

**VIEW
FROM
THE
BENCH**



It was questioned in the last edition of OG whether Scoop had made up match reports as players have been mentioned who were not playing. I am taking this as a compliment rather than a criticism for OG staff bringing imaginary reporting to a new level. The art form was introduced in Scotland in February 1963 during the big freeze when football matches were postponed for around 12 weeks. To help satisfy the nations desire to gamble and create profits for the football pools companies, the Pools panel was invented to produce imaginary results. This did little to help the hapless football supporter who had no football to watch so it was inevitable that the creation of an imaginary game to correspond to the pools panel prediction would be developed. This is where the Forfar Dispatch came in to report on the exciting "away win" by Stirling Albion over Forfar athletic by the odd goal in 9. The reporting style is similar to that of OG. For example, the recorded spectators were three seagulls, a dead sparrow and a dispossessed fieldmouse. Lawlor, the Albion inside forward apparently got his foot to a loose ball and kicked it high over the bar. He was assisted by his fellow players in searching for the boot in the adjacent field. It is also reported that Cumming (or was it Chas Cook?) collapsed in the middle of the park, apparently in agony and clutching his stomach but all he needed from the trainer was a replacement piece of knicker elastic for his shorts. It was even reported that one of the Albion defenders asked for a win bonus after the game but his manager responded by allegedly saying "Surely I must have told you that you were dropped from that game". In case you are wondering the score when Forfar really met Albion after the freeze was a 2 nil win for Albion.

**Tournament
Update
Saturday June 11th**

Members who wish to play in our annual tournament, please let Sean know by May 27th. There is a chance we may have to cancel this year as we've been unable to pin down the teams we invited. At the moment only Kegworth are definitely coming, and we are still waiting on responses from two other clubs. The committee are also concerned that we will not be able to get sufficient interest to put in two teams ourselves. Remember any member can play, *whether they play regularly on a Thursday night or not*. So the sooner members commit, the sooner we can confirm or cancel. As usual, there will be a barbecue afterwards and the chance to drown our sorrows and bemoan our luck.

**Over Touch Rugby
Club/Over Vets
Social**

On Sunday 26th June we are holding a Sunday Social with Over Touch Rugby Club, starting at 11 a.m. We will hold 30(ish) minute friendly games of touch rugby and football (both on grass), followed by a family barbecue and 'some' beer. Strictly for laughs – bring the family.

On our part, no experience of touch rugby is necessary (indeed it is probably preferable) and most of the TR lads have never seen a round ball. Hence, we should expect to receive and deliver utter humiliation in equal measure. The question is: who will Bobby Milne play for? Either way, he's a marked man.

If you wish to play in either or both games, let Bill Handley or Sean Baker know.

Trophy Returned!

Our tournament trophy, won by Bluntisham last year, has finally been returned to Chairman Bill by the Bluntisham secretary. At a meeting between Bill and Rob & Russell from Bluntisham, it was agreed that we should try and organise a game with them next season to try to repair relations between the two clubs.

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.

**Members In, Members
Out, In, Out, In Out,
Shake It All About etc etc**

The following have joined since last OG: Simon Jarvis, and John Benson with John Bishop re-joining as a social member.

The following have retired from Thursday night games since last OG:

- Adam Stevenson, Dave Boothroyd, Steve Yearsley

And the following are still hedging their bets re. playing on Thursdays: Richard Tassell, Ken Kewley, Mark Armstrong.

The waiting list currently comprises (in order of joining):

- Kevin Unwin, Greg O'Neill, Dave Carman, Des Human, Graham Harrower, Dave Reed, John Day and Mark Trollope

Do they mean us?

Email reply from the Cambridge Building Society following attempted delivery of OG26 pdf to Andy Buck: *A message from seanbaker1@mac.com to abuck@cambridgebs.co.uk has been blocked because it contains profane language.* The original message read: *Blimey I hear you cry, an Old Git! It must be Christmas! If any of you can't read this, email me and I'll stick one through your letterbox.*

Presumably it was the reference to 'sticking one through your letterbox' that it objected to.

CAPTION COMPETITION



Simply come up with a side-splitting to the photo shown left and you could be the lucky winner of a place in the Loz Parker Tackling Academy.

Name:

Caption:

.....

Trevor Munn's six-a-side charity veterans' football tournament

**Date: Saturday 18th June 2005
 (the week after Over Vets' tournament).**

Start time: 12.30

**Venue: Amersham & Wycombe College,
 Chesham. 6 pitches being used.**

**Type of game: 6-a-side on grass, 8 in a squad.
 We can enter more than one squad.**

Match duration: 10 minutes.

**24 teams likely to take part with a minimum of
 5 games per team.**

**Entry costs £40 per squad with all moneys
 raised going to the Sarah Matheson Trust,
 which supports research into Multiple System
 Atrophy (MSA), which is a neurological
 disorder similar to Parkinson's Disease.**

**There will be entertainment and refreshments
 throughout the day.**

Any members interested should let Bill Handley know as soon as possible and by no later than Thursday 12th May. I would also like to know whether they wish to travel there and back on the day or stay overnight for a social.

DER DICKER

This ex-professional player would be an ideal candidate for an Over Vet shirt according to his profile. See if you can identify him before you reach the end of this article.

He was born on 3 November 1945 and reached the dizzying heights of 5ft 7in. He was regarded all his career as being slightly overweight with short legs and thick thighs. At the age of 17, when he was recommended to a top national club, the club coach rejected him and is quoted as saying "I don't want that elephant among my thoroughbreds!" The club chairman took a chance and signed him because of his goal scoring record. When he made his debut he was regarded as too slow and the fans gave him the nickname Der Dicker – German for Fat Fellow. However, he went on to score 68 goals in 62 internationals. He scored the goal that eliminated England from the world cup finals in 1970 and retired from professional football aged 37. By then he had earned a new nickname – Der Bomber. Gerd Muller holds the record of scoring 365 goals in the Bundesliga. Given his pedigree above perhaps we still have a chance!

Chairman Bill

Bill Wilson
~~CHARLIE HIGHFIELD~~ ..

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MATCH REPORTS

Sunday January 2nd

Over Rec.

Over Vets2 Willingham Youth .3
Carman, Tagg

An impeccably impartial linesman reports:

A bright, crisp Sunday morning saw the Vets play their first game against a Willingham team full of youthful vim and vigour.

An early Bill Handley note before he handed over reporting duties, stated that Baker at right back had a peerless 3 minutes before struggling off with a back injury. Milney replaced him for the rest of the game.

Early on Willingham were denied a good penalty shout and soon after Briggsy was called on to make a great save. This was followed by Willingham hitting the bar when it would have been easier to score.

Over finally settled down and their first effort on target was an Andy Carman header. Willingham again went close when a shot from 15 yards effort was deflected around the post by Briggsy's left boot.

The first goal came midway through the first half when the Willingham no. 10 latched onto a defensive mix-up and volleyed home from the edge of the penalty box.

Less than a minute later and Over were level. A probing ball forward from right back Andy Buck fooled the Willingham defence and Andy Carman nipped smartly in to reach the ball ahead of the goalie and lift it over him into an empty net.

Shortly after Over went close when a Steve Rawlinson 30-yarder scorched just past the right hand post.

Just before half-time the Willingham scorer missed the chance to get his second when, clean through, he hoofed the ball over the bar.

Half-time 1-1.

The second half opened with Tony Tagg rifling home from 20 yards with an unstoppable left footer to put Over 2-1 up.

Mark Pleasants then went close for Willingham before a mysterious penalty was awarded to Willingham which was slotted home to bring the scores level again.

Following a strong but fair challenge on the left wing, Steve Rawlinson was forced to limp off with a knee injury and Over spent the next ten minutes playing with just ten men. However we held firm until Dave Carman sprang to the rescue and filled in for the rest of the game.

The Willingham winner came as the result of a through ball which the striker latched on to when he looked suspiciously offside. Over pressed hard for the final ten minutes and were unlucky not to equalise.

Team: Briggs; Baker (Milne), Smart, Little, Buck; Rawlinson, Tagg, Chapman, Reed; A. Carman, Jarvis; Cook, Haynes, D. Carman

Sunday February 13th

Over Rec.

Over Vets2 Cambridge Vets.....1
Clarke, A Carman George

Bill Handley reports:

This reporter missed the first quarter of an hour, wracked as he was with a hangover of biblical proportions, having



made the mistake of spending the evening before in the company of Bill Wilson and Garry 'it's only a small bottle of brandy' Swain. I initially put it down to the hangover, that the Over players seemed strangely unfamiliar but when I was finally able to get both eyes pointing in the same direction and focused, it became clear that the team contained three new boys and only five players who had played at Histon last October. It's a good job Smarty's got mates.

Team boss Andy Smart explained that things seemed to be going well when Geoff Rule turned up 20 minutes early. Geoff later spoiled it by admitting that he thought kick-off was 10 o'clock rather than 10.30. Going one better, captain Mike Little later admitted that he also had expected an earlier kick-off and had arrived at 9 a.m., thus spending a full 90 minutes' warming up. This led to some disillusionment because it had been assumed that the reason he looked so knackered before the game started was because he was still recovering from playing 90 minutes of senior football the previous weekend with Over Sports 2nd XI (Stanley Matthews retired at 53 Mike, so you have a little way to go yet).

Peter Dean turned up looking like Wurzel Gummidge (Andy tells me). He sported odds socks, football boots with toe-caps and leather studs and there was the unmistakable smell of mothballs in the air. He even admitted to being a Brentford fan, his team having squeezed through to the next round of the FA Cup the previous day and he was confident enough to wear an obviously much loved but well past its best Brentford FC hat.

The game under way, Over had to weather early Cambridge pressure – the relief broken by an early 'sighter' from Andy Carman – a shot at goal that

actually went for a throw-in (Smarty again tells me). After 17 minutes, Trevor George forced a fine save from Steve Swann in the Over goal. Minutes later and perhaps slightly against the run of play came Over's first goal, a fine strike by Paul Clarke after he latched onto a great through-pass from Dave Carman.

On the half-hour mark, Dave Carman decided on an acrobatic overhead goal attempt, in which he seemed to hang in the air for what seemed like minutes. A slow motion replay done in real time. His efforts did not result in a goal but he got full marks for artistic expression.

Five minutes later Dave C had a proper shot saved well by Jamie Gribble in the Cambridge goal and Nobby Clarke fired over the bar.

Over's second goal came soon after the start of the second half and followed persistent Over



pressure with Andy Carman following up at point-blank range after an unusual goalkeeping error. Whether it was over the line before Mr C got to it is open to debate but just try taking the goal away from him.

It was not all Over and Cambridge were always capable of good counter-attacking play with Gordon Reid coming close to scoring following a good through ball from Trevor George. George had a relatively quiet game, the Cambridge team manager 'doing a Sven' and playing him seemingly out of position in midfield but Trevor did manage to get the only Cambridge goal 10 minutes from time with a finely struck shot that curled around Steve Swann.

New player Angus Clow soon got into the spirit of veterans' football. Having run the line in the first half he played the second and despite his best efforts to avoid it the ball seemed to be attracted to him. Although he dealt very well with the situations he found himself in, he spent the last 15 minutes of play continually asking the ref 'how long to go, ref?'

Over: Swann, Blanchflower, Little (c), Baker, Reed, Rule, Parker, D Carman, A Carman, Hodson, Clarke, Clow, Dean.

Ref: Simon Jarvis

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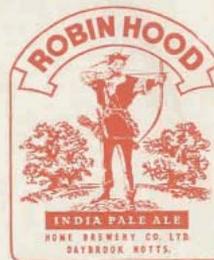
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Result of last month's competition: congratulations to Bill Handley who correctly identified the boot shown above from a Forest-United programme of 1966 as being one of the pair recently worn by Peter Dean v. Cambridge Vets.

MATCH REPORTS continued

Sunday April 17th
Chesham.
Chesham Thursday1 Over Vets.....6
Carman, Tagg

Bill Wilson was there!
Crowd: Over Vet seniors, injured Vets' players, families of Chesham players and members of two pub teams playing on an adjacent pitch when their ball was out of play. Weather sunny. Pitch bumpy with long grass on the far side (has anyone seen Clarkey?). Referee: Colin Thomas. The Vets also had a team photographer (Laura) whose boyfriend was playing on the other pitch but said she had more fun sitting with her 'uncles' on the Vets' bench.

There was much controversy before the match started. Due to the need to stop for Blanco & Loz at a cash machine in Hemel Hempstead, we arrived too late at the venue to have first choice of pitch where the Kings Arms chose the more level of the two pitches. It didn't help their cause much and they lost their game 6-0. The

pitch we played on was not just on a hillside but was also wider at the bottom of the slope. This obviously suited Loz who likes to play the long ball into the corners as this time he had a chance of keeping it in play. Coach Bainbridge had to reconsider his game plan and informed the press in the pre-match briefing that he would be playing "horses for courses" as usual. To show solidarity with referees, against Chelsea's allegations of favouritism shown by officials, Colin Thomas took his place in the Vets' team photograph alongside the Chairman.

As the teams ran(?) on to the pitch, Taggy's smoker's cough brought a complaint from the local branch of the Noise Abatement Society and Mike Little showed off his new white boots as the spectators sang "these boots are made for walking" as we knew they couldn't possibly be made for running. Boothy was seen disappearing behind a hedge before kick-off (we thought to empty his bladder) but we now have doubts in the light of subsequent events. Bill H volunteered for lino duties but borrowed Safe Hands's

cap. It must have fallen over his eyes judging by the number of crucial off side decisions he missed.

The Vets were finding it an uphill struggle in the first half but Andy "my ankle is still not right" Carman looked lively in attack, putting through the forwards who were unfortunately goal shy. However, after 10 minutes Albert got on the end of our first set-piece to open the scoring. Steve Rawlinson added another while skipper Mike Little and Boothy argued on the halfway line about who should be shouting louder. Shortly afterwards, an immediate counter-attack saw Eddie pull one back for Chesham. Boothy took control of the back four and shouted "Sean - come inside me" which saw Sean disappear up the right wing at a pace never seen before. Andy "I need more strapping" Carman decided to pursue a hat-trick and scored shortly before halftime after good battling work by Steve Rawlinson. Andy then had three goal attempts in quick succession: an overhead kick which landed on the adjacent pitch, a solo dribble which ended

with him falling over the goalkeeper and an uphill strike from 30 yards that still sailed over the bar, all demonstrating the variety of his striking talent. The turning point in the game was a disallowed goal for Chesham which would have brought the score to 3-2, and with the prospect of Chesham having four subs to use in the second half could have seen the game turn in their favour. However, the Chairman was confident that the referee's reputation for not favouring the home side would see the Vets through.

During the half-time break, Boothy was seen vigorously refreshing his Vaseline application but he was clearly disappointed he wasn't pulled off before the start of the second half which saw John Day make his Vets' debut. Although playing downhill in the second half, the Vets continued to find it an uphill struggle. Boothy's cry of "Lets keep it tight at the back, lads" saw Brian Chapman make an immediate request to be subbed. Brian still managed to show he is just as influential off the pitch as on it when he yelled "Oh come on lads play it short not long". Clarkekey responded by giving the ball plenty of air with a forty yard contender for this year's " 'ave it" award which was latched on to by Andy 'offside' Carman to score his second against the run of play.

Andy Buck was forced into several fine saves to keep us in the game. The difference between him and Safe Hands is that when Bucko dives he somehow manages to keep his cap on. Andy "I'm doing it all on my own as usual" Carman scored his hat trick when Albert played him in with a neat pass via the post. This set up a finale with the Vets showing off their tricks – an attempted header by Sean that hit him on the back and a back-heel flick from Brian that confused him as well as anybody else. Sean "It was a cross but I'm not going to admit it" Baker tried to get on the score sheet but the referee, who was on top of his game, saw it coming and blew the whistle before the ball crossed the line. Just before time, Andy "I'm not sure how long I can keep going" Carman added another to make the final score Vets 2, Carman 4, Chesham 1. The referee was the Chairman's "Man of the match" and John Day was awarded "Cramp of the match". At the post-match press conference the last words went to Coach Bob "We won this one at a canter. I was pleased with John Day's debut but he needs less games to reach our fitness levels".

Over: Buck; Baker, Little, Parker, Boothroyd; Smith, Tagg, Rawlinson, Clarke, Chapman, Carman. Sub: Day.



Team photo v. Chesham, taken by Bill and Martin's 'niece': back row, l to r, Coach Bainbridge, Lineo Handley, Uncle Safe-Hands, Battling Steve Rawlinson, New Boy John Day, Bucko Buck, Dave 'Come Inside Me' Boothroyd, Albert 'Keep that Parker bloke away from me' Smith, Colin 'Incorruptible' Thomas, Uncle Bill Chairman, Spongebob Blanchflower. Front row, l to r, Loz 'Loz's ball' Parker, Brian 'short not long' Chapman, Mike 'new boots' Little, Young Clarkie, Sean 'it was a shot honest' Baker, Taggy Tagg, Hat-trick Carman.



Spot the Ball Competition. In this picture above, is the ball at position (a), (b), (c) or (d). Answers on a postcard to the usual address.

Below: Blanco proves he can pull with the best of 'em.



Corrections and Amendments

Our youthful Chairman would like Mrs Wilson to know that he was not responsible for the article in OG26 comparing women to football pitches. The fact that he supplied the article for publication and it carried his byline was entirely coincidental

The match report of the Chesham game in OG26 was in fact written by Bill Wilson not Bill Handley. Mr Handley was particularly keen for young Bill to be given the credit for this (something to with criticism of Andy Carman, apparently).