

It comes once a year – it's the organ of Over Veterans Football Club

# AGM Report

Minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting held at The Exhibition on Monday 18th October 2004.

*"It was my first agm and I never knew it would be so much fun!"* – B Chapman

Present: Sean Baker (Chair),  
Bob Bainbridge, Neil Blanchflower,  
Andy Buck, Brian Chapman, Martin  
Dollard, Bill Handley, Mike Little,  
Andy Muggeridge, Mark Nichols,  
Loz Parker, Geoff Rule, Andy Smart,  
Dave Tassell.

*Apologies: Bill Wilson, Chas Cook,  
Mike Day, Dave Gordon, Garry Swain and  
Colin Thomas.*

## 1 Minutes of 8th AGM, held on 20th October 2003

These were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

## 2 Matters arising not covered elsewhere

Club clothing: Some items of club clothing remained in stock. Sean Baker agreed to list the items in the next edition of the Old Git.

Trophy cabinet: OCA had agreed in principle to the trophy cabinet being located in the bar area. The exact location was to be agreed. Bill Wilson had asked other Over sport clubs if they had trophies that they wished to display in the cabinet. Insurance (at OCA's expense) was also being looked into.

## 3 Chairman's postcard report

Bill Wilson had sent a postcard from his holiday villa in Cyprus, where he was not on an all-expenses-paid fact-finding trip on behalf of the club. He reported that he had not yet found a Cypriot club to play us but was working hard on the matter from his office in the local bar. He was concerned at the poverty on the island – reporting that the women there were unable to afford many clothes. He would be doing further research towards the 2005 tour on his return.

## 4 Treasurer's report.

Andy Buck presented the club accounts as at 18 October 2004:

Amount in club account: £869.96

Cash in hand: £157.90  
Outstanding bills: None  
Contingency (Belgian hotel): £155.00  
(see note 1)  
Outstanding income: £90.00  
(note 2)

Total income for the year was £6,460.59 and expenditure was £5,914.99.

*Note 1: £155 was being held in reserve in case payment was demanded from a hotel for accommodation not taken up on the Belgium tour. It was thought unlikely that they would now request the money and the members voted unanimously to return the money to club funds. The club did not subsidise any aspect of the tour to Belgium, tour members paying for everything.*

*Note 2: 2004 tournament. Due to an administrative ~~cock-up~~ error, no Over player had paid their entrance money for the 2004 summer tournament. Those who played should pay £5 to Andy Buck as soon as possible.*

The 2003 Christmas Disco and comedian had lost the club around £500 due to a very poor turnout and, as a consequence, no Christmas event was planned for 2004. The Race night in April had recouped a lot of the Christmas party losses – a net income of £387.15 reducing the loss to around £113.

The cost of hiring the all-weather surface increased to £31.50 per session from Sept 1st. If weekly subs were not increased, there was unlikely to be a surplus for equipment etc and reserves might diminish. Andy asked whether members wished to increase weekly subs to £3.50 to cover this extra expense. The members thought that occasional fund-raising events would cover the shortfall and agreed not to increase weekly subs at this time.

The meeting agreed unanimously that

the club should meet the cost of coach transport for the forthcoming Carlton Palmer dinner.

The members (proposed Bill Handley, seconded Sean Baker, vote unanimous) accepted the accounts.

## 5 Secretary's report

Sean Baker reported that club membership was around the 30 mark with a number of people on the waiting list (in order of going on the list: Simon Jarvis, Sean Davey, John Benson, Kevin Unwin, Greg O'Neil, Dave Carman, Des Human, Graham Harrower and Dave Reed). Malcolm Mackinnon had left to go travelling and Bill Wilson and Paul Collett had both retired as playing members. He stated that he now classed Ian Purkiss and Merv Howard as social members for the purposes of determining the size of the Thursday night membership, although they would still be welcome to play on those rare occasions when they did turn up. He welcomed Neil Blanchflower, Ken Kewley, Tony Tagg, Rod Haynes, Mark Nichols and Loz Parker, who had become full members during the year.

A number of players had been turning out for 11 a-side grass games who were not full members. The members understood why it was necessary to limit Thursday night membership to 30 but felt that grass players should be given the opportunity to become members of the club so that they received the Old Git and could be invited to join the tour and be included in social events. This was agreed (proposed Mike Little, seconded Martin Dollard, vote unanimous).

Brian Chapman suggested that the Thursday membership might be expanded during the summer months (mid-June to mid-September), when numbers normally dropped. It was agreed that the new committee would consider this.

## 6 Election of officers and committee

*continued overleaf*

The following were duly elected as officers and committee for 2004/5:

Chair: Bill Wilson (with special responsibility for Tour 2005)

Secretary: Sean Baker

Also:

Treasurer: Andy Buck

Neil Blanchflower (Tour 2005)

Andy Smart (Tour 2005, grass match team selection)

Martin Dollard (social/charity fund-raising sub-group)

Bill Handley (social/charity, fixtures)

Andrew Muggerridge (social/charity)

Mark Nichols (social/charity)

Garry Swain (social)

Mike Little proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing officers and committee.

It was agreed that the dates of committee meetings should be advertised in the Old Git and be open to any member.

### 7 Charity fundraising.

Bill Handley suggested that if the committee decided that the club had sufficient funds, then a proportion of future fund-raising and/or social events could be donated to local good causes such as Scouts or colts football. The membership approved of this idea, suggesting that members of the fund-raising and social committee (see above) should be considered as members of the main committee.

### 8 Summer Tournament

In the 2004 tournament the two Over teams had suffered the worst result to date (4th and 5th place, although Over Utd had finished runners-up in the group stage). There had been problems for the referees this year and Colin Thomas had suggested introducing a 'sin-bin' for serious offences. It was pointed out that this option had always been available to referees but had not previously been needed. The members felt that some players had been more aggressive this year.

The 2005 tournament would be held on Saturday 11th June. Consideration would be given to inviting one of the two Belgian clubs, Millen or Hasselt. There would again be two Over sides with team A being selected to give the best chance of success. The committee would select the two captains from the players available who would then select the squads in consultation with Bob Bainbridge, who would be 'chief coach' on the day. All members would be invited to play, including 'grass-only' members.

There was a strong feeling that the social side of the tournament should be re-invigorated. OCA events (such as the 5th anniversary celebrations) that

coincided with the tournament had tended to separate teams and the identity of the tournament social was lost. It was agreed that one of the other pubs would be used as the venue if a similar event to the 5th anniversary celebrations were planned by OCA in 2005. The members felt that it should be made clear to all players that the entrance fee to the tournament included (at least part of) the cost of the social function. It was thought that free barbecue food for players might be the best arrangement.

### 9 Summer tour 2005

Andy Smart had been researching the cost of a tour to Amsterdam. Bill Wilson had also been looking into arrangements, planning to take up an invitation to return to Millen. It was agreed that Bill Wilson, Andy Smart and Neil Blanchflower would look into all possibilities and come back to the membership with proposals within a few weeks.

### 10 Any other business

Geoff Rule suggested that an annual membership fee should be introduced. After much discussion and chest beating it was agreed unanimously that all members, including social members and grass-only members, would be charged an annual subscription of £10. The subscription period would run from 1st October each year. Given that this decision was made close to the end of October, it was agreed that for this year only members would have slightly longer to pay. Andy Buck would write to every member requesting payment and subscriptions for 2004/5 should be paid to him by the last day of November. The members gave clear authority to the committee to disallow any members from playing for the club, particularly on Thursday nights, who did not pay by the deadline.

## Are Football Pitches like women?

Our young Chairman, Bill Wilson, offers the following advice . . .



- 1 There is a vast difference in grounds with regards to length and width, thus varying the quality of the play.
- 2 Pitches vary from the well-grassed to the completely bald.
- 3 Remember it is possible to score at both ends.
- 4 Tackling from behind is not always an offence – check with ground owner.
- 5 After alcohol a ground may appear to be of Premiership standard but in reality would not even be eligible as a council dumping ground.
- 6 Only some grounds offer five-a-side facilities.
- 7 Don't ever make public your desires to play at Wembley, also never mention pitches previously visited.
- 8 Extra time is dependent on subsequent pitch bookings.
- 9 If the ground does not seem to have under-soil heating suggest calling the game off
- 10 When building a team it is always nice to finish with Seaman at the back.
- 11 Wet pitches encourage long sliding tackles.
- 12 Always ask before leaving the pitch and entering the tunnel. Conversely, DO NOT expect to be allowed to come straight from the tunnel to the goal mouth and score. That can leave an awful taste in the mouth of the pitch owner and may prevent further use of the ground.
- 13 Playing in local derbies could cause injury.
- 14 It is illegal to play on small, unturfed pitches.
- 15 Russian grounds are frequently more grassy.
- 16 French grounds are frequently very nice to look at, however there can sometimes be an awful smell from the terraces which don't get hosed down as often as they should.
- 17 Very few grounds are found with executive boxes.
- 18 Be wary of grounds with room for coaches.
- 19 Avoid grounds that also host ladies football
- 20 Pitches with a waterlogged end, can be out of bounds for up to 5 days a month, although this can be longer if you annoy the owner by continually asking to play up the good end instead.
- 21 Players should agree personal terms with the club before being allowed to play on the turf.
- 22 Always look for a ground that has never been played on before (or at least hasn't had many visits). That said, well used grounds may have better facilities and will get the best out of a player.

# Carlton-Palmer Awards Night Report

Once again this proved a very popular evening and a good time was had by all (although I didn't catch her name). Thanks go to the Railway Vue in Histon for their usual good fare and hospitality. And apparently Blanco's Bar also hosted a late one after the coaches arrived back in Over. The awards were:

The You Fat Bastard Award *aka* The "Who ate all the pies?" Award  
Winner: Mike Little

The Diving Award  
Winner: Geoff Rule

The Youngster of the Year Award  
*aka* The Future of the Vets Award  
Winner: Mike Day

Wet T-shirt Award  
Winner: Old Bill Handley

Fancy Footwork Award  
Winner: Mark Nichols

Keepie-Up Award  
Winner: Richard Cox

Keep It Down Award *aka* The Bill Handley Award for devotion to getting messy  
Winner: Dave Tassell

"They Used to Play on Grass" Award  
Winner: Martin Dollard

Referee of the Year Award  
Winner: Merv Howard

The John Smiths 'Ave It Award for endangering neighbouring buildings to the All-Weather Surface  
Winner: Muggsy\*

The Alan Ball Manager of the Year Award  
Winner: Bob Bainbridge

*\*An early contender for 2005's John Smiths Award has been posted by Steve Rawlinson who managed to clear the Community Centre with a tackle on Thursday December 23rd. Needless to say the ball was lost.*

## Overseas Trip 2005

Despite the best efforts of Neil Blanchflower and Andy Smart, next year's proposed trip to Amsterdam has been cancelled due to insufficient interest and commitment. So although there will be no official Vets' playing trip, Bill Wilson is looking to get a group together to re-visit Millen in Belgium, scene of the 'Football Happening' that we sent a team to this year. It is not proposed that this will be a full playing squad, more a social visit although there is the possibility of some Vets joining up with another team, should they wish. Anyone interested please contact Bill direct (01954 202248).

## MATCH REPORTS

Friday August 27th  
Over Green  
Over Vets .....3    Old Pretenders.....1

*The Old Pretenders website reports:*  
Arriving in a sober condition on late Friday afternoon our first game versus Over Vets, aka The Old Gits, kicked off at 6pm. The Gits' hospitality was quite simply superb – each OP received a complimentary Over Village Vets T-Shirt with their club crest embossed on it. Not expecting quite so profuse a welcome we were embarrassed to have nothing about our persons with which to reciprocate. Several of us considered donating The Chief Executive to sit in their trophy cabinet but decided, on reflection, that this may have frightened any children who wandered by.

One of the first four fines was registered when it was discovered Paparazzi had left his camera at the hotel preventing any photographic evidence of the OP's fine performance from appearing on site. As we lost 3-1 this may not have been a bad thing in the event.

A very good first half from both sides saw the OPs 2-0 down despite creating several scoring chances. Delhi Belly made some fine saves and JC belied his advancing years with a sterling job in mid-field. The second half saw much of the same until Mark, formerly known as Fatboy, finally found the opposition net via a penalty to make it 3-1 at the final whistle. Notable performances from Ralgex, Bazza and a particularly fine refereeing show in the first half from Four Dinners.

An excellent curry was laid on in the Old Gits' local followed by a much appreciated 'lock in'. Beer flowed, the OPs got legless, Paparazzi won the Darts Championship and a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

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Sunday 10th October 2004  
Histon Recreation Ground  
Cambridge Veterans..3    Over Veterans...4  
*George, Harding,                      Rawlinson,  
Lindsay                                      Haynes, Smart (2)*

*Bill Handley reports:*  
Two matches were being played on Histon rec. on this day: one of teenagers and the other a veterans' game. As one might expect given experience and maturity, there was a stark contrast between the pre-match regimes of the participant teams in each match. On one pitch the teams formed up and performed disciplined warm-up runs and stretches whilst players of the other teams mooched around sending text messages, swigging Coke and taking deep drags on their last fag. Yes, the Vets could learn much from the youth of Histon.

Albert Smith, having recently returned from a business trip to Ireland, had neat

Guinness coursing through his body and an Irish cold. His nose glowed bright red and could be seen from Cottenham. At least he turned up, which pleased manager Andy Smart who was worried to see his original squad of 15 reduced to 13 by no-shows.

Over got into their stride straight after kick-off, winning several corners in the opening minutes with the Cambridge goalkeeper, Nick Gawthrop (who had an excellent game) having to deal with a series of in-swinging corners from Bob Milne. Adam Stevenson gave the Cambridge defence trouble throughout, willing to take on players and shoot on sight of goal. After 15 minutes the pressure was at last rewarded with an Over goal. Rod Haynes turned his marker and laid off a good pass to Steve Rawlinson who calmly side-footed the ball into the net.

It wasn't all Over though – throughout the game Cambridge were capable of mounting threatening counter-attacks. Trevor George and Greg Hall both caused problems, either forcing saves from Briggsy or only narrowly missing the target. However, it was Over who again made the pressure count with Rod Haynes scoring on the half-hour mark after again turning his marker.

A similar pattern of play continued into the first period of the second half with Andy Smart scoring an easy tap-in following a defensive error and Gawthrop making two fine saves from Rawlinson and Smart.

As the second half progressed and with both sides playing entertaining football, Cambridge began to cause more problems. The first Cambridge goal came from Trevor George – a fine looping shot from the edge of the box into the top right-hand corner, giving Briggs no chance.

Not to be outdone, Andy Smart scored the final Over goal – a fine (at least that's what Andy says) Beckham-like strike from the edge of the box into the top left-hand corner.

Then it was the turn of Cambridge to turn the screw with shots from Dave Stevens and Dave Arnold narrowly off-target, Pete Lindsay forcing a fine save from Paul Briggs and a Trevor George shot scrambled off the goal-line. It was Simon Harding who finally made the increasing Cambridge pressure pay to bring the score to 4-2 with Pete Lindsay raising Over's collective blood pressure still further with a great individual goal to narrow the difference to a single goal. It came too late, however, and the final whistle sounded soon afterwards signalling the usual stampede for the bar.

As always, it was a pleasure to play Cambridge Vets, who approach games in an excellent spirit and who like to play passing football. There was talk on the sideline that they had been having

difficulties in getting enough players and even that they may not be able to continue for much longer. I am sure that all Over players hope that this is a temporary problem.

*Team: Briggs, Blanchflower, Little(c), Smart, Jarvis, Reed, Yearsley, Rawlinson, Stevenson, Smith, Milne, Chapman, Haynes.*

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Saturday 20th November 2004

Over Recreation Ground

Vets .....6 Chesham Thursday .....0

*Rawlinson (pen),*

*Carman (3), Clarke,*

*Parker*

Attendance: 4 supplemented by a few devoted wives and children in the second half.

Referee: Colin Thomas.

*Bill Handley reports:*

This long awaited fixture started the Vets run in to their Christmas programme. We therefore paraded a team of turkeys ready for the expected stuffing but were thwarted by a depleted visiting team and some unorthodox decisions by the officials. Rod Haynes volunteered to turn out for the opposition and rewarded them by stretching their number 34 shirt from medium to extra large.

The game went the Vets way as early as the 7th minute when the referee adjudged Steve Rawlinson to be "brought down" in the box. For the record Steve didn't even fall down in case he dirtied his shorts but had no problems tucking away the spot kick.

Further calamity was to hit the visitors after 18 mins when goalkeeper Steve "safehands" Sumner got stuck in the fenland mud and twisted his knee. His departure from the pitch meant a hasty reshuffle for Cheshunt (*who were we playing again? - confused Ed*) which unbalanced their side. The Vets stormed forward but failed to get a shot on target for ages which prompted defender Sean Baker to show the way with a rare shot which saw the net bulge. Sadly it was the cricket net positioned midway between goalpost and corner post.

Further goal attempts were thwarted by lino Bill Handley whose star jumps to keep warm were interpreted by the ref as signalling offside. Loz and Andy Carman escaped a booking for dissent when they convinced the ref they had said "flagging" linesman. Chesham were relying on counter attacking play to get back into the game but their only success was to see the two Vets centre backs collide with each other attempting a clearance. The ever vigilant Buck was on hand to boot the ball clear. On 35 mins Sex Dwarf scored by coolly slotting home a rare pass from Andy Carman (*I'm glad you said that, not me - Ed*). Within three mins the Vets had increased their lead with the best goal of the game. Andy Carman



## View from the Bench

*(this was written back in September in the hope there might be a full edition of the OG published at that time)*

Am I the only person to have predicted the double that Greece would win Euro 2004 and that Todd Hamilton would win the Open? If I was a betting person, which I am not, I could have made a lot of money on that prediction but as a pensioner I couldn't afford to cover that bet and the

2000 other permutations on my plan.

Obviously this year is the year of the underdog, underlined by Europe winning the Ryder Cup, so I bet it is only a matter of time before Over Vets hit a winning streak. Unfortunately we don't have a fixture secretary since Bob has been tempted to take time out to learn how to find pleasure with his joystick. I believe he has plans to fly the Vets on the overseas tour next year if he gets his licence. If we are to put a run of games together to extend our winning streak we need someone to come forward at the AGM as fixture secretary. A club like ours can only prosper provided people are prepared to do their bit.

I know the Vets would like me from time to time offer some technical tips. You will all have heard comments such as "no pace" or "just one pace". What makes some players slower than others? The answer is they have smaller amounts of fast twitch fibres. So go on, take a gamble, and activate your twitch fibres to increase your speed.

Finally, at the time of writing, I hear that the biggest Old Git of them all has gone to the great football stadium in the sky. Cloughie had a superb goalscoring record for Middlesbrough before injury prevented him from becoming a Vet. His record as a manager is more than impressive and my favourite Cloughie quote was about Sven's appointment as the England Manager: "At last England have appointed a manager who speaks English better than the players". I'll bet there will never be a greater character in the game.

headed an unstoppable effort following an excellent run (*are you sure?*) and cross from winger Albert Smith. Just before half time another mazy run and cross from Albert was heading towards Loz but was expertly defended by Clarke who managed to get in the way and put it over the bar. It was difficult to see which player was more relieved; the goalkeeper who saw the ball safe or Loz who did not have to head the ball.

The second half saw a linesman drinking vodka and coke to keep warm and despite a further three goals for the Vets there was little to excite the crowd, most of whom had retired to the bar to watch the rugby. Albert was moved back into defence as Chesham started to get back into the game aided by Smarty who had swapped sides. Albert demonstrated his full range of talents by attempting an overhead kick while laying on his back and waving his legs in the air. The last two Vets goals were scored with some controversy. The fifth goal was scored while the lino was on his mobile and didn't see the goal go in. Andy Carman's "hat trick" to complete the scoring was regarded by everyone as offside except the referee and linesman (*actually Bill I think you'll find it was Loz's historic 6th goal that was possibly offside, rather than Andy's headed fifth - Ed*). Whether this was due to bad light or drink we shall never know but the final whistle was welcomed by everyone and a good social time was had by all.

*Team: Buck, Baker, Utridge, Reed, Tagg, Rawlinson, Clarke, Carman, Parker, Smith, Smart.*

How Chesham saw the game . . .

The football world was rocked very gently by the news that an understrength CTFC side failed to contain an extremely skillful and relatively youthful Over team, losing 6-0. But we weren't disgraced, had a nice day out, enjoyed the game (perversely), enjoyed Over's fine hospitality and even managed a few more pints at the Queens Head on our return (and learnt the meaning of Udinism).

Ken Smith

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Sunday December 26th 2004

Community Centre AWS

Vets .....3 Exhibition FC .....1

Attendance: Several Boxing Day walkers who paused to take in the frenetic action.

Referee: Colin Thomas.

*Sean Baker reports:*

Our annual Boxing Day game against the team formerly known as Over Nomads saw a solid performance from the lads and an excellent turn-out of willing players. This made it four wins out of four since the season kicked off in August, so roll on 2005 and the tournament!

*Squad: Dollard; Baker, Smart, Chapman, Smith, Parker, Carman, Clarke, Sutton, Handley, Tassell, Dean.*

## Unwanted Christmas present

Mrs Little has offered for sale a brush and comb set given to Mike this Christmas. It is understood that Mike has some difficulty parting with it.

# 2004 TOURNAMENT REPORT

**Over City 0 (0) Over Utd 0 (0)**

**Bluntisham 1 (0) St Ives 0 (0)**  
Wallis

**Over Utd 1 (0) Kegworth 0 (0)**  
Carman (pen)

**St Ives 1 (0) Over City 0 (0)**  
Holliday

**Bluntisham 2 (0) Kegworth 0 (0)**  
Simmonds, Wallis (pen)

**Over Utd 3 (2) St Ives 1 (1)**  
Parker (2), Carman

**Over City 0 (0) Bluntisham 2 (1)**  
Ratcliff, Simmonds

**St Ives 1 (0) Kegworth 0 (0)**

**Over Utd 0 (0) Bluntisham 1 (0)**  
no. 2

**Over City 0 (0) Kegworth 1 (0)**  
Mike



Young Bill presents trophy to Bluntisham skipper.

## OVER UTD

Armstrong (gk), Baker, Parker, Smart, Cook, Tagg, Rawlinson, Smith, Carman

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## OVER CITY

Nichols (gk), Sutton, Dickinson, Bainbridge, Blanchflower, Rule, Handley, R. Tassell, D. Tassell.

## SEMI-FINALS

**Over Utd 0 (0) St Ives 1 (0)**

**Bluntisham beat Kegworth**

## 3RD/4TH PLAY-OFF

**Kegworth beat Over Utd on penalties**

## FINAL

**Bluntisham beat St Ives**

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bluntisham	4	4	0	0	6	0	12
Over Utd	4	2	1	0	4	2	7
St Ives	4	2	0	2	3	4	6
Kegworth	4	1	0	3	1	4	3
Over City	4	0	1	3	0	4	1

## A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM BELGIUM . . .



## Dicko getting hitched

All members of the club are invited along to the Exhibition at 7pm on Thursday 30th December to help Dicko celebrate his marriage to Gill.

## Match this Sunday January 2nd

We have a game this Sunday on the Rec. against Willingham Vets. Kick-off is 11am and anyone wishing to play please contact Andy Smart (01954 202242).

## Club items for sale:

Blue baseball caps.....£5  
Polo Shirts.....£15  
Red (L, XL), Green (L), Blue (M)

Contact Sean (01954 232589) if you want to buy any of the above.