

Greater Manchester Walking Football League History 2016/17

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 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.

Competitions were the natural progression and these grew steadily over the formative years. The biggest problem was the age categorisation with many players in their early 50s competing with players 10 to 15 years older. This of course wasn't a level playing field.

Generally the younger players are fitter, more energetic, have better balance, are less likely to have replacement hips and knees, don't suffer as many injuries and recover quicker when they are injured.

Seeing the need for age categorisation in walking football, 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.

I had met Paul on the field of play a few times in one day tournaments and knew he was also an organiser of competitions in the Rochdale area. We had recently met again in the September 2016 Martin Dawson Trophy, played at Heywood. We later 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 and sanctioned to them. Unfortunately they never responded.

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 sanctioned and authorised to run an FA Full Time website. Thanks Andrew.



Andrew Whitaker

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



Paul Gardner

Greater Manchester has the most walking football clubs in any area of the UK and the sport is the fastest growing activity for the older generation, so setting up a league in the area was a natural progression.

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 surprise 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 original eight were, AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders, Chadderton FC WF, Fleetwood Town Flyers, Maccabi Old Codgers, Nash Amblers, Rochdale AFC 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.

We started with 2 divisions of 4 teams in the February session and this increased to 10 teams in 2 divisions of 5 teams when AFC Blackpool Very Senior Seasiders and Bolton Wanderers Walkers joined us for the March session.

The GMWFL were the first FA affiliated over 60s walking football league in the UK. Also the first over 70s league.



The 8 Teams Line Up For The Inaugural Session 1st February 2017

With Paul and myself the only organisers and administrators of the league, we needed assistance and Paul's Link4Life colleague Barry Woodburn became responsible for team registration on tournament and league fixture dates. We felt it was essential that photographic proof of age was necessary to ensure that nobody under the age of 60 tried to participate in league sessions. One team did try to play under age players but obviously failed and left the facility.

In June 2017 we held our first over 65s cup tournament. We had 10 teams in total, six of our league teams, AFC Blackpool Senior Seaside, AFC Blackpool Very Senior Seaside, Chadderton FC WF, Rochdale Striders, Rochdale AFC Strollers and Vintage Celtic. The 4 other teams were Manchester Community WF, Tameside Striders, Wakefield Wanderers and Widnes.

Twelve teams from far and wide set out to contest the Martin Dawson Trophy in September 2017. As well as our 6 league teams we had teams from the West Midlands, Sheffield, Wakefield, and Huddersfield travelling to participate.

The over 60s Autumn league saw five new teams entering the league and one dropping out. AFC Blackpool Very Senior Seaside were the ones to drop out of the league and the five new teams joining us were Bolton Wanderers Walkers B, Bury Relics, Nash Bees, Roach Dynamos and Wakefield Wanderers.

With the original idea of a local league for Greater Manchester teams, it was obvious that with teams from the Fylde Coast, Wakefield and Bolton joining us for the inaugural Spring League, we had to accept that we were attracting teams from further afield.

From testimonials received, the standard of refereeing and organisation were the main attractions, together with the excellent venue and location near the motorway network.

In the final session of the Autumn league in December we were honoured by the presence of ARD German Television, who were filming a news clip 'The Growing Popularity Of Walking Football'. The video can be viewed [HERE](#). Unfortunately most of the commentary is in German.

Autumn Season 2016

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Martin Dawson Trophy	Wakefield Wanderers	Vintage Celtic

Spring Season 2017

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Vintage Celtic	Nash Amblers
Over 65s Cup	Rochdale AFC Strollers	Widnes WF

Autumn Season 2017

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Rochdale AFC Strollers	Nash Amblers
Over 60s Division 2	AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders	Fleetwood Town Flyers
Over 60s Division 3	Wakefield Wanderers	Bury Relics
Over 65s Cup	Rochdale AFC Strollers	Chadderton FC WF
Martin Dawson Trophy	Wakefield Wanderers	Blackburn Rovers WF

In November 2017 we held our second over 65s cup tournament. 8 teams in 2 groups of 4 contested this tournament.

Greater Manchester Walking Football League History 2018

The Greater Manchester Walking Football League in 2018 was to be even better than our inaugural year in 2017. We were pioneers, having formed the first FA affiliated over 60's League in the country in late 2016. We continued to lead the way with an Over 65's League and an Over 70's Cup Tournaments in 2018.

Our vision that age categorisation in walking football was long overdue came to fruition and proved that the demand was there for the older walking footballers. In 2017 the league grew from eight teams in two divisions to fifteen teams in three divisions. The Spring and Autumn 2018 leagues were played mainly in a friendly but competitive way with very few disciplinary problems, long may that continue.

The demand was there for an over 65s league, as two divisions of five teams proved. 2018 also saw us start two over 70's Cup Tournaments and it would be only a matter of time, possibly in

2019, before we started an over 70's league and further down the line an over 75s league.

The Greater Manchester Walking Football League has a long standing reputation for excellent refereeing and we were pleased to announce a new official to our ranks. Garry Pearce has been involved in junior football for over twenty five years. A dedicated football man, Garry also played in goals for Nash Amblers in the GMWF League in 2017 but a serious shoulder injury put paid to his further participation. Garry is a top class walking football referee who we are lucky to have onboard.

Can't wait to start the new season, Bill.

GMWFL is one of the best organised and well run groups in Walking Football. The additions to age groups and rules is more than welcome.

Steve Hyde (AFC Blackpool)



Les Turner on 3rd January 2018 at 4:09 pm said:

Not one of the best! THE best!

Yet another superb day of walking football organised by Bill and his colleagues. It doesn't come much better than this. Great set of like minded teams competing but in a very friendly atmosphere. Let's hope this continues and I'm sure Bill and the others will ensure that it does.

Keiran, Bury Relics

The first Manchester Walking Football League over 70s Cup Tournament was played at the Heywood Sports Village on 31st May 2018 and some very skilful ageing footballers were on show. With the younger generation showing less and less interest in traditional amateur league football, these guys cannot get enough of bringing back their youth in a sport they still love. Long may it and themselves last.



Nine teams took part in this cup tournament and some travelled a fair distance to compete. Our usual over 60's and 65's league members, AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders and Wakefield Wanderers were joined by Widnes WFC, Huddersfield Town and Birmingham WFC who made the long journey to Heywood.

Our excellent referees, Alan Graham, Garry Pearce and Mike Willmore made this tournament a success. One factor destined to make any tournament a failure is poor refereeing and I think most would agree we have some top class officials in the Greater Manchester Walking Football League.

The Martin Dawson Trophy 2018 saw a little chaos descend on the event. An incident on the M62 caused some of the travelling teams from Yorkshire and Lincolnshire to arrive late. A normal two hour journey for the Grimsby Corinthians team turned into a four hour journey, making them an hour late for the start of the competition.

The 13:00 kick off meant we were three teams and one referee short, not a great start to the day. However with a little juggling, the fixtures were eventually completed. After last years deluge, which brought the football to an early close, at least we got away with a few small showers.

Two groups of six teams were involved in the round robin format. Group A consisted of Blackburn Rovers WF, Bury Relics, Grimsby Corinthians, Manchester Corinthians, Rochdale AFC Strollers and Widnes WFC. In Group B were AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders, Chorley FC CT, Halifax WFC, Rochdale Striders, Sheffield WFC and the 2016 and 2017 winners Wakefield Wanderers.

Some excellent football was on show, with many strong teams competing. Blackburn Rovers WF won Group A with Grimsby Corinthians runners up. Winners of Group B were Chorley FC CT with Sheffield WFC runners up.

The Greater Manchester Walking Football League Autumn season 2018 had a few changes to announce. Shirt numbering would now be compulsory, to aid the referees when blue or red carding players after running or contact offences.

We had hoped to adjust our rules to be more inline with the FA's new rules for this Autumn season but they weren't published in time.

The second Manchester Walking Football League over 70s cup tournament was played at the Heywood Sports Village on Thursday 8th November. It was played with the usual Autumn mixture of rain and a cold wind to test the players involved.

Six teams took part in this tournament, AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders, Bury Relics, Preston North End Senior Whites, Rochdale AFC Strollers, Wakefield Wanderers, and Wigan Walkers.

A big thank you to you guys, I've played for both PNE Senior Whites and Fleetwood Town Flyers in over 60's League and PNE Senior Whites over 70's. I've said for a couple of years that age matters, when a guy in his early 50's is playing against someone in their late 60's or 70's, agility and fitness is a big factor with physical challenges.

I'm 72 this year and will continue to play as long as my body allows. This league is brilliant, long may it continue.

Kind Regards, John Wilson

Spring Season 2018

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Rochdale AFC Strollers	Nash Amblers
Over 60s Division 2	Wakefield Wanderers	Bolton Wanderers Walkers
Over 60s Division 3	Preston North End Senior Whites	Bury Relics
Over 65s Division 1	Rochdale AFC Strollers	Preston North End Senior Whites
Over 70s Cup	Rochdale Reds	Tameside Senior Striders

Autumn Season 2018

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Wakefield Wanderers	Rochdale AFC Strollers
Over 60s Division 2	Chorley FC Magpies	Fleetwood Town Flyers
Over 60s Division 3	Man City A	Manchester Corinthians A
Over 65s Division 1	Rochdale AFC Strollers	Bury Relics
Over 65s Division 2	Mancom	Man City
Over 70s Cup	AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders	Rochdale AFC Strollers
Martin Dawson Trophy	Sheffield WF	Grimsby Corinthians

Greater Manchester Walking Football League History 2019

The Greater Manchester Walking Football League was now in it's third year and again showing growth in all age categories. With the Spring season fast approaching, a few changes were announced. Steve Colesby was appointed as the GMWFL Treasurer and Fixtures Secretary and Garry Pearce as the Disciplinary & Referee's Appointments Officer.

The over 60's league now comprised four divisions. New Teams Chorley FC Yellows, Manchester Corinthians B, Man City B, Mancom, Preston North End Senior Whites and Rochdale Wanderers competed in Division 4. With the existing three divisions and the venue full to capacity, this fourth division was played on the same dates as the over 70's league, that is the third Thursday in the month.

The over 65's league also saw some growth with Chadderton FC WF, Maccabi Old Codgers, Manchester Corinthians, Rochdale Wanderers and Wakefield Wanderers joining us. This

meant a third division of this league.

The new over 70's league kicked off in March with seven teams, AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders, Bury Relics, Man City, Mancom, Preston North End Senior Whites, Rochdale AFC Strollers and Tameside Striders. **This was the first over 70s league in the country.** Next up will be an over 75's Cup Tournament, as the present teams move up the age category.

In common with most leagues and tournaments, we adopted the FA Laws Of The Game, which the National Governing Body for walking football announced in September last year. We were hoping to implement them in the 2018 Autumn league but unfortunately they were published too late.

We held a meeting to discuss the FA LOTG with our referees and a two hour discussion proved to be well worthwhile. The FA allow some Local Competition Rules, which we also added to their own laws.

There were some changes to our rules on running and contact, which although we are seeing less of, still needed to be eradicated completely. We remain a NON CONTACT league, which the vast majority of teams demand.

Team organisers, managers and players were reminded that upon signing the Team Entry Form they consent to any filming or images being used on social media or website articles promoting the league.

There were some complaints about the fixtures, with some teams unhappy with having to wait 40 minutes on occasion between games. Also the fact that they were playing other teams in the same order as previous sessions. The fixtures meant that no team played more than two games in succession, giving everyone a break.

The amount of work that goes into running the 60's, 65's and 70's leagues is obviously not appreciated by some. Our fixtures secretary Steve Colesby does a very difficult job juggling all the teams into the time slots and pitches available and ultimately some are not happy with their playing schedule.



Steve Slater on 23rd March 2019 at 7:36 pm said:

Great job guys, these critics should stand up if they want to do it, but I am not holding my breath. Walking football has given me a major boost since I retired, the time you lads give to facilitate blokes like me is really valued by so many of us, don't let a few put you off. Thanks.



Richard Wilkinson on 23rd March 2019 at 1:20 pm said:

Hear hear Bill. Organisers do a great job. Obviously the complainant has never tried to run an event of the magnitude that this entails. You are victims of your own success and the proof of this is the growth. People have enjoyed it so much that the word has spread.



Iain Ellis on 9th March 2019 at 5:40 pm said:

You are all doing a great job keep it up.

We received another complaint after the April session -

"The main problem at Heywood at the moment is the lack of goals, which you need to address soon because every team is moaning about the children size goals. I know the cost to acquire larger adult size nets and at the moment will be out of the question, my solution (which will cost nothing) is to amend the rule concerning the goal area, which are way to big, and to allow all players to enter and to score goals and any fouls in the area is a penalty kick."

My response –

"Nobody else to my knowledge has complained about the goal size at Heywood. We have no control over the facilities whatsoever, so the goals will remain as they are.

Also there is no way players will be allowed in the 'D' area. This is for the keepers safety. We recently played in a tournament in Spain where players were allowed in the 'D' and it was a complete shambles and 2 keepers were injured because of it. We play to the FA rules and this includes no entry into the 'D'."



Alan Thompson on 9th April 2019 at 3:00 pm said:

We have some very good keepers in this league, in every team, credit where credit is due please, this is a big contribution to the lack of goals. From a member of the goalkeepers union 😊



Steve Hyde on 5th April 2019 at 3:24 pm said:

No complaints from Blackpool except that Wai lost the toss 4 times and we had to play against an icy wind. I had headache by the end! The only way to reduce the areas is to have cones, which will then kick away out of place and make judging in and out the D almost impossible.

If teams have problems they need to find another League. They won't find one better run and better played. Get on with it. Cheers Bill, Paul and Barry.

With the over 65's now having three divisions of five teams, it is a full calendar at the Heywood Sports Village.



Alan Richards on 13th April 2019 at 9:16 pm said:

Pleased the way participants seem to be responding to the firmer approach to physicality. There is a better atmosphere building in my opinion. On the whole your exceptions to F.A. law make good sense (to me anyway).

Running goes on but that's part and parcel of walking football – at least it can be punished in a way ALL team players will disapprove of. Hopefully resulting in a policing of the quicker element – we all have runners in the camp.

Recently organising a much smaller, somewhat different type of league myself, I'm realising it's not always easy. You never know what's going to happen next, and organising this one must be an onerous task. Hats off to all involved.

Our referees continue to do a fabulous job. It's no exaggeration to say that we have probably got the best single group of referees in the country. Not many would contest that statement. We increased our group of referees to ten during 2019.

The lady players seem to be increasing at Heywood. Apart from Michelle Walker (Wakefield Wanderers), we now have Mandy Sellars (Maccabi Old Codgers), Gail Redston and Leslie

Wright (Man City), Jo Harwood and Michaela Barlow (Preston North End Senior Whites) and Joy Mason (Kingsmaid). I watched and also played against Michelle and Mandy and they are both excellent walking footballers.



Jo Harwood on 23rd August 2019 at 7:52 pm said:

Love this league, it allows us women over 50 (or in my case 65) 🙄 to play when we thought we would never be able to again, on a level playing field too.



Kevin Williams on 15th June 2019 at 8:04 am said:

A great league, well organised, a pleasure to play in no matter where we finished!

Well done to everyone who won something, and even those who didn't, and thanks to the referees and organisers, roll on September.



Alan Richards on 17th June 2019 at 6:31 pm said:

We came again, we saw again, we competed again but not too much conquering went on. We were one of those teams who won nothing but that doesn't matter. At over 65 we are happy to be able to attend and field a team. As a group we also have the Over 70's represented soon.

Cast your mind back a decade or two and this would have been pretty much unthinkable. So, well done to the players, especially those who don't take failure too much to heart, because everyone in this league is a winner. Still donning football kit, still kicking a ball about in a format that means something. Who would have thought it? Well done to the organisers.

If you were told in your 20s that you would still be playing football in your 70's, you would have thought the person saying it was deranged. Life is strange and this sport has made a hell of a difference to the older generation's lifestyle and long may it continue. Walking football must have saved the NHS millions. Next up, the over 75's league!

The Martin Dawson Trophy 2019 saw ten teams compete in two groups of five. Five teams from the Greater Manchester Walking Football League and five guest teams made up the ten.

GMWFL Win Award

The GMWFL won the Rochdale Borough Sports & Culture Initiative Award 2019. As regional winners we were entered into the Greater Manchester Initiative Of The Year Awards category, contested by the ten boroughs on 15th November.

The awards ceremony was held at The Point, Emirates Old Trafford Cricket Ground and was attended by over 500 people. Unfortunately we didn't win the award but it was a great night nonetheless. Good food, great company and the odd shandy.

Normally, the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester hold their own awards and the winners are invited to the Greater Manchester event where the Greater Manchester champions are crowned.

The 19th annual Greater Manchester Sports Awards returned to Emirates Old Trafford on 15th November, shining a spotlight on the role sport and physical activity play in changing lives. Over 500 guests came together to celebrate the outstanding talent, hard work and passion of those who go the extra mile to deliver community grassroots sport across the city region.

Recognised for their outstanding contributions over the last 12 months, ten winners enjoyed a fantastic evening bursting with inspirational stories whilst enjoying a drinks reception, a 3 course meal, the awards and entertainment.



Walking Football Leagues Alliance

The WFLA was formed to develop, support and unify walking football leagues across the UK. Click [HERE](#) for the WFLA website.

Lancashire FA Film At The Heywood Sports Village

Ian Mackie, of the Lancashire FA attended and interviewed players and officials at a Greater Manchester Walking Football League Autumn session. View the video [HERE](#).

Spring Season 2019

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Wakefield Wanderers	Rochdale AFC Strollers
Over 60s Division 2	Bury Relics	Bolton Wanderers Walkers
Over 60s Division 3	Manchester Corinthians A	Northgate Strollers
Over 60s Division 4	Preston North End Senior Whites	Manchester Corinthians B
Over 65s Division 1	Bury Relics	Rochdale AFC Strollers
Over 65s Division 2	Man City	AFC Blackpool Senior Seasideers
Over 65s Division 3	Manchester Corinthians	Chadderton FC
Over 70s Division 1	Preston North End Senior Whites	Rochdale AFC Strollers

Autumn Season 2019

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Wakefield Wanderers	Bury Relics
Over 60s Division 2	Manchester Corinthians Reds	Fleetwood Town Flyers
Over 60s Division 3	Manchester Corinthians Whites	Maccabi Old Codgers
Over 60s Division 4	Salcom	Northgate Rovers
Over 65s Division 1	Bury Relics	Man City
Over 65s Division 2	Manchester Corinthians	Preston North End Senior Whites
Over 65s Division 3	Fleetwood Town Flyers	Moston Brook FC
Over 70s Division 1	Rochdale AFC Strollers	Preston North End Senior Whites
Over 70s Division 2	AFC Blackpool Senior Seasideers	Man City
Martin Dawson Trophy	Sheffield WFC	Manchester Corinthians

Greater Manchester Walking Football League History 2020

There was no football in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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.

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.

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

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.

At the start of the Autumn league in September, after the briefing, a minutes silence followed for GMWFL players and officials we lost since our last full league date in December 2019.



Richard Wilkinson on 25th June 2019 at 9:21 pm said:

Fantastically well run league which is going from strength to strength. It's main asset is the quality of the referees who are strict on physical contact and running. I'm not just saying this because we at Preston had a successful season. I personally was pulled up repeatedly for running, as my enthusiasm got the better of me!

The pitches are superb and the organisation behind the scenes is second to none. I would thoroughly recommend this league and say to any team wavering, come on down, you won't regret it.



Ken Philbin on 25th October 2019 at 1:55 pm said:

It's great to be back playing in the best organised league. I had a double bypass heart op at the end of March this year, and was itching to get back.

The camaraderie, jokes etc all go to make a great day out. (it helps being top of our league). I have been playing for Blackpool SS for over four years now, and having played at numerous venues, love the Heywood set up, but we could do with a few more 70s teams.

Keep up the great work lads, Ken P.



Steve Colesby on 23rd March 2019 at 2:41 pm said:

Another important day in the time-line of the GMWFL. The first, we think, over 70's league. There have been a handful of Cup competitions, but this is a trophy won over 84 games involving seven teams. Great stuff Bill and Paul.

Autumn Season 2021

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

Greater Manchester Walking Football League History 2022

New teams entering the league in the Spring season 2022 were Burnley Clarets, Bury Relics Blues, Garstang WFC, Ribble Valley WFC and Wakefield Wanderers Whites in the over 60s league. Rochdale Wanderers withdrew from the over 60s league.

In the over 65s league new teams were Burnley Clarets, Manchester Corinthians Whites and Man City In The Community. Manchester Corinthians and Tameside Striders Stripes entered new teams in the over 70s age category.

This meant a review of the fixture dates with the over 60s Divisions 1 & 2 still playing on the first Thursday of the month. Divisions 3 & 4 still playing on the second Thursday and Divisions 1 & 2 of the over 65s still playing on the third Thursday.

The over 65s Divisions 3 & 4 will play on the fourth Thursday and the over 70s will play their Division 1 fixtures on the first Wednesday of the month and Division 2 on the second Wednesday.

In the Spring season the over 60s saw an increase of teams from eighteen to twenty three, while the 65s saw an increase from sixteen to nineteen. The over 70s also increased numbers from eight teams to ten teams now competing.

In the Autumn season the over 60s saw an increase of teams from twenty three to twenty four, while the 65s remained at sixteen. The over 70s increased numbers from ten teams competing to twelve teams. 52 teams now competed in the Greater Manchester Walking Football League.

Spring Season 2022

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Club Kingsmaid	Manchester Corinthians Reds
Over 60s Division 2	Fleetwood Town Flyers	Preston North End Senior Whites
Over 60s Division 3	Carlisle SOA	Purple Panthers WFC
Over 60s Division 4	Garstang WFC	Burnley Clarets
Over 60s Division 5	Winstanley Walkers	Wakefield Wanderers Whites
Over 65s Division 1	Manchester Corinthians Reds	Bury Relics
Over 65s Division 2	Club Kingsmaid	Blackpool FC Senior Seaside & Salcom
Over 65s Division 3	Bolton Arena	Rochdale Wanderers
Over 65s Division 4	Wakefield Wanderers	Manchester Corinthians Whites
Over 70s Division 1	Bury Relics	Rochdale AFC Strollers
Over 70s Division 2	Tameside Striders Blues	Manchester Corinthians
Over 74s Cup Tournament	Rochdale WFC	Preston North End Senior Whites

Autumn Season 2022

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Wakefield Wanderers	Club Kingsmaid
Over 60s Division 2	Bury Relics Whites	Bolton Wanderers Blues
Over 60s Division 3	Manchester Corinthians Whites	Purple Panthers
Over 60s Division 4	Burnley Clarets	Winstanley Walkers
Over 60s Division 5	Bolton Wanderers Whites	Ribble Valley WFC
Over 65s Division 1	Club Kingsmaid	Bury Relics
Over 65s Division 2	Bolton Arena	Blackpool FC SS
Over 65s Division 3	Wakefield Wanderers	Rochdale Wanderers
Over 70s Division 1	Bury Relics	Rochdale AFC Strollers
Over 70s Division 2	Manchester Corinthians	Preston North End Senior Whites
Over 70s Division 3	Bolton Arena Cardinals	Tameside Striders Stripes
Martin Dawson Trophy	Club Kingsmaid	Carlisle SOA

Greater Manchester Walking Football League History 2023

In the Spring of 2023 Kevin Williams joined the GMWFL Management Committee. Kevin brings a wealth of experience in the organisation and running of all club matters. He also took over the writing of the league session reports, saving me considerable time.

In the Spring season the over 60s teams remained at twenty three, while the 65s had increased to seventeen teams. The over 70s also increased numbers from twelve teams to fourteen teams. Fifty four teams in total.

In the Autumn season the over 60s saw a reduction to twenty two teams, while the 65s increased to eighteen teams. The over 70s remained at fourteen teams. The total teams remained at fifty four.

Matt Howells, one of our excellent referees, took over player registration in the Spring league from the now retired Barry Woodburn.

Spring Season 2023

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Club Kingsmaid	Wakefield Wanderers
Over 60s Division 2	Fleetwood Town Flyers	Bolton Wanderers Blues
Over 60s Division 3	Purple Panthers	Preston North End Senior Whites
Over 60s Division 4	Bolton Wanderers Whites	Winstanley Walkers
Over 60s Division 5	Roach Dynamos	Ribble Valley
Over 65s Division 1	Club Kingsmaid	Bury Relics
Over 65s Division 2	Blackpool FC Senior Seasiders	Wakefield Wanderers
Over 65s Division 3	Purple Panthers	Manchester Citizens
Over 65s Division 4	Moston Brook FC	Rochdale AFC Striders
Over 70s Division 1	Blackpool FC Senior Seasiders	Manchester Corinthians
Over 70s Division 2	Manchester Citizens	Preston North End Senior Whites
Over 70s Division 3	Rochdale AFC Striders	Burnley Clarets
Over 75s Cup Tournament	Blackpool Senior Seasiders Rochdale AFC Strollers Joint Winners	

Autumn Season 2023

Competition	Winners	Runners Up
Over 60s Division 1	Kingsmaid	Fleetwood Town Flyers
Over 60s Division 2	Bolton Wanderers Blues	Blackpool Senior Seaside
Over 60s Division 3	Preston North End Senior Whites	Burnley Clarets
Over 60s Division 4	Winstanley Walkers	Moston Brook FC
Over 60s Division 5	Ribble Valley	Bury Relics Blues
Over 65s Division 1	Bolton Arena	Manchester Corinthians
Over 65s Division 2	Wakefield Wanderers	Manchester Citizens
Over 65s Division 3	Moston Brook FC	Rochdale AFC Striders
Over 65s Division 4	Winstanley Walkers	Wakefield Strollers
Over 70s Division 1	Manchester Corinthians	Bury Relics
Over 70s Division 2	Tameside Striders Blues	Salcom
Over 70s Division 3	Burnley Clarets	Tameside Striders Greens
Martin Dawson Trophy	Kingsmaid	Blackburn Rovers

All results and tables from when the league commenced in 2017 can be found on the GMWFL FA Full Time website [HERE](#).

To Be Continued.