), Bob Bainbridge, Andy Buck and Garry Swain.

6. **Tournament:** date set for June 7th, Geoff to be asked once again to source the medals, we would have 2 referees who would each be paid £20 and the invited teams would include Haslingfield and Kegworth with the third invited team to be decided.

7. **Overseas Trip:** likely to be Prague with a couple of options currently on the table. The committee will meet at the end of October to decide on what package to present to all members so that a decision can be reached and a booking made by mid-November.

8. **Christmas Party:** community centre hall booked for December 21st. The disco is costing £270 and the hall including security £281. Various options discussed for entertainment aside from the disco.

9. **Membership Numbers:** after much discussion the following points were agreed upon: at next year's AGM, the 3 playing members with the lowest Thursday night attendance records would have the renewal of their membership considered by the members present, with the *potential* result that they would be asked to give up their playing membership and remain as a social member if they wished; the 5 individuals currently on the waiting list will be asked to join immediately; only those aged 35-45 will be placed on the waiting list in future.

10. **Any Other Business:** we will purchase two sets of short-sleeved shirts to go with the rest of the playing strip that we already have; a request for a donation to the Crusaders was turned down on the grounds that we have twice given to them in the past; Bill H to order new social shirts (polo and rugby) in various sizes (see questionnaire with this newsletter); no subscription to be sought from social members, but in future when the club is contributing to an evening (such as the Carlton-Palmer Dinner), social members will be asked for a contribution; club to purchase a digital clock to display by the AWS; and we will talk to the OCA about new goals.

APPEARANCES from Oct 2001-Oct 2002

THURSDAY NIGHTS		FRIENDLIES/OVERSEAS TRIP			
	Martin D	15	Rule	5	
Richard D	48	Bill W	15	Bainbridge	5
Dave T	46	Dave B	14	Briggs	4
Andy M	45	Brian C	13	Purkiss	4
Chas C	45	Malcolm	12	Buck	3
Jerry L	45	Paul Collett	11	Lewis	3
Ian S	44	Chris R	11	Tassell D	3
Albert S	42	Ian P	5	Wilson	3
Bill H	39	Nigel C	3	Collett	3
Sean B	35	Garry S	3	Chapman	2
Paul B	33	Merv H	2	Day	2
Bob M	30			Dollard	2
Peter D	30			Little	2
Mike D	25	Baker	8	Mackinnon	2
Mark A	25	Dickinson	8	Carman	1
Paul Clarke	34	Armstrong	7	Dean	1
Andy B	22	Handley	7	Gordon	1
Bob B	27	Clarke	7	Ramsdale	1
Geoff R	27	Milne	6	Tassell R	1
Andy C	22	Cook	6	Mark Nichols	1
Mike L	17	Muggeridge	6		
Richard T	17	Smith	6		

RESULTS ROUND-UP

Home (AWS) Sun. 22 Sept
Vets 1 (0) v (1) 2 Over Gonads
o.g.

Team: Dollard; Dickinson, Collett, Bainbridge; Smith, Cook; Clarke, Muggeridge, R. Tassell

Our on-the-spot reporter writes:

An excellent game played in fine spirit against Andy Carman's new club saw the lads struggle against a team comprising many youthful ex-premier league trialists and ageing internationals. Pluckily though we played, we were never able to match the opposition's well-organised game-plan and spent most of the match encamped in our own half fighting back wave after wave of attacks. For once, Martin Dollard could not be blamed for either goal and for the most part he was well protected by the defence for whom Paul Collett was his usual excellent self.

Home (Green) Sun. 6 Oct
Vets 4 v 0 St. Ives

Our on-the-spot reporter was in fact on the golf course so details are non-existent. By all accounts however a fine performance by the Vets with a little help from some new players. Highlight of the match was undoubtedly Martin Dollard's linesmanship which saw most decisions in the first half go in the exact opposite direction than which they should have gone due to his thinking he was watching a game of rugby.

Away (Histon Rec) Sun. 13 Oct
Cambridge Vets 2(2) v (0)1 Over Vets
Tassell

Team: Briggs; Collett, Little, Armstrong, Dickinson; Smith, Stephenson, Jarvis, Milne; Clarke, Tassell

Our on-the-spot reporter writes:

Two first half goals from Cambridge which owed more than a little (no pun intended) to defensive indecision sunk the lads in what was otherwise a decent showing. New lads Stephenson and Jarvis had solid games and in the second half everyone played well, benefitting from Coach Bainbridge's decision to switch Clarke to midfield and put Milne up front along side Tassell. Although Cambridge missed a penalty midway through the second half thanks to a great save low to his right from Briggsy, we were always in the game and in the end were probably unlucky not to get a draw. Dave took his goal superbly when through one-on-one with the 'keeper, the linesman (from Cambridge) not giving offside as he was deep in conversation with Over's touchline posse at the time.

Next match: a return on Sunday 20th, same place, same time.