

VIEW FROM THE BENCH (or the 19th hole)

It has been mentioned to me that I have been conspicuous by my absence from the bench at recent Vets matches because I have been taking my medicine and playing golf



instead. Since the doctors prescribed my two rounds of golf each week I bought a new set of Wilson clubs over the internet from the Company HQ in Chicago. The Wilson logo on the parcel read "Go deep – go straight". Inside the box was a leaflet giving advice to golfers on how to look after their equipment. As many Vets play golf I am sharing this with you. "After play clean your shafts with warm soapy water and a soft cloth or towel" "Do not submerge your heads in water" "Always dry your equipment before storing it away" "Use a bag that has proper padding and protection" "Always use a head cover". No excuse for being unable to get a good score now!

I did manage to have a seat on the bench at the Vets' youth team games against Fulbourn Institute and Linton. Both were narrow victories which put Over in with a chance of winning the Kershaw league but indifferent away performances may yet harm their chances. As usual the referees came in for some criticism although the Fulbourn manager was quick to distance himself as he said to me "I never comment on referees and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat!"

Finally well done to Andy Smart, Sean Baker and the others who helped in making the race night such a success. The amount raised was approximately £400. I am opposed to gambling but on this occasion I was happy to guess the winner and support my choice with some money (this is acceptable in China where gambling is illegal).

CORRECTION

Last month's Old Git carried an advert for a pair of unused boots. This in fact should have read *Richard Dickinson's* right boot and *Jerry Lewis's* left boot.

Letter to Editor

Sir,

Whilst being an avid supporter of your broadsheet I was somewhat disappointed to read the article by that eminent football hack, William Wilson, regarding the performance of the Over Vets against the Bluntisham All Stars. I was unfortunate to get involved in this rather one-sided match whilst out walking my dog. I know it might seem strange to your readers to be out walking your dog in full football kit but as they say "it takes all sorts".

Anyway I digress. Having been roped into playing as a central defender I was somewhat taken aback at the start of the match to find myself covered by a dark shadow. At first I imagined I had walked into the shade of a tall building but upon turning around I found it to be the shadow cast by the opposition's centre forward, who was standing next to me.

We, the thin white line, did reasonably well in the first half keeping the Bluntisham Mongol hordes at bay (although I was later to find out that they had all been out on the booze the night before and it took them until the second half before they sobered up). However, the second half was not so well handled and the line was breached more times than a Czechoslovakian call girl!

Can I just take the time to say what an honour it was to play alongside the famous Danny Blanchflower, and how remarkably well he looks considering his age and current living conditions (*that would be a graveyard somewhere near White Hart Lane, presumably – Ed*).

To return to the reason of my letter, I thought William most harsh in his condemnation of us poor defenders who clearly had an "off" day. He also failed to mention that the midfield had as much bite as a gum shield, and our forwards spent most of the time scaring the birds from the tops of nearby trees, despite being less than 3 yards from an open goal on one occasion!

Whilst I agree with his comments about building from the back, I feel that based on this recent performance the thing that really needs building at the back is a large brick wall, around about the 18 yard box. There is but one important question from all of this is, and that is "has anyone seen my dog?".

D. Fender
Warboys

New Member

Welcome to Ken Kewley, who has now joined us. This follows the latest retirement announcement of Ol' Blue Eyes Bainbridge.

Current Waiting List

Our ever-burgeoning waiting list now reads as follows: Alun (Martin Dollard's neighbour who will be joining as soon as he is fit), Rod Haynes, Laurence Parker, Simon Jarvis, Sean Davey, Neil Blanchflower, Mark Marshall-Nichols, John Benson, Kevin Unwin, Greg O'Neill, Dave Carman, Des Human. Depending on future retirement rates, it's quite possible that this list will last us the next 3 or 4 years unless we start up a second session.

New Secretary wanted

A quick note to say that I will not be standing for the committee at this year's agm, so would ask that someone else considers putting themselves forward for post of Secretary.

The Serious Bit

Following an incident on Thursday April 15th, it is felt necessary to remind everyone to please remove their watches prior to games on the AWS.

Forthcoming Game

We have a game this Sunday, May 9 away to Bluntisham. Please notify Coach Bainbridge if you want to play. This is our last game before the Belgium games, so if you are making the trip or are planning on playing the home game against Hasselt (see page 3), please make every effort to turn out.

KEEP FIT WITH MUGGSY

Old Git is delighted to bring you a regular new feature in which our very own Iron Man competitor, Mr A. Mugeridge attempts to educate us all in the secrets of super-fitness.

Part 1 – the Goal Hang.

1. Find a goal
2. Stand very close to it
3. Stretch your hamstring
4. Retire to the bar

Sunday March 14 AWS
 Over Vets9(3) v Swavesey3(1)
 Carman 4, Rule 3, Rawlinson 2
*Carman; Bainbridge, Little; Baker, Rule,
 Handley, Rawlinson; Cook*
 Attendance: 1 Cat

Sunday April 18 The Green
 Over Vets1(1) v Over Gonads ..1(0)
 Carman (who else?)

*Team: 'Vodka slammer' Munro, Briggsy
 (2nd half), Sven Bainbridge, Franz Little,
 Judas Parker, Blanco, Ear-muffs Smith,
 Taggy, Smarty, Blanco's mate, Thierry
 Carman, Carlton Handley.*

Scoop Handley is the man on the spot—
 This match report will be short on detail
(nothing new there then - Ed) and the
 reason for this dearth of facts is due
 entirely to an accident of timing - the
 official reporter turning up five minutes
 too early only to find himself on the right
 wing. Throughout the game the words
 'why?' and 'you daft sod' kept springing
 back into mind to the exclusion of
 everything else.

The game was not actually a veteran's
 game (it was never meant to be, I think)
 and the average age of the Nomads
 players was probably 15 years lower than
 that of the Vets. Having said that the older
 members of the team, notably Mike Little,
 acquitted themselves very well as the
 score-line attests. In the Vets' side, only
 Blanco's mate (who presumably also came
 only to watch but found himself in a blue
 shirt) looked to be under thirty-five.

Fortunately for the Vets, Loz Parker,
 normally a Nomads stalwart had been
 drafted in by Sven Bainbridge ostensibly
 because he is a member of the squad for
 Belgium. Ignoring the cries of 'Judas' from
 the Nomads, Loz put in an assured
 performance alongside Franz Little and
 linked well with Andy Smart who had
 another great game in the centre of the
 park. It was notable that the parentage of
 Steve Rawlinson, playing resolutely at the
 heart of the Nomads' midfield was not
 called into question by his Vets colleagues
 but this is probably only due to failing
 long-term memory, since he hasn't turned
 out on a club night for so long.

The Vets goal came fairly early in the
 first half, a typically swashbuckling strike
 from Andy Carman who collected the ball
 on the edge of the area and ran across the
 goal avoiding lunging tackles and flying
 limbs before unleashing a powerful right-
 footed drive into the Nomads goal.

Towards the end of the first half, a
 controversial incident involving Albert
 Smith and the referee enflamed a game
 already simmering following the Carman
 goal. Albert managed to get a foot onto a
 Nomads through-pass which deflected it
 into the arms of the Vet's duty goalkeeper
 Duncan Munro. Nomad cries that this was
 a back-pass were met at first with
 incredulity by the Vets' defence and then
 wild-eyed fury as the referee awarded a
 free kick against them. Even the normally
 sanguine Mike Little let his displeasure be

known (*shurely shome mishtake - Ed*).
 Having been granted a direct free kick in
 the penalty area (!) the Nomads tried to
 convert their luck into a goal with a
 powerfully struck kick which was goal-
 bound but for a headed clearance by
 Parker.

The Nomads' goal was missed by your
 roving reporter but it was probably lucky.

Relieved of baby-sitting duties for the
 second half, Vets' £4M rated goalkeeper
 Briggsy came on and gave an assured
 performance, releasing the heavily hung-
 over Munro for outfield duties and giving
 the team a more balanced look. The
 departure of Handley with a hamstring tug
 lifted the team even more and
 corresponded with their best period of
 play. Towards the end of the second half
 and feeling better for a shower and a
 rubdown your reporter was pleased to see
 the Vets in control and making forays
 deep into Nomads' territory with Carman
 always a threat. In the end, most players
 seemed to feel that a draw was an
 honourable and just result.

Old Bangers delay goal-fest shock horror!!

Sunday April 25 The Green
 Over Vets6(1) v St Ives Rangers ..4(2)
 D. Carman, Smith 2,
 Stevenson 2, Clarke

*Team: Dollard, Baker, Bainbridge
 (Rawlinson), Little, Nick Uttridge, Smart,
 Rule, Dave Carman (Mark Pleasants),
 Smith, D. Tassell (Stevenson), Clarke.*

*Officials: Andy Carman, Dave 'Cat' Cattell
 and Young Billy Wilson.*

Scoop Handley again—

The morning started badly with the
 'Yesteryear Run' annual parade of vintage
 vehicles holding up the game.
 Unfortunately the message that the kick-
 off was to be delayed had not reached all
 of the St Ives players and they were
 warming-up for two hours before most of
 the Over players had got out of bed.
 Bainbridge is keen to emphasise that this
 was not gamesmanship just a (technically
 speaking) complete balls-up.

The game started badly for Over. Even
 before your reporter (as prepared as ever)
 had borrowed a pen and scrounged some
 paper a St Ives forward had eluded his
 marker (probably Baker - I promised I'd
 mention him somewhere) to slide the ball
 past the diving 'Safe-hands' Dollard. The
 second goal, just a few minutes later, a
 curling corner that deceived everyone to
 sail directly into the goal, leaving Dollard
 muttering about how tricky it is playing
 with a round ball.

The Vets first goal came on the half-
 hour mark; a long pass from Andy Smart
 finding Dave Carman who, withstanding
 strong challenges, managed to turn his
 marker and slide the ball into the net. Just
 on the stroke of half-time, an injured
 Tassell was unable to take advantage of
 excellent work by 'Nobby' Clark and
 Albert Smith and the half-time scoreline of

2-1 had the Over players reflecting on
 what might have been.

Two minutes into the second half the
 mercurial Smith showed a touch of class
(blimey - Ed). Controlling the ball on the
 edge of St Ives penalty area, he turned
 and fired into the top left-hand corner for
 2-2.

Over's own tinkerman, Claudio
 Bainbridge, had kept super-subs
 Rawlinson, Stevenson and Pleasance
 waiting but when they entered the fray for
 the second half they immediately made
 their presence felt. Adam Stevenson
 crossed the ball for Clarke who was only a
 couple of feet short of a heading
 opportunity.

Although Over were dominant for long
 stretches, St Ives did have a number of
 opportunities. On one occasion Martin
 Dollard, (obviously thinking it was a
 rucking maul, or whatever they call it)
 dived onto the ball at the feet of a St Ives
 striker. A fine save, with Dollard's moment
 of glory only slightly diminished by Bill
 Wilson's creative linesmanship and the
 resulting offside whistle. Young Bill is
 currently writing a linesman's coaching
 manual entitled 'The pedestrian's guide to
 running the line'. Actually he did more
 running than he ever did when he was
 playing.

After 20 minutes, Albert Smith who
 was, as his coach put it 'on fire', scored a
 goal that was *almost identical (apart from
 the fact it was 10 yards closer and on the
 opposite side of the pitch)* to his earlier
 strike to put Over ahead for the first time.
 Five minutes later, Stevenson's hard work
 paid dividends when he latched onto a
 cross from Clarke to side foot the ball for
 4-2.

Andy Smart again had a great game
 and he was especially dominant in the air.
 He almost scored too when, collecting an
 Over clearance on the half-way line and
 seeing the goalkeeper off his line, he tried
 a looping shot that bounced once before
 clearing the cross-bar. The St Ives goalie
 was less fortunate minutes later when his
 attempted clearance was intercepted by
 Clarke who half-volleyed into the top right
 hand corner of the St Ives goal. Moments
 later the St Ives 'keeper was again picking
 the ball out of his net when Stevenson
 took the ball around him before side
 footing home to complete Over's goal tally.

Despite the high score-line the game
 was not one-sided and St Ives always
 looked threatening. They took the game
 back to Over with a spirited last ten
 minutes in which they scored twice: one a
 penalty (Andy Carman proving that he is
 at least a fair-minded dodgy referee) and
 the last goal a brilliantly curled free-kick
 from outside the box by the centre-
 forward, who had been their best player
 throughout.

So this was a game with plenty (too
 much) for a roving reporter to comment
 on but it marked a welcome return to
 winning ways for Over and to true
 veterans' football. It had all the
 ingredients you could hope for; it was
 entertaining with both sides playing blah,
 blah, blah etc (*sorry Bill, ran out of spa*

BELGIUM UPDATE

Ryanair continue to frustrate our attempts to get to Belgium for the "Happening". The flight from Stansted was recently changed to 3.15pm which would mean we would miss out on the evening cultural tour already planned for Thursday evening. The only other flight out we could get is now 6.40am which means leaving Over at 4am! Our Man in Millen, Belgian Bill, has suggested the cultural tour of Maastricht could be replaced by Bilzen-by-Night. "In every café in Bilzen (a town 12km away from Millen), there are lots of cafés where they have bands playing, or singers, . . . lots of people, last year 12.000 visitors . . . more than 20 bands, on main stage in centre of Bilzen" This is clearly an event to look forward to.

We now have 2 places spare as some cannot now make the trip. Any volunteers? Dave Gordon has now agreed to join the tour and his deposit is in the post. Could those few of you who have not yet paid your interim payment please let Andy Buck or Bill Wilson have your money - cheques payable to Over Vets FC.

Apparently rumour has it that a Dutch team are providing a team to play us and have announced their team in anticipation -

Budget Van Rental, Van Hire, Van der Valk, Van Gard, Van Dal, Van Coova, Van Iller, Van Ishincreme, Van Morrison, Dick van Dyke and Per Vert.

See below for the latest communiqué from Belgian Bill:

Tournament Latest

A reminder that this year's tournament is on June 12th. Those who have so far announced their interest in regaining the cup for the Vets are:

Baker
Tassell D
Handley
Marshall-Nichols (gk)
Sutton
Clarkie
Tassell R
Dicko
Smith
Smart

If you have already told Sean and your name is not listed, please tell him again! We need 18. This is on a first come first served basis and is irrespective of appearances on Thursday nights. So get your name to Sean Baker before May 27th. If we are still short by this date, Baker and Bainbridge will be on the phone to try to make up the numbers. Please note that we are one goalkeeper short.

Invited teams so far are Bluntisham and Kegworth. The third team is almost certainly St Ives as unfortunately we have had no response from Cambridge to our invitation to defend their trophy.

The day coincides with the Centre's fifth anniversary, so there will be beer tent, evening disco, barbecue and children's entertainment laid on.

Retirements

Nigel Corley has been forced to retire following knee surgery. Vets with extremely long memories (!) may remember that he turned up once on a Thursday night, only to limp home following a classic Chopper Swain greetings card.

Oh yes, and Bainbridge has retired *again*.

Visit by Hasselt

A team from the Belgian town of Hasselt will be coming to Over on Friday May 21st. The game will be on the Green and will kick off at 6.30. Final arrangements for after the game are still being made, but at the time of writing, the Belgians were planning on going back into Cambridge afterwards for a meal, rather than staying in Over.

Players so far declaring availability are:

Baker, Briggs, Tassell D, Day, Lewis, Sutton, Smith, Tagg, Rawlinson

Others also down to play include Nick Uttridge and Duncan Munro.

The game will be refereed by either Colin Thomas or Dave Kinzett and I would hope that as many club members and family/friends as possible will turn up to support the game.

Could anyone else who wishes to play, please let Sean know as soon as possible.

Hallo Willy (as it's the same for Bill!)

Good to hear from you again . . .

Well I understand why you prefer to call me Bill! I know what a Willy is in English... No problem . . .

What the **** is Raynair doing!!!! The guys from Hasselt are going to Over by Eurostar I heard. I was in contact with them! I will make a reservation to the Winecastle. No problem!! As soon as you are in Belgium, please give me a call! The nifft out in Bilzen will be fun! I will come along with you, but wont be able to party all night long. I have two havy days before me that night! So I hope you understand me! Butt as I said, we 'll help you out with everything! I'm looking to find somebody who speaks English quiet good good, and who could be your "liaison-officer" for the days you're here! I have been checking you webpage daily to see the next issue! I understand English fairly good, also some of the humor. As it's written, I can read it more than once to get a good understanding. But I am affraid that when you guys are spaeking with each other, things will go to fast!

Butt we'll see. My English is OK because my father used to rent some houses to USA milatry people who are stationed over here. So I speak more American the the polite "Englishman in New York".

By the way, I had a ticket for the Sting concert in Antwerp tonight. And guess what, cancelled by Mr. Sting!!!!

So Billy my sweet Willy, see you all soon!!!

Willy

Fantasy League

Briggys has decided that the season will end on Thursday May 27, so with just 3 weeks to go, it appears that ex-Chairman Old Bill Handley has the league sewn up. The new season will start in September, when no doubt we will have a few adjustments to players' values. Presentation to winning manager will take place at the Carlton-Palmer Awards Dinner later this year.

Sheepsha**ers	Old Bill Handley	842
Better Late Than Never	Geoff Rule	762
The Strolling Bones	Bob Milne	740
Inter Over Gladbach	Briggys	736
Crazy Work Horses	Albert Smith	734
Aches & Pains	Steve Yearsley	716
S*x Dwarfs in the City	Clarkie	716
The Almost Nearlies	Safe Hands	696
The Old Farts	Andy Smart	681
Dublin's Nags Head North End	Claudio Ranbainbridge	671
The Over Rated	Mike Day	665
Old Hamptons United	Brian Chapman	656
The Chipperfield Monkeys	Andy Buck	629
Surreal Madrid	Sean Baker	609
Tassmanian Devils	Dave Tassell	592
Carminites Dinamites	Andy Carman	557
Chairman's Choice	Young Bill Wilson	499
The Under Rated	Slim	492
Tass's To**ers	Richard Tassell	422