

BURNLEY CLARETS

walking football club



GREATER MANCHESTER WALKING FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am



All fixtures played at **The Heywood Sports Village**, OL10 4TW

A word from **the Boss**

Our **Captains** speak

Bootroom **Burbling**

GMWFL

Our **Squads**

Get to **know**

Recent **results**

New **Kit**

Presentation Party

Our **opponents**

News from **The Leisure Box**

News from **The Park View**

Picture **Quiz**

Fixtures

Contact Us

Matchday Programme

designed by **Patrick Goodacre**.



Welcome to the latest edition of our digital matchday programme, which marks our first games in the *Greater Manchester Walking Football League (GMWFL)*. We have registered both an 'Over 60s' and an 'Over 65s' team for the GMWFL's spring season, which will take place between March and June. This programme contains an introduction to the GMWFL, together with all our regular features, news and reports. As always, we hope you enjoy the programme... and, of course, that you enjoy both playing and watching the football!



BURNLEY CLARETS

A word from the Boss

Since our last matchday programme we have re-organised ourselves into an Over 60s squad and an Over 65s squad to help us prepare for our participation in the new GMWFL spring 2022 season. The GMWFL was started in 2017 and has quickly developed into an outstanding league, with ever-increasing numbers of good teams and superb organisation. This year's spring season will take place between March and June, with all games being played at The Heywood Sports Village. It will be a great opportunity for us to test and develop ourselves further, and to make links with other WF clubs across the region. I'm sure we're all ready for the challenge, and best of luck to both teams!



Graham Hill (Manager, Over 60s squad)

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

A word from the Boss

BURNLEY

CLARETS

Our Captains speak

Hi lads

What a brilliant Trophy Awards evening it was on February 25th! Enjoyable, fun and well-attended. Congratulations to Pete Hey for his successes and thanks again to our management team, John, John and Graham. Their dedication and hard work enables us to enjoy such a brilliant sport with a great group of guys.

Our first friendly matches with Rochdale Striders and Strollers gave us an insight into the challenges ahead in our new league. The Under 65s had a successful game whereas the Over65s found it a bit of an eye opener! The stricter rules, tactics and faster surfaces have given us food for thought! Ideas for improvement - always welcome. Onwards and upwards guys.

On a slightly different note, March is Prostate Cancer month. If any of you guys haven't already been checked now's the time to do it.

Dave Stobbs (Captain, Over 65s Squad)

The Greater Manchester Walking Football League is a great league for us to be joining, and we're really looking forward to it. No doubt we'll have to quickly get used to the way the game is played in this league, as well as the style of refereeing and the characteristics of the pitches at Heywood that are used for the games. But I think it's very good for us to do this, and that it will lead to us playing better football as the season progresses. I've enjoyed watching us gradually improve our game over the past couple of years, and I'm sure we're ready to take this step. There'll be some difficult opponents and tough games for us to play, but.....bring it on!!

Michael Wild (Captain, Over 60s Squad)

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

Our Captains speak



WALKING FOOTBALL

BURNLEY CLARETS



Bootroom **Burling**

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

Well, another year, another league with another set of teams to pit our collective wits against.

The Curzon Fair Play League has sadly bitten the dust, defeated by the pandemic and the subsequent sad, sudden death of its founder Alan Richards. Then during 2021 the Home and Away League, founded by Bolton Arena and which gave our Clarets and Blues teams six games, with mixed success.

And now we look forward to the Greater Manchester Walking Football League, 52 teams competing in three age categories, a league which has gone from strength to strength since it was founded in 2017, and has got a tremendous name in the WF world for the quality of its teams, matched with quality of its organisation.

To this end the friendly matches we organised since the turn of the year have been against well-established GMWFL teams. Bury Relics brought two mixed age teams to the Leisure Box in January, playing against our newly-formed Over-60s and Over-65s squads. I thought both our teams were excellent on the day in the four matches played. What's more Bury were full of praise for our ability, our organisation of the day and the quality of the venue.

Early in February the Over-65s only played Club Kingsmaid, this time outside at the Leisure Box. They play in Division One of the GMWFL this season, and you could see why as they won 6-1 in a great pass-and-move display, with some ferocious finishing.

Next up was a trip to Heywood Sports Village, where we'll be playing all our league fixtures, for games against mixed Rochdale Strollers teams. The Over-65s found it tough going and lost both games, whereas the Over-60s showed they could prove to be a force with two wins.

We've come a long way from our formation, from nine to 10 players to play in the aborted Curzon FPL 2019-20 season, to now in 2022 when we are fielding two teams in what's known as the best league in walking football.

So let's see how it all turns out. We've had a lot of fun these last two-and-a-half years. Now it's time to enjoy our football in a different setting.... with hopefully something to show for our efforts when the Spring season ends in June.

John Walton (Manager, Over 65s Squad)

BURNLEY CLARETS



Introduction to the ... *Greater Manchester Walking Football League*

The GMWFL was started by Bill Murney and Paul Gardner in spring 2017, with 8 teams 2 divisions. It has become a very successful and highly-respected league, such that in 2021 it comprised 42 teams in 9 divisions and 3 age groups. The league is based at the excellent facility at the Heywood Sports Village. The following are brief extracts from archives written by Bill Murney on the GMWFL website.

“Walking football was first devised in the 1930s by Steve Bloomer of Derby County. It re-emerged in England in 2011 and Scotland in 2012. The sport was designated originally for the over 50s as a form of exercise and to get people back into physical activity and an aid to better mental health by way of the social benefits of meeting and conversing with others.

I decided to enquire if any teams in the Manchester area were interested in playing in an over 60's league format. The response was encouraging and the first to embrace the idea was Paul Gardner of Rochdale Link4Life.

We met up to thrash out the details of how we would start a mini league and approached the Manchester County FA for help in becoming affiliated to them. Unfortunately they never responded.

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

Introduction to the
**Greater Manchester
Walking Football League**

BURNLEY CLARETS



We then approached the Lancashire County FA and Andrew Whitaker, their Football Development Officer – Disability and Inclusion, was a tremendous help in getting us affiliated and authorised to run an FA Full Time website.

So we now had all the basics in place, plus the use of a brilliant venue at the Heywood Sports Village with its brand new 3G pitches and excellent facilities. The venue was run by Link4Life where Paul was the Programme Manager - Health & Wellbeing.

We launched the **Greater Manchester Walking Football League** in November 2016 to provide regular competitive football for the many over 60's walking footballers. The next step was to attract teams to the league, which we initially thought would possibly be around 4-6 in the local area. We proposed to start the league in February 2017.

We were delighted and surprised when we had 8 over 60s teams enrolled for the first league season session on Wednesday 1st February. This increased to 10 teams in March. The GMWFL were the first FA affiliated over 60s walking football league in the UK.

The original eight were, AFC Blackpool Senior Seaside, Chadderton FC WF, Fleetwood Town Flyers, Maccabi Old Codgers, Nash Amblers, Rochdale Striders, Rochdale AFC Strollers and my own team Vintage Celtic. So not only had we attracted 6 local teams, we had teams travelling from Blackpool and Fleetwood. All teams were permitted a squad of 10, 6 players and 4 substitutes.

With teams playing varying numbers of games in this inaugural season we decided that the only fair method of deciding league positions was a points per game average. My own team Vintage Celtic, part of the National League club, Stalybridge Celtic FC were declared winners with Nash Amblers runners up."

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

Introduction to the
**Greater Manchester
Walking Football League**

WALKING FOOTBALL



BURNLEY CLARETS

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

Combined Division Standings	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GD	Points	Average Points Per Games
Vintage Celtic	15	6	9	0	7	27	1.8
Nash Amblers	14	7	3	4	6	24	1.7
Rochdale AFC Strollers	15	6	5	4	5	23	1.5
Chadderton FC WF	15	4	8	3	1	20	1.3
Rochdale Striders	15	3	8	4	-1	17	1.1
Bolton Wanderers	11	3	7	1	0	16	1.4
Fleetwood Town Flyers	14	2	8	4	-2	14	1.0
AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders	15	1	9	5	-4	12	0.8
Maccabi Old Codgers	14	2	4	8	-11	10	0.7
AFC Blackpool Very Senior Seasiders	8	2	3	3	-1	9	1.1

Visit the website via the link below for further interesting information about the history of the GMWFL, and about its teams and structure.

<https://manchesterwalkingfootball.uk/>



Introduction to the
**Greater Manchester
Walking Football League**

BURNLEY

CLARETS

Our Squads
for the **GMWFL**

Over 60's

Over 65's

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March

11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March

11am

Our Squads

Goalkeepers

Brian **Barker**
Graham **Hill**

John **Finn**

Outfield Players

Neil **Ashworth**
Jim **Bowden**
Pete **Hey**
Steve **Long**
Graham **Lord**
Ron **Peden**
Neil **Rawcliffe**
Michael **Wild**

John **Goodacre**
Keith **Harvey**
Nigel **Holt**
Brian **Keith**
Garry **McGrail**
Derek **Sadler**
Dave **Stobbs Senior**
Dave **Stobbs Junior**
John **Walton**

WALKING FOOTBALL

BURNLEY

CLARETS

Get to know the players

In this section we focus on one of the squad to find out a bit more about them, in response to 5 probing questions posed by John Walton.

Today we get to know more about **Garry McGrail**

Q1 What was your first car?

A1 *Triumph Herald*

Q2 What's your specialty meal to cook?

A2 *Beans on toast*

Q3 Who is your favourite Burnley player ever, or the favourite from whatever team you support?

A3 *Colin Bell*

Q4 What's your big interest apart from football?

A4 *Sunbathing*

Q5 What's your favourite country visited, or favourite spot in the UK?

A5 *South Africa*

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March

11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March

11am

Get to know

WALKING FOOTBALL

BURNLEY CLARETS

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

Recent Match *Results*

Results of our friendly games so far in 2022:

Over-60s

Jan 20 v Bury Relics H 2-0 **win**

Jan 20 v Bury Relics H 0-1 **loss**

Feb 24 v Rochdale Striders A 2-0 **win**

Feb 24 v Rochdale Strollers A 3-1 **win**

Over-65s

Jan 20 v Bury Relics H 0-0 **draw**

Jan 20 v Bury Relics H 0-1 **loss**

Feb 3 v Club Kingsmaid H 1-6 **loss**

Feb 24 v Rochdale Strollers A 0-2 **loss**

Feb 24 v Rochdale Striders A 0-2 **loss**



Recent Match *Results*

BURNLEY CLARETS

New Kit for our Over 65's Team

Our Over 65s team will wear our famous blue shirts for the forthcoming GMWFL season. To celebrate our entry into the league, we have bought a new set of shorts and socks to go with the shirts. Here are some action photos of our new kit being modelled very stylishly by Garry McGrail, Dave Stobbs and John Walton during our recent game against Bury Relics at The Leisure Box.



Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

New kit for our Over-65s Team



BURNLEY CLARETS

The 2022 Trophy Presentation Party

Burnley FC's Trophy Room, Turf Moor,

Friday 25th February

The first-ever Burnley Clarets WFC Trophy Presentation Party was held at Burnley FC's Trophy Room, Turf Moor on Friday 25th February. This historic event was attended by over 60 people, including 6 special guests of the club: Sarah Kaler and Sally Dinsdale (from the Leisure Box), Jordan Pilling (from Burnley FC in the Community), Sam Wilcock, and Mike & Wendy (from The Park View pub), all of whom have been exceptionally helpful and supportive of us as we've established ourselves over the past couple of years. All our special guests received awards from the Club to recognise and celebrate their input.



The Club banner displayed in the Turf Moor Reception foyer to welcome the guests



The trophy table.

Thanks to the brilliant work of Lucy Moss and her team, and buoyed by Burnley's victory over Spurs at Turf Moor earlier in the week, we enjoyed an evening of joyous celebration in the Trophy Room. As guests arrived they watched an all-action "Celebration 2022" video about the Club whilst enjoying a pre-dinner drink and a chat. This was followed by us experiencing the culinary delights of the chef's excellent "1882 Hot Buffet". Our erudite hosts Graham Hill and John Walton then made short speeches, told some jokes and presented the trophies. This was followed by a couple of fund raising activities, and by a disco featuring music compiled and presented by our very own DJ "JW". However, the cumulative effects of playing two demanding games against Rochdale WFC the day before and consuming several pints of beer during the evening meant that there was more talking than dancing during the disco!

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

The full list of award recipients was:

Clarets...

Player of the Season:

Pete Hey

Top Goalscorer:

Pete Hey

Blues...

Player of the Season:

Ron Peden

Top Goalscorer:

Neil Ashworth

BURNLEY CLARETS

All players received a very stylish commemorative trophy and Alison Hey received a bottle of gin to say "thanks" for her kit laundry skills.

It was great for all the players to be able to celebrate with family, friends and supporters of the Club in this way. We're already looking forward to the next one!



Ron Topping's "Lifetime Achievement" award for playing football over 80 years old.

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March

11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March

11am

**The full list (continued)
of award recipients
was:**

Lifetime Achievement:
Ron Topping

**Special awards to
mark our thanks and
appreciation:**

Inaugural coaches:
*Sam Wilcock &
Jordan Pilling*

Referees:
*Les Newcombe &
Karl Greenwood*

Club Sponsors:
The Park View

Home Venue:
The Leisure Box

Club Designer:
Patrick Goodacre

BURNLEY CLARETS

Our Opponents in the GMWFL

Over 60s Div 4

Garstang
Moston Brook
Roach Dynamos

Over 65s Div 4

Man City in the Community
Manchester Corinthians Whites
Wakefield Wanderers

In each matchday programme we provide some background information about the history, achievements and activities of our opponents. Here we focus on Manchester Corinthians WFC and Wakefield Wanderers WFC.

Manchester Corinthians WFC was formed in February 2018. Our home venue is the Heywood Sports Village where we train on Wednesdays 09:30-11:00. We currently have 41 members and have five teams, two over 60s, two over 65s and one over 70s. We have been quite successful, winning seven trophies in 2018, including the over 65s National Tournament League, nine trophies in 2019 and five trophies in 2021.

Corinthians joined the Greater Manchester Walking Football League in Autumn 2018 with one over 60s team. The over 60s started in Division 3 and came runners up missing out on promotion by one point.

With more players joining, the squad improved and in the Spring 2019 season the over 60s won the division by a massive sixteen points, being unbeaten in sixteen fixtures.

The over 65s joined the league in Spring 2019 and won Division 3 by a ten point margin, having lost only one fixture in the sixteen played.

In the Autumn 2019 season the over 60s won their Division 2 and the over 65s also won their division 2 by sixteen point margin.

The Covid pandemic meant no full league programme in 2020 but the GMWFL did run a local league for teams not affected by the travel restrictions from April to July 2021. The over 60s won the Tournament Trophy and the over 65s won the Tournament Cup. Last year, 2021, both the over 60s and the over 65s won their respective Autumn season Divisions 1, meaning that they had both won promotion from Divisions 3 to Divisions 1 in successive seasons. The Corinthians over 70s team joined the GMWFL in the Spring 2022 season.

Bill Murney

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March

11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March

11am

Our Opponents

BURNLEY CLARETS



Wakefield Wanderers WFC

Walking Football started in Oct 2014 under a Wakefield Council health initiative to improve levels of activity. The council withdrew support in Dec 2015 so a number of regular attendees formed Wakefield Walking Football in Jan 2016. We play at an indoor facility Wakefield Football Centre and we have now grown to over 100 members with at least 30 attendees at each of our 3 midweek social sessions. We are a thriving club and now have strong teams at all age groups that play under the Wakefield Wanderers banner.

We won our first main competition in Autumn 2016 when we won the Martin Dawson Cup which we retained in 2017. We were invited to join the GMWF in Autumn 2017 and we immediately won Div3. We won Div2 in Spring 2018 and followed that up by winning the Div1 in Autumn 2018. Our great run of success continued when we retained the Div1 title in both Spring and Autumn 2019. We were runners up in Div1 in Autumn 2021 when it resumed after the Covid break so look forward to the new season to try and reclaim our title.

Our inaugural foray into the 65+ league last season saw us find it difficult to score and we had 14 scoreless draws - we hope to have found a striker to enable us to put up a better showing this coming season.

We look forward to the excellent games we have with all our opponents from the wrong side of the Pennines....!

Niall O'Donnell

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

Our Opponents



BURNLEY CLARETS

News from - The Leisure Box

The Leisure Box is Burnley and Pendle's new community leisure facility, based at the iconic Northlight site in Brierfield. Operated by Burnley FC in the Community, the former Brierfield cotton mill has been transformed into a state of the art, 133,000 square foot leisure facility. It is a place for everyone in communities living across East Lancashire to enjoy and benefit from. Inside the facilities include an indoor 4G pitch, sports hall, cricket lanes, a Clip 'n' Climb arena, state-of-the-art gym and a soft play area including a café. Outdoors is a 7-a-side 3G football pitch. We're delighted to host Burnley Clarets WFC's twice weekly training sessions, and their home games against other teams from across the region.

The Leisure Box team.

News from our sponsors - The Park View, Burnley

We're delighted to continue to be proud sponsors of Burnley Clarets Walking Football Club, and we send our best wishes to the Club for the forthcoming spring season in the GM WFL. We look forward to hearing about your results and performances as the season progresses. Remember to come with your friends and family to celebrate your successes here at Park View. For those of you who don't already know, we're a community-oriented pub, located just across the road from Turf Moor football ground. We serve great food and drink in a very relaxed and friendly setting. Anyone involved with Burnley Clarets WFC (including members of opposing teams!) is always very welcome here. Good luck, enjoy the games, and make sure you celebrate all the goals in style!

The Park View team.

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March

11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March

11am

News from the **Leisure Box**

For more information about the Leisure Box, please visit our website

www.theleisurebox.org

Or contact the centre on 01282333280

or

leisurebox@burnleyfc.com

News from **The Park View**

BURNLEY CLARETS

Picture Quiz

1. Yes/No Question: Was this photo taken in Lancashire?



2. *Caption Competition* What words best fit this picture?



3. Name this team, and identify the player who now stars for Burnley Clarets WFC.



Answers to the quiz will be given in our next programme.

Forthcoming fixtures...

Thursday 14th April
GM WFL Over 60s Div 4
(KO. 11am)

Thursday 28th April
GM WFL Over 65s Div 4
(KO. 11am)

Thank you for your interest in, and support for, Burnley Clarets Walking FC.

For further information, please contact
Graham Hill (07849 019 890)
or
John Walton (07912 936 412)

Burnley **Clarets** Over 60s... Div 4
Thursday 10th March
11am

Burnley **Clarets** Over 65s... Div 4
Thursday 24th March
11am

Answers to the previous quiz:

1. Spot the Ball

Under Neil's foot (No correct answers were received!)

2. Caption

"I didn't touch him, ref!!"

"That's got to be at least a yellow card!!"

"Another one for VAR?!"

**3.
Neil Ashworth**