

Like an Over Vet, Christmas comes just once a year!



## Chairman Bill decides it's time he went "down under"

At the tender age of 69 years, our intrepid chairman thought that it was about time he savoured a new life experience and made a firm decision to 'Go Down Under'. Much to his long suffering, caring and devoted wife's disappointment, Bill presented her with two tickets for a passage paid to Australia.

Many of us would not class this as a major journey, but when put into context, this was a very brave expedition for Bill to even consider undertaking – given that previous members of his family had travelled this route under direct court orders and often in chains,

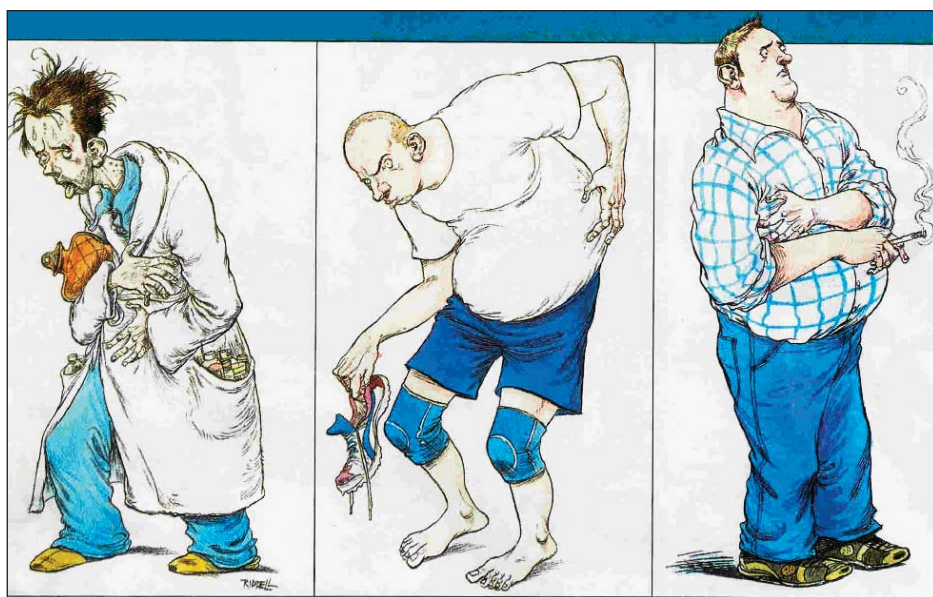
whilst they were transported to 'Van Diemen's Land'. But with great bravery (previously displayed in his playing days, when battling for the bar after the game) Bill boarded the winged giant in search of new adventures.

News and dispatches flooded home with tales of his bravery: letting his wife body-board whilst he watched the Australia v Uruguay world cup qualifier, or sending her off to the bar because the locals looked a little rough whilst he "looked after the seats", burping baby kangaroos and making notes of all the historic references to the Wilson name (must have been a lot of them deported).

Of all his adventures, one stood out above all others, that being his discovery of the close family ties with the local wildlife. Things must have been desperate in colonial times and true to form the Wilson clan made the best use of available resources. Perhaps this explains why Bill never appears to let things get him down and he just keeps bouncing back, full of life. Love to Joey and the gang.

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## Vets Footballers – a classic study



Bill Handley submitted the above, clearly under the impression that he may not be the only one matching one, if not all three, of the instantly-recognisable Veteran footballers shown.

### Touchy, touchy . . .

Dear Editor

Well done on the comp win women's mag feature, but have spotted an inaccuracy in another article which I feel needs to be addressed with at least an open apology (*you'll be lucky – Ed*). With reference to the names of the Vets' heroes who were winners of the 5-a-side round robin comp, there's one medal winner's name missing. I wonder if you can guess who that is?\* Also, he scored some important goals with "a pair of boots that know where the goal might be", bought with some cash left over from a competition win in a women's mag!!!

Oh, cheap shot about Everton, by the way, that hurt!!

Clarkey

*\* Answers on a postcard, please, to the usual address.*

**Boxing Day game v. Nomads on the AWS, 11pm kick-off, followed by food and drink in the Centre bar. If you wish to play or cheer on the team, just turn up around 10.30, Monday morning.**

## Belgium 2006

A couple of emails from Willy in Millen . . .

Hallo Over,

Hoi Bill Boys, Ridchard,

We'll we haven't heard from you lads since a long time... Hope everybody is ok over there in Over. It's a shame that you let George Best die..... He could be one of your team mates you know, ... you drink to much!!!

Here in Millen we started with the preparations for the 2006 event with will take place on 24/ 26 and 27 may 2006. On 25 may there is Bilzen-Bye-Night as you all will remember. We now wonder if there is any change that you're team (or a part of it) can make it for the 2006 event. So far we have 66 teams on our entrance list, but so far none from the UK. But I'm that this will come to.....

Included the invitation

Looking forward to hear from you again.....

Nice last Old Git issue.....

Willy

Hallo Bill,

Well, I just recieved a mail from Bill in Australia.....I guess some guys have all the luck (or all the money???)

The seven Dwarfs are still alive and kicking as I pasted by Hotel Jacquemin earlier this week. The first thing she started to talk about was indeed, ... the seven dwarfs. I passed by and I took an option on all the rooms there.

There is only place for 15 or 16 people.....

So places in hotel is already OK (If not for your team, then maybe for another team!) Can you and the Over Boys let me know something in the beginning of january....???

Weel, all my regards to everybody I know in Over, and of course in Cambridge too!!!!

See and hera you all soon!!

Willy

**So, in a nutshell, if you wish to join the '7 Dwarfs' at the next Millen Football Happening, let Sean know by the end of December.**

## MATCH REPORTS

### They think it's all Over – it is now! (at least for the really Old Gits)

23 October 2005. 11am kick off at the Recreation Ground in excellent weather conditions for football and a credit to global warming.

**Over Vets .....(1) 3 Hemingford United Vets .....(2) 4**  
*Smith, Adams, A. Carman*

Before the Vets had let in the customary early goal (*isn't that libellous – sensitive defender Ed*), Andy Buck was heard to shout "We are bigger and better than them!". No one was sure whether this was a comment on manhood, advertising the fact that Clarke wasn't playing, or whether he wanted to give Sean a lift to boost his confidence.

The inevitable goal was conceded in an early Hemingford attack when a cross was whipped in from the right wing only to settle in the corner of the Over net. The early exchanges were falling Hemingford's way and Andy Buck brought off some good saves against one of the better sides to grace our hallowed turf. In Over's defence it must be said that this was the youngest side that we have put out to date with a fair number in their thirties and with no 50 or 60 year olds. However, once the game settled down and Smarty was substituted by Loz, the Vets started taking the game to the opposition and it was only a matter of time before the equaliser came. As one of the senior citizens noted, a season ticket holder with the Over senior team, "we always start having to come from behind but after 45 minutes we usually find ourselves on top".

Andy Carman gave Hemingford a warning with a snap shot from distance but it was Dave Carman who crossed from the left for Albert to fire home with his shin – his trademark finish. With the strong sun in his face, keeper Buck asked for a cap with one minute left on the clock. Just after putting it on he made a top class reflex save only for the Hemingford forward to blast home the rebound. The Over defence looked to Swainy walking the line to save them but Gaz dismissed the appeals and pointed out that in his day the forward would never have got past him into the box.

In the second half, the Vets dominated the early play with the Hemingford keeper making some excellent saves and a defender

bravely heading a fierce volley off the line. However it was against the run of play when Hemingford smashed home a very good cross. Even the Old Guard would not have kept that one out!

Over chased the game and forced the visiting keeper into more good saves before a Smart tactical change moved Crunch into an attacking midfield role. Crunch capped a fine debut by flicking home an Andy Carman cross. Crunch's eagerness to make his debut was demonstrated by his keenness to play on the very day his wife was expecting to give birth! Over went in search of an equaliser but Hemingford caught them again on the break to restore their two goal advantage. Over immediately responded with a goal from Andy Carman when he steered home a cross from Dave Carman. The final whistle came too soon for Over but the spectators recognised the beginning of a new playing era for the Vets as we headed for a pint.

*Team: Buck, Baker, Milne, Adams, Reed, Rawlinson, M. Dean, Smart, Smith, D. Carman, A. Carman. Sub: Parker*

Referee: Adam Stevenson – 10/10 (eat your heart out Colin "Bung" Thomas).

Lino: Garry Swain – 1/10 (the flag was obviously too heavy to lift).

### Caption Competition



Spotted at Bill and Safe Hands's recent 100th birthday bash, a much-loved member of the club found it all just a little too exciting! Should provide a field day for captions, so over to you boys . . .

## MATCH REPORTS continued

### Dave Lill turns up (shock) and Taggy scores twice (even bigger shock)

Sunday 13th November 2005 (at Over Rec)

**Over Veterans .....7**  
*Tagg (2), Smith, D Carman, Kynoch, A Carman, Parker*

The village rumour mill had it that Dave Lill had decided to change his mind about the Vets: that he no longer thought of the Gits as complete pussies and had said he would turn out for them. The old hands of the club muttered that they'd heard it all before and asked whether he had said which particular Sunday he would turn up. They were soon eating their words, however, when Lilly not only turned up but did so only 20 minutes after kick-off AND with his jock-strap and boots. He had obviously heard that the Vets were the in-form team and worth checking out personally rather than sending his chief scout. Or maybe he was just feeling nostalgic, since some of the players from his illustrious and all-conquering Over Sports team of the late 90s had now seen sense and joined a proper football club. Andy Smart decided not to fine Lilly but resorted to making him wait until the second-half to make his cameo appearance.

The teams had barely limbered up before Taggy had latched onto a quality cross from Dave Carman to score after only 3 minutes. On the half hour mark, Albie Smith put the ball away after Cambourne failed to clear an in-swinging corner from Trigger Milne. A couple of minutes later Dave Carman made it three, a fine strike putting the ball clear of Nobster in the Cambourne goal. Only a couple of minutes passed before Paul Kynoch's radar began working long enough for him to slide the ball under the Nobster to make it four. The fifth came just before half-time when Taggy picked up a pass from Loz 'Melman' Parker.

At this point the Old Git reporter's Mrs phoned and he was commanded to fetch some eggs and so his notebook and pen were duly left with his YTS apprentice Steve 'Rawlplug' Rawlinson who had a recurrence of his dodgy leg and couldn't play.

In the second half, Over had a proper goalkeeper with Robin Barton replacing Andy Carman but not before one of Andy's energetic clearances had cleared the full length of the pitch

**Cambourne Veterans .....2**  
*Gedgood, Brittan*

drawing an astonished 'Buggerdoobah' from Crunch Adams. Dave Lill also joined the fray and announced his presence with his first shot at goal for thirty years which, unfortunately, beat Boothroyd's budget version of the Maginot Line to sail majestically over the hedge.

My apprentice reports that Angus Clew, another of Sven Smart's numerous half-time introductions had a remarkable game. After managing to nutmeg himself in the first few minutes, he began to get both feet pointing in the same direction and even garnered the unlikely description 'midfield dynamo' from the watching crowd. His increasing confidence culminated in a 40 yard shot that only narrowly missed the target, causing Crunch Adams to remark 'thank God that didn't go in'.

YTS boy also reports that there were two Over goals but his descriptions will not sell newspapers: a) Andy Carman scored, 71 minutes and b) Loz Parker scored, 75 minutes – lobs keeper from 20 yards. You just can't get the staff.

Cambourne's goals came from Kenny 'Soft-header' Gedgood and Jon Brittan who, according to his mates, was likely to claim it was a John Terry-like headed pile-driver when it actually came off his shoulder. If Kenny or Jon read this piece, remember it was your mates who put me up to say that!

So – another satisfying performance, played in a good spirit and Cambourne can console themselves with the fact that they faced one of the strongest teams Over could put out AND who were relatively hangover-free.

Bill 'Reuters' Handley with a little help from Steve 'cub reporter' Rawlinson

*Over: A Carman (goal 1st half, outfield 2nd half), Barton (goal second half), Chapman, Reed, Adams, Milne, Kynoch, Parker (c), D. Carman, Smith, Tagg, Dean, Clew, Lill.*

### Carman's flying boot

Sunday 4th December 2005  
(at Over Rec)

**Over Vets 3 – 0 Birchanger Vets**  
*Parker, A Carman (2)*

A cock-up by Over's fixtures secretary had meant that this game fell the morning after several parties at which Over players were featuring prominently: this included for some, a protracted session in Bar-Blanche, hosted by 'Moe Szyslak' Blanchflower (<http://www.thesimpsons.com/characters/home.htm>).

With the prospect of a full squad of hangovers climbing aboard a bus at some ungodly hour to drive to deepest Essex, the fixtures secretary was mightily relieved when Birchanger supremo Gavin Tookey took pity and agreed to a late kick-off at Over Rec. As it turned out, most of the Over players turned up reasonably compos mentis and in an unexpectedly sound physical condition that one might even go so far as to describe as average. This comment does not apply, however, to Bar-Blanche customers, whose glazed red eyes would, if seen in the head of a farm animal, cause a veterinary surgeon to draw the ultimate conclusion. This included Over's own version of Roy Keane – captain Loz – who took 45 minutes to warm-up and shake off the DTs.

Birchanger were the best opposition Over have faced for some time. It is hard, even for this seasoned hack, to take the piss too much out of what was a good performance from both teams. There was plenty of goal action with the pace of new-boy Jules Huggins causing trouble both for Birchanger and his own team-mates. The aerial threat of Crunch Adams didn't lead directly to a goal but added considerably to the pressure on Birchanger's defence. Andy Carman also threatened in the usual way, that is when he remembered it was a football match and not a 'welly-wanging' competition (those who were there were amazed to see how far his trusty right boot travelled). One wag in the crowd shouted that Andy is normally the one who has to duck.

*continued on next page*

The goals all came in the second half. The Birchanger goalkeeper, Kevin Robeson, had had a great game making a number of acrobatic saves: I noted 'fine save' no fewer than 9 times in my notes. It was ironic, then, that the first Over goal – a low shot from Loz Parker – squeezed under his body. In an ideal world, Loz would have said 'hard luck son, I can see the sun's in yer eyes' but we do not live in such a world, especially when Lozzer scores.

Robin Barton deserves a mention: running the line in the first-half he was greeted by spectator Dave Lill with the words 'what you doing with that bloody flag, you fat git (don't worry Robin, everyone knows the more he abuses you the more he likes you). In the second half Robin came on, making a number of telling runs and linking passes but to no avail. On two memorable occasions, he managed to get behind the defence only to find with his final pass the lone yellow shirt in a sea of white – on one occasion with the goal-keeper stranded on the left wing. Robin looks to be a good addition to Sven Smart's squad, although he cannot be fully accepted until he has an appropriately rude nickname.

The conditions were heavy and both teams tired as the game went on. Possibly because of the late kick-off, which meant that the game was still going on when punters arrived for their Sunday pint, the game had attracted a capacity crowd of around 15 people. These hardened cynics were mostly taking Birchanger's side and scornfully taking the piss out of a number of the Over players. Andy Carman seemed to

get added energy from this and scored twice towards the end of the game: the first a long-range shot that beat the keeper diving to the left-hand post and the second a lob that the keeper could do nothing about except help on its way.

At the risk of getting serious enough to warrant the Old Git editor reaching for his red pen, **too late – Ed.**

*Over: Andy 'Bucko' Buck, Mike 'Grumpy' Little, Neil 'Moe' Blanchflower, Steve 'Dodgyknee' Rawlinson, Andy 'Flying boot' Carman, Robin 'Nonicknameyetwatchthisspace' Barton, Dave 'Vag-art' Reed, Andy 'Crunch' Adams, Bob 'Trigger' Milne, 'Loz' Parker (c), Dave 'Hulk' Carman, Tony '3 sausages' Tagg, Mark 'Deano' Dean, Chas 'In the 'ole' Cook, Julian 'Newboy' Huggins.*

*Referee: Colin Thomas (good game, Tommo)*

**Heard in the bar after the match:**

*Spectator:* Did you book Dave Carman?

*Ref:* No . . . why?

*Spectator:* It's not too late.

## Upcoming Fixtures 2006

Date	Team	Ground	KO	Meet Centre @
H 2nd Jan	Willingham	Over Rec	10:30	10:00
H 8th Jan	Cambridge	Over Rec	10:30	10:00
A 12th Feb	Cambourne	Cambourne	10:30	09:30
H 5th March	Coventry	Over AWS 8 a-side	11:00	10:30
H 19th Mar	Birchanger	Over Rec	10:30	10:00
H 30th Apr	Newmarket	Over Rec	10:30	10:00

## Race Night a great success



Our Race Night on Friday November 18th was a great success and raised £349 for the club. On top of that, we also raised £502 for Children in Need. This was in part thanks to a gentleman called Kevin who regularly drinks in the Centre, who was persuaded to have his normally long, pony-tailed hair shaved off in front of everyone. He agreed to have it done on the condition that £200 was raised, so a collection was made on the night which did indeed garner £200. The rest of the CiN money came from the last race by way of all 8 horses being auctioned on the night, the bet money that was laid, with much of the winnings going unclaimed and £50 sponsorship of the race by local firm, BEAM.

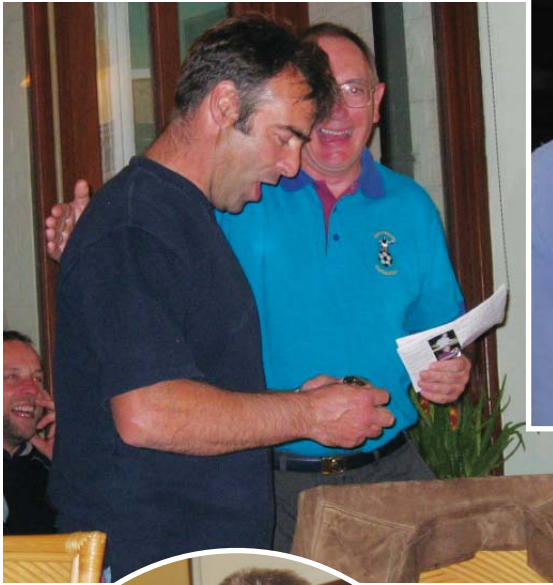
Thanks to Peter Smith for compering the evening, to the Centre management for allowing us to hold the event and to Andy Smart, Blanco, Slim and Loz for running the tote.

## SEPARATED AT BIRTH?



Photo on the left shows new boy Dave Reed in classic Vets pose of two pints in hand. On the right we see 'popular comedian' Al Murray 'Pub Landlord'. But have we ever seen the two together in the same room at the same time? OG's sniffer hounds are on the case.

# CARLTON-PALMER AWARDS NIGHT



*Steve is overjoyed to at last win the coveted 'Ave It Award.*

*Andy and Old Bill receive their awards, while (below) Blanco gratefully accepts some replenishment to Bar Blanche stocks.*



*Colin cheerfully accepts his annual bung, before a member of Her Majesty's Finest moves in to feel his collar.*



*Taggy with his Wayne Rooney ears (or is it Dave Reed who's got them on?)*



*Loz explains his 'margin for error principle' when going in for a tackle – "as long as I'm this close to the ball, I consider it a fair challenge?"*

*Muggsy and Dave Tassell can hardly contain their excitement as they wait for another award to be announced*



*John politely suggests to Andy that it would be nice to receive a pass from him sometimes.*



*"Alright, who's nicked all the trophies?" – Dicko and Bill Handley's dad try to look innocent.*

# AGM report

## The Centre, October 26th

*Present:* Bill Handley, Garry Swain, Andy Buck, Sean Baker, Neil Blanchflower, Andy Smart, Andy Carman, Bill Wilson, Martin Dollard, Bob Milne, Mark Marshall-Nichols, Andy Muggerridge, Chas Cook

*Apologies from:* Geoff Rule, Colin Thomas, John Bishop, Ken Kewley, John Day, Martin Kent, Steve Rawlinson.

1. Minutes of previous AGM agreed and accepted as true record.

### 2. Chairman's Address.

Considered 2005 to have been year of consolidation – club is in transition from the original members to several new 35-year-old members. Expressed thanks to the younger players who have begun representing us in 11-a-side. The social side is increasing as the older members retire from playing. We are now affiliated to the Cambs FA – the two main advantages are the insurance it gives us as members and also access to qualified referees. It will also be easier to arrange international games. He thanked Millen for coming to our tournament. Commented that the Carlton-Palmers are now our most popular social function. Thanked Sean Baker for the Old Git, commenting that it is becoming stronger and stronger. Our donation of £250 towards work on the senior pitch had paid off and he expressed appreciation of all the hard work that had been put into it.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Accounts for 2004-5 were accepted. Discussion on the fact the club loses money over the Summer months due to low attendance rates. Suggestion to invite the Sunday night Nomads to join

us from June to September. Also the suggestion was made that the Centre may offer lower hire rates in the Summer months. It was agreed that we should keep an attendance register at the Centre to help monitor individual attendance rates.

### 4. Secretary's Report.

Informed meeting that we need to check on the intentions of some individuals as to whether they now wish to stop playing Thursday nights and also on those on the waiting list, that they still wish to join.

### 5. Election of Committee

All existing members of committee were re-elected with the exception of Muggsy, who has stood down. Andy Smart will be chairman of Social Committee.

### 6. Tournament

Agreed that, as before, this will be on second Saturday in June [*we have since found out that England play Paraguay in the World Cup on June 10, so tournament will be June 3*]. Format as normal with 2 Over teams and 3 invited teams. Every subscribing member of the Club is eligible to play. The squads will be selected by Andy Smart and Andy Carman. Due to the low number of goals scored this year, we will look at

increasing the size of goals. It was agreed that next year, after a goal is scored, play will re-start with the goalkeeper rather than from the centre circle.

### 7. Tour

A discussion took place about a trip in 2006 and it being within the UK, rather than overseas. Andy Carman will look at organising a trip to the Liverpool area in April and will liaise with Bill Wilson.

### 8. Membership Numbers/Subscriptions

It was decided to leave the £10 annual subscription unchanged. A request was made to add Ray Coulson to the waiting list.

### 9. 10th Anniversary

2006 is the 10th anniversary of the Vets, so it was agreed that we would hold a party in the Centre hall to celebrate. The Social Committee to organise.

### 10. AOB

We need to buy a couple of high-quality match balls for 11-a-side. A suggestion was made that we approach OCA re. posts and netting behind the goals on the Rec.

Meeting closed.

## UK TOUR 2006

As well as the Belgium trip (see emails from Willy Hauben on page 2), Andy Carman is organising a trip to the Chester area next May. The proposed dates are Friday–Sunday 5th–7th May, staying two nights in a Post House Hotel and playing one game on the Saturday against a local Vets' team. We will travel up in cars on the Friday, the exact time of departure will be decided nearer the date.

A **non-returnable** deposit of £50 is required by the end of January, should you wish to go either as a player or non-player. Cheques payable to Over Veterans FC.

### We're not the only ones to worship the great C-P . . .

*Thanks to Muggsy for the following:*

"I have just found a golf club called the Carlton Club.

The Club was formed in 1995 during a trip to Woburn Golf and Country Club, but was not named until 1999. The club's name of Carlton came from the patron, Carlton Palmer. Over the years, members, when playing a bad shot, particularly without any 'touch', would say 'Carlton Palmer', thus, the Carlton Club.

They have a website <http://www.carlton-club.com/main.html> but there does not seem to have been any updates for a while."

## Those Carlton-Palmers in full . . .

'Ave It Award *S. Rawlinson*

Extension Award *N. Blanchflower*

Bowyer-Dyer Award for Services to Team Spirit *L. Parker*

Wayne Rooney Award for Colourful Use of the Queen's English *D. Reed*

Most Obvious Recipient of a Bribe Award *C. Thomas*

Father of the Year *M. Dollard*

Relief of Aches and Pain Award *D. Boothroyd*

Boomerang Award *J. Bishop*

Services to Youth Football *A. Carman*

Most Polished Header of a Football Award *A. Smart*

Hand of Friendship Award *Old Bill*