

Over Cricket Club pull fast one to deny Super-Vets

Robbed!

The Centre Feb 24—With a championship winning team lined up to take on all-comers at the annual Over Cricket Club Quiz Night at the Centre, The 'Git is saddened to have to report a piece of skulduggery of the highest magnitude.

Having secured the finest brains in the Club to capture this hotly-contested trophy for the Vets, skipper Sean Baker was rocked by the late withdrawals of first, Scoop Armstrong and at the eleventh hour, Chairman Bill. OCC's ruling council, led by Jeff 'Hansie Cronje's secret half-brother' Dalley had declared Scoop ineligible for "undisclosed reasons". Not content with this, however, they then ruled Handley to have failed a dope test. "But I've always been a dope", complained Handley, to no avail.

So it was that, with a team of just 3 (Baker, Cox, Lewis), the Vets were left to battle it out with the finest teams the OCC could muster. I can report though that we did not let the Club down. Hurling out of the blocks, Jerry Lewis nailed the first round of countries and flags, securing a magnificent maximum for the beleaguered Vets. It was at this point that Tim Henshaw, well-known Councillor of this parish, arrived and despite mass protestations from the opposition was allowed to join us as a special guest and honorary Vet for the night. From then on it became clear that only some extremely devious tinkering with the rules would prevent the super Vets from triumphing in OCC's own backyard.

And so it was that going into the final round the Vets were leading by 1 with a score of 144. As the final scores were read out, smug smiles were spotted on the faces of the OCC hierarchy. Our score was read out as . . . 142?? So we had somehow scored *minus* 2 in the last round.

We later discovered that the arcane 'Duckworth-Lewis' scoring method was in use, which meant on count-back, when conditions were taken into account and making allowances in favour of those teams who didn't know all the answers, those who included cricketers or ex-cricketers and those with ringers, we were deemed to have not won.

APPEARANCES from 3rd Oct 02 – 13th Feb 03 (18 weeks max)

THURSDAY NIGHTS		FRIENDLIES/ TOURNAMENTS			
Charles Cook	16	Dave Boothroyd	5	Tassell	4
Richard Dickinson	16	Robert Milne	3	Milne	3
Jerry Lewis	16	Andrew Smart	3	Armstrong	2
Albert Smith	16	Bob Bainbridge	2	Baker	2
David Tassell	16	Mervyn Howard	2	Chapman	2
Paul Clarke	15	Michael Little	2	Collett	2
Peter Dean	15	Steve Yearsley	2	Dollard	2
Andrew Muggerridge	15	Adam Stevenson	1	Handley	2
Ian Sutton	15	Geoff Rule	1	Smart	2
Andy Carman	14	Nigel Corley	0	Bainbridge	1
Martin Dollard	12	Ian Purkiss	0	Boothroyd	1
Richard Tassell	11	Steve Rawlinson	0	Cook	1
Bill Handley	10	Bill Wilson	0	Yearsley	1
Malcolm Mackinnon	10			Jarvis	
Mark Armstrong	9			Munro	
Andy Buck	9	Clarke	5		
Paul Briggs	8	Smith	5		
Brian Chapman	8	Briggs	4		
Sean Baker	7	Carman	4		
Mike Day	7	Dickinson	4		
Paul Collett	6	Little	4		
Mike Oswell	6	Stevenson	4		

Note: the list of appearances for the friendlies is incomplete due to no record existing for the St Ives game on Oct 6.

Sunday Jan 26 – Over Rec

Dynamos Get Boggled Down

Over Veterans 5-1 Canterbury Dynamos

On a pitch more suited to rice-growing than football, the Vets showed true grit and determination with a fine win.

With every pass having to be hit twice as hard as normal and long balls almost impossible, Over coped with the conditions better than the visitors and ran out deserved winners.

Some fine linesmanship from Chairman Bill also helped as did excellent finishing from the ever-reliable Turncoat Andy Carman. Being able to change half the team at the interval certainly did not do any harm either, as our visitors only had 13 players with them and tired noticeably in the second half.

Steve Yearsley scored the opener in the first half after a fine move involving Carman, Sex Dwarf and Uncle Albert and the Vets went in at half-time 1-up.

After Adam Stevenson made it 2 with a typically classy finish, Canterbury deservedly pulled one back. This was the cue for some sustained Vets' pressure as the Canterbury defence started to wilt in the strength-sapping conditions and our youthful forward line took full advantage.

For a fuller report, visit the Canterbury Dynamos' website at www.canterburydynamos.net

Czech it out . . .

Those flying the Vets' flag in the Czech Republic are:

Fantastic Dave Gordon, Garry 'Chopper' Swain, Richard 'Dicko' Dickinson, Safe Hands Dollard, Brian 'Oh come on' Chapman, Mark 'Slimmer' Nichols, Ian Purkiss, Bob Bainbridge, Andy 'Muggsy' Muggerridge, Billy 'diagonal runs' Wilson, Mickey Little, 'Uncle' Albert Smith, Andy Smart & Chairman Bill Handley.

Plus

Alan Johnston, Duncan Munro, Colin Thomas & Neil Blanchflower

Chairman Bill would like to remind the above that a few people still have to pay the second instalment of £50 (they know who they are apparently!). Latest details on page 3.

Curry at the last-chance saloon

The Vets are hitting the Over hotspots on Friday March 7 for a couple of carrot juices and a nice healthy salad. Those taking part in this warm-up for the Cambourne game, and hoping to impress the hard-to-please head stable lad Bob 'you'll eat what I tell you' Bainbridge are:

Safe Hands Dollard, 'Bone-crusher' Little, Orange Juice Wilson, Fantastic Dave Boothy, Dicko 'popular treasurer' Dickinson, Goatee Sutton, Bucko Buck, Chopper Swain, Jerry 'not lee' Lewis, Milney The Persil Kid, Sex Dwarf, Big Malc, Mr Carman, Dave 'not Tass' Tassell and Statto.

Also on hand to advise Coach Bainbridge out are the usual liggers Coxie, Slimmer & Kev.

We are now fully booked for this, so if you suddenly earn a pass from the missus, tough!

For those lucky enough to be coming out, I suggest we meet at the Ex for a 7 o'clock sharpener, wander along to the Pops for 8-ish and get to the Admiral by 9 o'clock latest.

Christmas Party makes profit shock!

In a complete turn-up, the Vets' legendary Christmas party 2002 actually made the club a small profit. Complete figures are available from our popular Treasurer Dicko Dickinson, but amount we made was £117.23.

Tournament date

The Vets' annual tournament is booked for **Saturday June 7th**. As last year this will be followed by a barbecue on the Centre patio. Last autumn 20 members expressed an interest in playing (most of them for Over), so with only 18 places available, we will sort out the squads in May.

BAINBRIDGE RETIRES HORROR!

Court Circular
February 2003
The Palace of St Fred, Over

It is announced that Duke Bainbridge of Roker Park, the famous jazz band leader, has handed his official notice of retirement to the Hon. Sec. This may come as a surprise to some members who had inferred from his recent performances 'in the paddock' that he had retired in 1978.

He is a shy and retiring person (*are you sure? - Ed*) whose quiet nature on the field has often left team mates wondering if he had indeed *been* on the field. He was renowned of course, amongst Vets' teams, for his immense pace, this being employed to most useful effect in the bars and pubs of some of the roughest cities in Europe - usually running away from the bar itself during the ceremonial 'opening of the wallets to form a kitty'.

Instantly recognisable with his slight build and two club feet, he made his professional debut in 1948 as a boxer. Having been knocked out for the tenth straight time, his mother sewed handles onto his shorts to enable his trainer to carry him out of the ring easier.

Realising that pugilism was not for him with his withdrawn nature and love of flower arranging, he became involved with soccer. His floral activities brought him notoriety in 1967 when, fed up his beloved Sunderland losing again, he called into the 'Say it with Flowers' shop and sent eleven pansies to the team dressing room.

It is not generally known that in his younger days Bob looked the spitting image of Bobby Moore and was often mistaken for him (off the field of course).

His most famous game was the Creake Shield triumph of 1980 in which Over Sports won their first trophy of the modern era.

Playing Record:

Appearances: 2459

Scoring Record: With Mrs Madge Feel in a boarding house in Broadstairs, 1976.

Scoop Armstrong

PROFILE

Born to be a Goalie

Paul Jarka Briggs was simply born to be a goalie.

When Mrs Briggs was pregnant with Jarka she was asked, 'What are you having - a boy or a girl?'

'Neither' replied the proud Mrs B, 'I am having a *goalie*'

Paul's little known middle name, Jarka, actually means 'fill the goal' in ancient goalinese. Most children were read nursery rhymes before bed.

Not Jarka. His bedtime diet consisting of 'cover your angles' and 'don't for f***'s sake let it through your legs' have stood him in good stead ever since.

However, an extract from his soon to be released autobiography, shockingly reveals that when he was eight years old he *let one in*. The first and only time this has happened is explained later when one of the opposition admits to superglueing both his hands to the goal post.

The author of this article has witnessed Jarka's dedication to his calling. During his apprenticeship with the Over Veterans, I played 'landlord' for the two years until he became a full member (as I understand it full membership is 35 years old or 4 chins, whichever is the sooner - Jarka qualifying on the latter).

According to the great man, washing up and any form of cleaning (*including club bibs, apparently - Ed*) is 'bad for the hands' whilst channel hopping with the remote is 'good for the dexterity'

So remember, the next time your pile driver is plucked one-handed out of the air, think of all the years of absolute sacrifice that has gone into making the art of being 'goalie' look so easy. Long may it continue.

Dink Armstrong

Vets to play Cambourne

We have a game line up against Cambourne Rovers on Sunday March 16. This will be played on Elsworth Green, kick-off 10.30, and is 11-a-side. All those wishing to play please let Sean know. The more the merrier as rumour has it they are not as decrepit as us. The following have so far been picked:

Briggs; Yearsley, Stevenson, Boothroyd, Collett, Little, The Persil Kid, Chapman, Carman, Baker, Tassell (so a couple more volunteers, please).

Reserves: Muggsy, Chairman Bill and Safe hands.

Bob Bainbridge confirmed via email what we have all suspected for some time: "I can't play". So he will scream abuse from the touchline (or is that 'coach' - answers on a postcard to Chas at the usual address).

VETS DOWN UNDER

Following their recent trip to Oz, our popular treasurer, Mr Richard 'Dicko' Dickinson has supplied a couple of examples of himself, Fantastic Dave Gordon and Chopper Swain flying the Vets' flag.



Behind the flag, Chopper lives up to his nickname.



A statue of a former great cricketer poses with the Don.

Kegworth mini-tourney results:

Over Vets 4-0 Kegworth
(Carman 2, Clarke 2)

Team C 2-0 Team D

Over Vets 1-0 Team C
(Carman, pen)

Team D 0-1 Kegworth

Kegworth 3-2 Team C

Over Vets 3-0 Team D
(Carman 2, Clarke 1)

3rd/4th Place Game

Team C 7-0 Team D
(Clarke 4)*

Final

Over 2-0 Kegworth
(Carman, Smith)

** Note: Teams C & D were mix 'n' match sides with players from Kegworth and Over guesting in various games to make up the numbers.*

Latest Czech News

Gentlemen,

I can now give an update on Prague.

We are staying at the Hotel Prague Central. We have 9 twin rooms booked at a cost of £28 per person per night B & B which will be payable individually on arrival. The hotel is situated only 3 minutes walk from the historic centre of Prague, so although the rate might seem a little high for Prague, this should easily be offset by not having to use taxis. It is quite a large hotel - 48 rooms - and is 3 star accommodation. The rooms are ensuite and have satellite TV and direct line telephone.

Take a look at the hotel's website http://www.hotel-net.cz/detail_en_1284_PRAGUE_CENTRE_HOTEL_USD.html

Arrangements Prague side are with a company called Central European Tours

and they are organising coach transfers to and from the airport and the match. We will be having a game against a team from the suburbs of Prague. This has not yet been finalised but is likely to be on the Sunday. Coach and match arrangements will cost around £12-15 each.

Important - Insurance REPLY NEEDED

I am willing to arrange travel insurance on everyone's behalf. This will cost in the region of £12-15 per person (possibly less, I will have a firm quote by the middle of next week) and will include cover for cancellation and up to £5m medical. Please let me know by e-mail whether or not you wish to be included.

I will update you when I know more about the game etc.

Vets Clothing Order Update

Those of you who have not yet succumbed to the latter stages of Alzheimer's may remember last autumn filling out a form asking you for Vets' clothing choices. Despite rumours to the contrary, Chairman Bill does indeed have this matter 'in hand' and expects to sort it out "when I get a spare moment".

However, thanks to the generosity of Mike Little, well-known philanthropist (with the emphasis on the 'pist'), we will be taking delivery of a batch in the next couple of weeks of grey t-shirts, screen printed in black with the Vets' logo as well as Mike's own company logo. These are primarily intended for handing out to visiting teams and other worthies, but can be bought by members for a small consideration. One size only (Bainbridge gut size - aka xxxxxxxl, so if me 'n' Clarkie buy one, send out search parties).

Rugger Club to teach us how to play football

A pair of games is to be organised with the Wednesday night 'touch rugby' crowd for one Sunday morning in early April. Details to follow, but the plan is for game of touch rugby followed by a game of footy.

Dicko and Safe Hands have offered to coach us in the finer arts of 'catching the ball' and 'not letting an opponent pass', (not sure whose speciality is which), so we should get slaughtered.

Chairman Bill