

## VIEW FROM THE PEW



This edition of the Old Git editorial is dedicated to the memory of the late Kevin Smith. Although Kevin was not a founder member of the Vets he did join shortly afterwards around 1998. He continued to be an active social member after injury to his back forced him to retire early.

As Kevin saw himself as a striker and I was a defender we often found ourselves on different sides on Thursday nights. It added a little spice to the competitive edge because he supported Chelsea and I followed QPR. He went as far as goading me by wearing the Chelsea shirt (I did not wear the cherished hoops because they made me look round and fat!). I remember we both turned up one evening in 1998 to watch a QPR v Chelsea match on Sky in the Admiral Vernon only to find that the match was called off due to fog. So we had a few pints instead. At the time Chelsea were a team on the up while QPR had started their descent into administration having run up considerable debts to remain in the top flight. However Kevin was lamenting the fact that the same fate could befall Chelsea particularly as Arsenal and Manchester United had embarked on buying expensive “pothunters and football mercenaries” (Kevin’s words not mine). No other team could compete. Youngsters in the country would lose out as professional opportunities would be limited and there would be the inevitable knock-on effect on a deteriorating England team. Kevin felt that both the teams might as well buy the trophies as money was more important than skill. Clearly Kevin was a man of principle. In one of our final conversations watching Chelsea on the big screen in the Centre, Kevin was extolling the virtues of Chelsea’s example to other teams with their spend to save investment policy. The recruitment of top players from all over the world would pay dividends by increasing the skill levels of the young English players learning their trade to the ongoing benefit of the England team which will now have a great chance of winning the next World Cup. Kevin was indeed a true football supporter. It is perhaps fitting that Kevin left us at a time when Chelsea were the Premiership champions.

Kevin, like his penalties, will be sadly missed.

## Race Night

We will be holding a fund-raising race night in the Centre bar on Friday October 14.

Details will follow in the next, fuller issue of OG, in early September.

## Calendar of Matches

The following matches have been organised by Safe Hands’s son:

- A 4th September vs. Newmarket @ Dullingham
- A 25th September vs. Cambridge Vets @ Histon Rec
- H 23rd October vs. Yaxley
- H 20th November vs. Cambourne (tbc)
- A 4th December vs. Birchanger @ Birchanger

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- H 8th January vs. Cambridge Vets
- A 12th February vs. Cambourne @ Cambourne (tbc)
- H 19th March vs. Birchanger
- H 30th April vs. Newmarket

Please make a note in your diary if you wish to play and let Andy Smart know if you are available. There is the possibility of hiring a coach for the away games.

### Community Centre Sports Day: Sunday August 28th

We have been invited to take part in a 5-a-side with the Senior team, the Crusaders and the Sunday Nomads. This will be on **grass**, so if any of you fancy pitting your silky skills against Over’s finest, please let Bill W or Sean know. The day is intended as a family occasion, so the football is just part of the afternoon’s activities.

Also in the morning Andy Carman is arranging an 11-a-side on grass against Over’s under 17s. Again, if you wish to play in this, please let Andy know – 07885 615079.

### 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.