

Greater Manchester Walking Football League History 2021

With the Covid-19 pandemic destroying competitive walking football in 2020, the hopes of a return to normal activity in 2021 didn't look to be too optimistic when further restrictions and a third lockdown was announced by the Government on 4th January and commenced the following day.

A local league for Manchester based teams started on 15th April and finished on 8th July.

The GMWFL AGM due to be held in February was postponed until the lifting of all restrictions on 19th July. It was eventually held on 21st July at the Heywood Sports Village.

The Local Manchester League was completed on 8th July. Twenty four teams from ten different clubs entered this temporary competition. We had ten over 60s teams, ten over 65s teams and four over 70s teams. The 60s and 65s were grouped into two divisions of five teams. Quite a few clubs needed to play some players in both the 60s and 65s leagues.

60s League Cup Final
Manchester Corinthians Reds 2-4 Club Kingsmaid

65s League Cup Final
Manchester Corinthians Reds 3-1 Bury Relics

60s League Trophy Final
Roach Dynamos 1-6 Manchester Corinthians Whites

65s League Trophy Final
Maccabi Old Codgers 1-4 Manchester Senior Citizens

The full report is [HERE](#).

Alan Richards, the organiser and driving force behind Tameside Striders died while playing walking football on 17th August. Jim Seel of Bury Relics, Blackpool FC Senior Seaside's player Jim Morgan and Peter Rhodes of Uppermill FC also died since we last held a full league session in December 2019.



On 2nd September Keith Burrows, one of our referees, passed away.



Keith Burrows Third From Left

GMWFL Autumn Season 2021

After the frustrations of no full league football since the Autumn December session in 2019, it was good to see some old faces and friends we hadn't seen since the start of the pandemic. Almost two years of little activity saw us all a little older and also a few changes in the teams age categories.

The over 60s saw a reduction of teams from twenty to eighteen, while the 65s saw an increase from fourteen to sixteen, as expected, a natural progression. The over 70s remained the same with eight teams competing.

Paul Gardner was unavailable on 2nd September, so Steve Colesby gave the pre match briefing and Gary Pearce mentioned a rule change. A minutes silence followed for GMWFL players and officials we have lost since our last full league date in December 2019.

The September report is [HERE](#). The October report is [HERE](#). The November report is [HERE](#). The December report is [HERE](#).

The divisional winners and runners up were -

Autumn Season 2021

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Autumn League Division 1	Manchester Corinthians Reds	Wakefield Wanderers
Over 60s Autumn League Division 2	Club Kingsmaid	Fleetwood Town Flyers
Over 60s Autumn League Division 3	Preston North End Senior Whites	Rochdale Striders
Over 60s Autumn League Division 4	Carlisle SOA	Moston Brook FC
Over 65s Autumn League Division 1	Manchester Corinthians	Bury Relics
Over 65s Autumn League Division 2	Preston North End Senior Whites	Blackpool FC Senior Seaside
Over 65s Autumn League Division 3	Club Kingsmaid	Bolton Arena
Over 70s Autumn League Division 1	Rochdale AFC Strollers	Bury Relics
Over 70s Autumn League Division 2	Manchester Senior Citizens	Tameside Striders
Martin Dawson Trophy	Club Kingsmaid	Sheffield WFC
