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Community
Support Action Resource Volunteer

JUNE 2016 • Issue No. 28 SOCIAL INCLUSION FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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TWEETS 1,439 FOLLOWING 885 FOLLOWERS 528 LIKES 578

Following

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Trends - change

Mike Ashley

10:02 Tweets



SIFL Rd 4 - 29 APRIL

By Geoff Wilkinson (Team Player-Manager of Men Dive In FC)

Match Day indeed - very nearly May and I was greeted by 6 inches of snow and a flat battery on the car. I live in Lancashire's Highest Village so maybe not that surprising - if it was January - but after the weather a couple of weeks ago, I thought my pre-summer tan was coming on a treat. Woolly socks and duffle coats are back out of storage. The Flat Battery was Mrs Men Dive In leaving the lights on the night before. Such is life.

We were missing a few today. Ryno was in hospital in Burnley. Coach Hecky was in too but that was because he was with his Significant Other at physio. She knackered her ACL against Burnley on Wednesday. I was at the game and it looked bad. I was told it sounded bad too - a double crack. She was hoping to turn out for us today but she is going to be out for at least 3 months. Best Wishes Lucy. We were also missing Rhino Wynn with a bad ankle and Prockie was missing due to illness - playing for us turns out to be bad luck. Others we just couldn't get hold of. We were down to the bare bones of 8. I say bare bones...one team didn't show and three others were struggling for players. Now we used to help other teams out a bit if they were short but it was impossible today.

So we could choose from Lionheart, Chappers, Slipstream, Boomer, Captain, Bomber - Harris Geddit? - Loverman and Chopper - Ste Mason for those who don't know his style. It was ace to have Bomber back after his recent 4 month holiday - I tell you, if I went away for that long, I would come back with a better tan. I suppose it's all down to where you go on your holiday. Also, I think it's about time we made Chopper a permanent member of the team too. He turns up every month, doesn't complain and gets on with putting himself about. So yeah...a big permanent welcome to Ste Chopper Mason

First game up - Blackburn Brasilia managed by Cool, Calm Cathryn. We would see how cool after the game. Within 30 seconds, we had virtually walked the ball in the back of the net. Brasilia normally give us a good game so what might have been their problem? They had just come back from Lewes and their recent tournament. One night in Brighton can take it out of you so spare a thought for me as I will be there for a week in June. Or don't - if the weather is ace, I will be able to watch the Euros on Brighton Beach where they will have a massive screen. I was there during the 2014 World Cup and, even though I was at my Union Conference for Unison, it did feel like a bit of a break. **Game one v Blackburn Brasilia. Easy 5-0 win thx to @auntieshotshots back passes to Lionheart #AllezMenDiveIn** I think it's the first time they had failed to score against us. That was partly down to Lionheart and his improved keeping but also powder puff shots from Brasilia's stars. 2 goals from Captain with one each from Boomer, Bomber and Slipstream made sure of all three points. The first goal from Slipstream after 30 seconds though knocked the wind out of Brasilia's sails. They hardly got a foot on the ball and when Bomber came on for his belated 1st division debut we had pace to match our passing accuracy. 5-0 maybe flattered us as they perhaps thought they should have scored at least one past Lionheart but he stood firm enough to keep a clean sheet.

Game 2 - Darwen Outreach. Unfortunately, they couldn't make it so a scratch side faced us. We would get the game 3-0 but we wanted all teams to play 6 games. From the starting line-up we pulled Slipstream and Holt and put Loverman and Bomber on instead. Loverman opened the scoring. He got the ball on the Outreach goal line - those familiar with 5 aside down The BRIC will know that he will have got it doesn't even start to describe it. **Game 2 v Darwen Outreach. Officially 3-0 win but we scored 5 anyway #AllezMenDiveIn** After that, plain sailing. We bagged another four with Captain scoring 2 from the bench and Boomer and Bomber chipping in too. All for nothing though. The game had already been awarded to us 3-0 so scorers wouldn't count. For the second game running though, all players got a run out.

Our third game was against Wigan AFG. These are tough nuts to crack. Very well organised at the back and very quick on the counter attack. Wowee, we quickly went one up again...then sat back too much. **Game 3 v Wigan AFG. Tough one. Drew 3-3 but a great game #AllezMenDiveIn** A proper nip and tuck game with tasty challenges. Top Top game. Wigan drew level then went ahead. Their go ahead goal came after Captain was fouled up field. The ref said no foul but instead of getting back in, he argued, leaving a gaping hole in midfield for them to burst through and beat Lionheart. OK, it might have been a foul but EVERY player knows to play to the whistle. Bomber made it 2-2 with a cracking shot high into the roof of the net but a rare mistake from Lionheart allowed Wigan to pull ahead again. 3 minutes to go so we had time. Chappers put a great ball into Captain who made it 3-3. In the final minute, Captain was fouled again so the ref blew...just before Boomer let fly with an unstoppable shot. Quite rightly the goals was chalked off but I could understand the frustration in the players. The game was that tight, we didn't want to make any changes. It might come back to bite us giving no rest to the better players. We would see have that would go in the next game....Salvation Army.

Sally Army have struggled recently due to the high turnover of players and poor game organisation. I have no worries on that score now. Former Cafe Hub FC player Billy Ollerton was turning out for them now. Even if he couldn't turn them into superstars, he could help keep their chins up. **Game 4 v Sally Army featuring former @cafehubCIC player Billy Ollerton. Still won 6-0 #AllezMenDiveIn** It was a shame for them - not really, its football - that we hammered them 6-0. The difference this time though was that they at least tried to make a difference. A Captain hat trick with a goal apiece from Chappers, Harris and Loverman did the business. Billy is an old friend and Men Dive In FC are going to do their very best to get them up to speed. I am hoping they will be able to join us for a session or two. Coach Hecky has worked wonders on us, he can perhaps do the same for them. You never know, it might be the last hammering they get from us - all being well and with a neutral hat on.





Next up was Calderstones Elite - without their star player Mark Heyes. Football, as I have always said, is a Family. When one of us leaves us, we all hurt. Marks friend Kieran was sadly taken away from us earlier this week. Coach Hecky played with him all the way from Junior school to adult football. He was universally well liked and even officiated games. He is already missed. Mill Hill St Peters FC are having a bit of a memorial doo for him on Saturday. As I said, Universally liked and Universally missed. Such a sad loss. So how would Calderstones fare without him? Well they went one up after a minute so they weren't missing him early doors. Chappers told me not to worry too much and he was right. Slipstream locked onto a great ball and drew us level. **Game 5 v @CalderstonesFT Elite. About time we drew clear of them - 4-1 winners #AllezMenDiveIn** Not exactly one way traffic after that. Dan Ridgeway was trying his best to bring them back into it but he can't do it on his own. He was having a great battle with Bomber in the corner and he still came away with the ball. However, our pressure soon told. Slipstream

Our last game was going to be against VIC FC. They have a new kit and sponsor and they looked the part at least. However, the strains on the day and some people having to drop out meant they couldn't fulfill their last fixture. **Game 6 v VIC FC. Unfortunately they had to withdraw so awarded 3-0 win #AllezMenDiveIn** Awarded the game 3-0 but without the chance for Captain to add to his 11 goals he had bagged - or had he?

Played 6 Won 5 Drew 1 - unbeaten now in 54 (That's Fifty Four) games since July #AllezMenDiveIn Not bad at all really. Still top of the table, ahead by at least 8 points. I had to leave the BRIC quickly so I couldn't find out Calderstones results - I will just have to wait for The BRIC to update their tables. On past performance, that might be a couple of weeks, or maybe not. We are top though and that's all that matters **Scorers today Holt 11 Harris 3 Hanslip 3 Aboro 2 Chapman & Stellenboom 1 - amendments due though #AllezMenDiveIn Amended scorers (only 4 results counted for scorers charts) Holt 9 Hanslip 3 Harris 2 Aboro & Chapman 1 #AllezMenDiveIn** Scrubbed results meant that my scoring charts have to be updated. When I have time, I will re-edit this report...or maybe not...why should I make extra work for myself? Read on and you may realise why I don't think I will be that both-ered.

The Blackburn Sunday Football League have the same problems. Teams have been dropping out all year so their records have to be expunged. The poor sod at the top, The League Secretary, then has to go through all his spreadsheets and take away scorers etc. It's a never ending task when teams drop out. An extra problem the Secretary gave himself was when Darwen team Entwistle dropped out. The Secretary expunged all the relevant results - what a guy - until it was realised that Entwistle had played 75 percent of their games. League rules state that results then stand. What a ball ache as he hadn't made a backup copy of the old spreadsheet. That Secretary - for reasons unconnected - won't be fulfilling that role next year. No, that role will now be taken up by Yours Truly. I think I might have taken up that Poisoned Chalice.

So let's end on a high note. No injuries - well none to ours. Diverse Rovers player Craig Walsh left the field with a suspected broken finger. I know you play with your feet but the lad looked in agony. His Dad is a friend of mine and he came down to pick him up and tend to him. Craig is a smashing lad and he is sure to be back next month. A Foyer player also had a suspected break to his wrist but he got it bandaged and played on - Well Hard. I hope he went on and did some one arm push ups on it. Slipstream got a bit of a gash when playing in the morning but he carried on too.

One final note. The BRFC Community Trust have stepped up to the plate and given us a present that no-one can even come close to giving us. They have only secured Ewood Park for the League on Saturday, 14 May. It's like Christmas has come early - in more ways than one. When you play on grass, especially a carpet like a proper footy pitch, you HAVE to wear studs or blades. As Paul Hardman put it, it will make them feel like "Naughty Boys"

As ever my Football Friends #AllezMenDiveIn

FINAL SIFL LEAGUE TABLES JANUARY - JUNE 2016

Creative Support League Jan-June 2016 Division 1 Standings

	GP	W	L	I	GF	GA	PTS
Men Dive In FC	30	24	1	5	107	34	77
Calderstones Elite	30	23	4	3	120	46	72
Blackburn Brasilia	30	17	9	4	73	47	55
AFG Wigan	30	16	9	5	81	52	53
Darwen Outreach	30	6	23	1	34	80	19
VIC FC	30	5	25	0	30	106	15
Salvation Army FC	30	5	25	0	26	106	15

Creative Support League Jan-June 2016 Division 2 Standings

	GP	W	L	I	GF	GA	PTS
Rovers Diverse FC	30	21	9	0	104	62	63
Kemple View FC	30	16	10	4	80	65	52
Foyer FC	30	15	10	5	68	69	50
Platform 5 FC	30	14	10	6	85	61	48
FC Bolton	30	9	16	5	68	91	32
FC Hyndburn	30	7	15	8	69	98	29
Calderstones Athletic	30	5	17	8	70	98	23

Golden Boot winners will be announced during the end of season presentation following the Social Inclusion Cup on Friday 17th June...

ON THE PITCH!

SATURDAY 14TH MAY - EWOOD PARK, BLACKBURN ROVERS FC



PICTURE SPECIAL!



AROUND THE GROUNDS

THE HAMPSHIRE SOCIAL INCLUSION CUP

21 June at 9:30 to 22 June at 16:00pm. Goals Portsmouth, Tangier Road, PO3 6QA Portsmouth



Follow Mental Health Football UK on Twitter and Facebook to be the first to know when all the national tournaments are taking place.

If any #SIFL teams would like to participate in any national tournaments please contact Paul on 01254 664975. The League may be able to help fund your trip!



MFC FOUNDATION SOCIAL INCLUSION TOURNAMENT

Tackling the stigma of mental health

TUESDAY 28 JUNE 10AM - 3PM



5 - A - SIDE

Herlingshaw Centre, South Bank. TS6 9AE.
Free to enter. Over 18's only

For further information please ring
Claire Streeter on 01642 757674 or email
claire.streeter@mfcfoundation.co.uk

MENTAL HEALTH/SOCIAL INCLUSION 7-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

Hosted by Stoke on Trent European City of Sport 2016 in partnership with North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust, It's A Goal! Stoke and Stoke City FC.

Monday August 15th 11am-5pm

Northwood Stadium, Keelings Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 6PA
Open to all-comers but limited availability so book early!



CONTACT: TIM HAMLETT

timothy.hamlett@northstaffs.nhs.uk

www.facebook.com/itsagoalstoke

07515191234

North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust



It's a Goal! Stoke

SSSFT NHS MENTAL HEALTH WELLBEING TOURNAMENT

23 June at 10:00am. Rowley Park Sports Stadium ST17 9XX Stafford





ADRIAN WARD

Adrian Ward is the media, events and 'Motivate!' coordinator for Blackburn Rovers Community Trust, and can occasionally be seen wielding a camera in the BRIC in a slightly off-putting fashion.

WALKING IS THE WAY FORWARD

I couldn't help but feel sorry for the Social Inclusion Football League players when they reported in for June action for a special event organised by the Blackburn with Darwen CVS to celebrate Volunteers Week at the BRIC.

Barely a couple of hours into the day, and the vast majority of players looked like they'd spent the morning alternating between the Indoor Centre's huge washers and tumble driers, such as the array of pink faces and damp jerseys (although the former may just have been a reflection off the Diverse Rovers jerseys).

It was clear that all that tireless running and tracking back and forth had taken its toll, so it made me reflect on the benefits of slowing the game down to a walking pace, as we do with our weekly walking football sessions. It's a format of the game that I've enjoyed getting involved in, and I'm yet to break into a sweat while playing (though I must admit, I haven't played for a couple of weeks, back when our usual Arctic winter gave way to this scarcely believable invasion of bright sunshine that will hopefully be gone before we get too attached to it).

Having just turned 31, I'm still two decades short of the accepted starting age for the fledgling concept, with 'over 50s' being the normal entry criteria for most tournaments, and a new over 60s setup also starting up this year. That said, if we're all meant to have the same speed limits imposed, it becomes much more about the skill level, right? The jury is out.

I've noted the dozens of players that have walked through our doors at two paces - the pace they believe they can still play at, and the pace the game dictates they should still play at. It therefore provides me with a reasonable basis on which to assess each player in terms of overall fitness, quality of touch, range of passing... all the usual elements you look to check out first when you're scouting a new player.

The interesting transformation comes when we flick a magic switch halfway through each hour-long session, and remove the running and concentrate solely on the walking; which in most cases is very much welcome, as the pink faces and damp shirts have often made an early appearance by this point.

Players who played for half an hour with a flair for unlocking defences with a drop of a shoulder and an incisive through ball into the path of a sprinting striker suddenly find that their trick doesn't work with an imaginary ball and chain around their feet. The player who would take a purposeful run forward before unleashing a bullet shot finds that it's much harder to rip the net off from a standing start. And then the man who spent the first half of the game chasing shadows, suddenly has time on the ball, takes it under control, and rolls lovely passes to feet all round the park. It's an odd transformation, and some carry it off better than others. If I cast my mind back ten years to the great Rovers midfield under Mark Hughes, I could imagine this form of the game being made for Tugay, less so for Robbie Savage. Vision, close control and the timing of a pass are everything; it's a great leveller.

As our team has adapted to it, so has the quality of the results. We lost our debut friendly 6-2 at home to Fleetwood Town, but we then set about honing our art, and the two Rovers teams that entered a tournament we hosted came first and second, before the team then went and won the Lancashire area qualifiers of the national Walking Football United Tournament - the game's answer to the FA Cup - and suddenly Blackburn Rovers are one of the game's forces in this county. Watch this space to see if we can get anyone up to England standard..!

We're always willing to take on new players, so if you like the BRIC enough to want to stay here all day when a Friday matchday comes around, come and join us. We're not strict on age participation. It's ideal for anyone hampered in the normal form of the game due to a long-standing injury (or just being easily knackered), and as long as you promise not to out-run the players who range from around 50 to 70, they'll be very accepting of the chance to expand our sessions further, so that we can turn training into a fun round robin tournament each week. Are there enough players in the SIFL to put together a team to take on Blackburn Rovers' walking football team at its own game? Give it a try each Friday from 6pm to 7pm and hopefully we'll find out.



TRUST NEWS

As the Blackburn Rovers Community Trust continue to build on its ever growing reputation it was pleasing to hear they have recently been named 'Friends of Community Integrated Care'. The Trust have helped the life-changing charity with the development of their new specialist dementia care home in Blackburn, creating a special Rovers themed area for residents to enjoy.

They will also be backing the facility in the longer term, delivering themed reminiscence events around the Club's past, to help residents recall positive moments in their lives.

The £4.8m state-of-the-art EachStep Blackburn facility has opened on the site of the town's former Royal Infirmary. The 64 bedded home, which opened on 19th May, provides specialist respite support, residential care and nursing care, and is recognised as a national centre of excellence for dementia care.



Infamy, infamy they've all got it in for me! - Ken

A week after losing out in the Semi's at Manchester's Street 2 Feet tournament, Blackburn Brasilia headed South for the 3rd consecutive year to play in Lewes FC's Football Therapy Cup.

On Tuesday 26th April, after weeks of saving and planning, the team left East Lancashire to set up base at Brighton YHA on the seafront. With Chris Rea's 'Road to Hell' ringing in his ears Ken left three hours before the 2nd carload to avoid the M25. 14 hours later, as they left Winchester (Where everything costs a fiver), Ken noticed in his rear view mirror that Star Striker Simon kept banging his head on the ceiling. Poor old Simon. If Ken had checked his mirrors more often he would have noticed this had been the case since they drove over the Thelwall Viaduct. But Simon doesn't like to cause a fuss...even after leaving Winchester thirty quid light. After another detour, this time to a local garage, Ken and the boys got back on the road but not without leaving with a souvenir. The mechanic kindly gave Ken his handbrake back in a Sainsbury's carrier bag. The hilly South Downs would now become a cruel test of Ken's clutch control.

The second car arrived intact with no incidents to report on the M25 and checked in at around 5pm. The boys' rooms were compact and consisted of bunk-beds. Gaffer had done the bookings and there were a few raised eyebrows when she was given the key to the Penthouse Suite. A king-size bed, widescreen TV and a concierge stood in the corner holding a silver tray containing a pyramid of Ferrero Rocher. Ken and the rest of the team arrived about an hour later...pale and gaunt looking. Neil still had a cupful of coffee left in his flask until it started leaking in the Foyer and Wayne was wearing sun glasses, even though the sun hadn't made an appearance since the previous Thursday. Simon had been dropped off at A&E. But what the hell, we were on holiday!

With my car parked about 2 miles away at a cost of sixteen quid Ken finally had lady luck on his side when a space became available outside the hostel. Sorted.

So, a quick swill in the sink, glad rags on and a mooch up to the local Wetherspoons for some tea and a cheeky pint. As we all met up outside smelling like the perfume aisle at Superdrug we all looked at Ken's car. No-one said a word. We just stood and watched as Ken reluctantly peeled off his parking ticket, gently weeping as he did so.

He was a changed man at Wetherspoons though. Gorging on a double cheese and bacon deluxe burger. Smearing himself in every sauce known to man. Writhing in ecstasy. And all for under a tenner. Bargain! Dan meanwhile hadn't eaten for at least an hour so we patiently waited as he demolished every item on the menu.

Before returning to the hostel for an early night (cough) in preparation for the tournament we stumbled across bohemia in the shape of a café / bar. One more wouldn't hurt and

Dan was still feeling a bit peckish.

We ordered some drinks and a buy-one get-one-free Lasagne for Dan and found a pacman table being invaded by parachuted action-men.

Ken remained at the bar, leaning in nonchalantly towards the barmaid. The sound of poets leaving the dimly lit cavern of twentieth century memorabilia drowned out his voice but his body language suggested he may have found a kindred spirit to share his love of kitchen-sink bathing and rustic Battenberg. Excitement grew as Ken returned to the table.

Always defensive is our Ken. "She started talking to me. Honest!" "What did she say?" "What can I get you?" "Well she would Ken, she's a barmaid!" "Yeah, but she's reet fit." The general consensus was that he was punching well above his weight and besides she was a lot younger. But was she? We learnt that Ken had recently been working on some mathematical formulas that allow him to date anyone half his age plus 7 years. Good luck ladies.

A quick night cap back at the hostel followed before it was heads down for the big day. Looking back its hard to imagine that we were actually there to play football.

We woke up early the next morning to be greeted by Simon wandering around the foyer in his new superhero pyjamas. It transpired that he still thought he was in Blackburn and couldn't work out why there were loads of French students in his kitchen.

Me and Dan went on a 2 mile jog and successfully beat the clamper van as we made it to my car in time. I only threw up once and actually beat Dan there as he'd stopped off at Subway for his breakfast.

The Football Therapy Cup at Lewes FC is easily the best tournament around. The Dripping Pan ground oozes character and teams from all over compete each year. This year there were two group stages followed by QF, SF and Final.

The surface at the Dripping Pan was in much better nick than in previous years which was just as well as we experienced hot sunshine, snow, sleet and rain throughout the day.

Despite a 1-0 defeat to Arsenal's Community Trust we comfortably won our group qualifying us for the main Cup competition. We dominated the Arsenal game but like their professional counterparts from the 70's they ground out the win. The quality of the teams qualifying for the second group



stage naturally goes up a notch. Three wins and a loss again saw us qualify comfortably for the Quarter-Finals. The defeat came against a very strong Everton side but the performance gave the lads a lot of confidence. After being one down we got a goal back and Everton had to work as hard as they had all day to create a winner.

The Quarter Final put us up against a Community team from Brighton & Hove Albion. This was our eighth game of the day and legs were getting weary. I looked at Ken and I know he knew. Carrying on like this at our age would only result in bringing the hip-replacements forward a few years. Until then we will carry on using our Cash 'n' Carry cards at the Deep Heat Warehouse. This was another tough, tough game but two excellent worked goals in the second half saw us through.

So here we were again. Semi-finalist specialists bar a one-off tournament win in Leeds a couple years ago. Our opposition this time were Croydon Eagles, last years winners. All young, lean six footers with great all-round technical ability. But again, we gave it everything and matched them in all departments before bowing out with a 2-1 defeat. Everton were the eventual winners following a penalty shoot out which, it has to be said, was harsh on Croydon. It was a great day of football and showed us what

we are capable of. There was nothing in our games against the two eventual finalists and the boys should be proud of how they played...both on and off the field!

Back to the hostel for one final night in Brighton. Spirits were high but our bodies were broken. Simon briefly came to life when he took on a raw chilli challenge at the local Curry House before turning a funny colour and passing out in the corner. Dan ate his way through an entire tray of chicken wings prompting the staff to re-open the kitchen and Wayne kept missing his mouth because he couldn't see through his sunglasses..

Roll on next year...



GAFFER TALK

Professional bib washer and bacon butty maker!



YOUNG AT HEART?



The older you get, the more you realize that it isn't about the material things, or pride or ego. It's about our hearts and who they beat for.

Are you scared of getting old? When you're young you don't realise you're getting old – you see an old lady crossing the road and you never imagine that's going to be you one day.

I get on the early bus every day and watch the same old ladies and gentlemen struggling with shopping trolleys in one hand and bus passes in the other, they struggle onto the already packed bus full of schoolchildren and workers, looking for the nearest seat before the driver sets off. As I stood to let the wrinkled, white-haired octogenarian sit before he fell, I wondered what he thought of society today? I looked down at his purpley, thin, veiny hands holding the handrail. I questioned my motives for giving him my seat. Was it pity or respect? The latter, I hope. I remember thinking, why would these elderly people get on the 8.05am, the busiest bus of the day, full of noisy schoolchildren and workers? All jostling for a seat, headphones in, heads down, mobiles beeping, when they have all day to do their bits of shopping. I had to check myself for thinking that. It's easy to forget that this man probably fought in World War II. As I watched the old man looking around the bus, smiling, trying to make eye contact with his not so interested fellow passengers I realised he probably didn't have this much company when he was at home, he probably felt involved, included as he listened to conversations and watched others behaviours, just as I was doing with him.

Do we avert our eyes or not strike up conversations with the elderly because it's a reminder of our own mortality? Do we think we won't have anything in common? What do we see/think when we look at them? Initially I saw weakness and neediness. As we chatted away he told me the last couple of years had been awful for him as his wife of nearly 70 years had passed away. He said he went out of the house every day to drink coffee in the same café he and his wife had done, buy food for the day and just sit and pass the time if the weather would allow him. He did this because he said if he didn't, he probably wouldn't see or speak to another person all week till his son came at the weekend to take him to the pub.

By the time my stop arrived my initial thoughts of weakness and neediness had changed to strength, independence, wisdom and experience and maybe a tiny bit of longing to be accepted in the society that is today.

As I walked the rest of the way I was still thinking about the gentleman on the bus and how we don't always react well when the inevitable truth of ageing confronts us each time we look in the mirror. Instead of groaning at the sight of every grey hair or new wrinkle we should learn how to embrace and celebrate our age, experience and the self confidence that comes with it. To see it as the next stage in our lives rather than the slow doddery march to the end of it.

Something the old man said to me as I left the bus (which I didn't get until now) He said "I'm going to be like the 2 fat ladies this year". A bit slow off the mark at times but I realised he was telling me he was going to 88! I don't smile as often as I should- but this fed my inner smile.

STREET 2 FEET 2016

Changing lives
one by one



Much closer to home, this is another excellent annual Tournament featuring teams from all over the country representing homelessness and mental health. Despite being renowned for its humdrum weather the sun was in glorious mood as Blackburn Brasilia took a day out in Manchester on Thursday 21st April. Beaten semi-finalists, again, the lads didn't leave totally empty handed as they were awarded the Fair Play Award. So used are we to the camaraderie of the SIFL that we seemed to take many teams and refs by surprise with post-match handshakes and banter! Another highlight of the day was the 4-0 thrashing of former SIFL Champions Stockport Utd in the early knockout stages. It's been a while since we beat them and it was a sweet tasting victory. To be fair to the Stockport lads they stayed behind to lend us their support as we progressed in the tournament. SIFL Solidarity!



The finals

Preliminary cup

Streetleague 1 V Streetleague 2

Streetleague 1 started off very well taking an early lead which was soon matched by Streetleague 2. The game was very close with both teams at 3-3. Streetleague 1 edged it at the end with a 4-3 win. Well done! For a full update of the game please add @StreetToFeet on twitter.



Thanks to every one who attended to fifth national Street2feet event. A special thank you goes out to:

Greggs for providing all their food for players on the day.

Pret a manger for supporting every player with a snadwhich, crisps and a choice of treats to support the players with much needed food to cater for 200 + players.

Boots and beats for supplying the music on the day which was enjoyed by all.

Chapter 1 the limes staff for organising and making sure the evnet runs smoothly.

Manchester university students who have been planing, fundraising and organising the events since December.

All participants and staff for making this day well hell of an event.

Championship cup final

Friendly Faces v Warwickshire A

This game was end to end, an absolute mouth waterer to watch with both team giving it their all to win the championship.

The game was level at 4-4, with the nerves of penalties defining the winner.

Well done to Friendly faces who were eventual champions in the end who join an illustrious list of names who have lifted the famous street2feet trophy.



Games were played in the true spirit of how football should be played with a sense of nervous anticipation and a willing ness to succeed. The competition element to this event is a learning curve for all participants to accept their losses but to gain an advantage by working as a team.

The games commentary was all updated on the Street2feet twitter page @Street2feet. For more information on the games played please add us twitter.

The league games took place between 11-1pm where food was provided for every participant from the kind donations from Greggs and Pret a manger.

After dinner this is where the competition heated up and the knock out competition began.



#SIFL SOCIAL INCLUSION CUP

**SEASON FINALE ON FRIDAY 17TH JUNE AT THE BLACKBURN ROVERS INDOOR CENTRE FROM 11AM
KNOCKOUT COMPETITION FOLLOWED BY END OF SEASON PRESENTATION**

GROUP A

- CALDERSTONES ELITE
- FOYER FC
- SALVATION ARMY
- FC HYNDBURN
- DIVERSE ROVERS
- CALDERSTONES ATHLETIC
- PLATFORM 5 FC

GROUP B

- VIC FC
- BLACKBURN BRASILIA
- MEN DIVE IN 1
- AFG WIGAN
- FC BOLTON
- KEMPLE VIEW FC
- MEN DIVE IN 2

*Top two from each group meet each other in the Semi-finals with the winners battling it out in the Final for the coveted Social Inclusion Cup! A presentation to all this season's teams will be made following the final whistle along with Divisional winners, player and team of the season awards and Golden Boots!



Last season's Cup Winners Stockport Utd (Right) with Runners Up Men Dive In

NEWS IN PICTURES



On Wednesday 1st June Blackburn Brasilia travelled down to Sixfields—home of League 2 Champions Northampton Town—to take part in the annual Heads Up Mental Health Tournament. Organised by former Cobblers player of the year Russell Lewis and the Clubs Football in the Community Scheme the tournament featured teams from all over the country. Blackburn Brasilia finished the day with a victory in the 3rd Place Play-off Final before Middlesbrough eventually beat our old friends Everton on penalties in the Final. Here's the lads holding the Sky Bet League 2 Trophy!



On Wednesday 13th April we were very honoured to welcome Stoke City Community Trust to the Blackburn Rovers Indoor Centre for a friendly against their Brighter Futures team. The game was played in a great spirit before Blackburn ran out comfortable 12-1 winners. A big thank you to Paul Gavin for officiating the game, Adrian Ward for preparing the home dressing room with full Rovers kits and twitter updates and of course to all the players and staff who travelled up the M6 from Stoke.



Congratulations to Blackburn Youth Zone who came Runners Up in the FA Cup section of a recent tournament at the Blackburn Rovers Indoor Centre. The tournament was organised by Geoff Wilkinson of Blackburn with Darwen CVS to help celebrate and recognise the work of Volunteers as part of National Volunteers Week. The Social Inclusion Football League was represented by a number of its teams along with a variety of other teams who we hope to see weaving their magic over the coming months as the #SIFL resumes with its new funding in July. BCSC (aka Men Dive In) won the Champions League section of the tournament beating a very decent Thomas FC. This was the first tournament victory for Men Dive In after losing their previous four finals and came despite having a dodgy ref to contend with in the Semi's!



Best caption to commemorate Geoff Wilkinson's playing comeback wins the new Nike Premier League Football! Deadline for entries is Monday 4th July. Email your caption to: blackburn@creativesupport.org.uk



To feature in the One2 Fanzine please email your articles, thoughts, pics etc to: blackburn@creativesupport.org.uk



REDUNDANT

BYE BYE BOLEYN BOVER BOYS



So, on Tuesday 10th May, West Ham United played their last game at the Boleyn Ground, Upton Park. At absolutely no cost to them, they are moving into the "Pre-loved, one careful owner" Olympic Park. Lying a few miles away (and a few hundred yards from Leyton Orient), on the other side of the river in Twatshire, is De 'Ammers new home.

Built and paid for by The Taxpayer, West Ham United can spend Gazillions of their TV money on players without having to worry about paying down a huge debt for a new Stadium. Spurs missed out on being the chosen "Lucky Bastards" and Arsenal had to pay for their own. Don't think for a minute that I have any sympathy for the Norf Lahndan under-achievers, I don't. What gets my goat is that, because all good football is played North of Watford, The Man decided to give a mediocre Cock-er-nay club a free boost.

So let's look at the clubs that had to fork out their own cash – and there are a few of them. Arsenal, Hull, Leicester, Stoke, Southampton, Swansea, notloB, Brighton, Cardiff, Derby, Huddersfield, Middlesbrough, Millwall, Reading, Rotherham,

Wigan, Chesterfield, Colchester, Coventry, Doncaster, Scunthorpe, Walsall, Yeovil, Wimbledon, Bristol Rovers, Burton, Morecambe, Oxford, Shrewsbury, Wycombe and Northampton.

All those clubs had to fork out for themselves but thankfully, some bunch of dicks decided that saving the millionaire owners of West Ham a load of cash was a brilliant idea. We're all in it together lads and lasses. Perhaps having to be frugal and try to live within your means has its own rewards

Premiership – Leicester Champions, Arsenal 3rd

Championship – Middlesbrough 2nd, Brighton 3rd, Hull 4th, Derby 5th

Division 1 – Wigan Champions, Burton 2nd, Walsall 3rd, Millwall 4th

Division 2 – Northampton Champions, Bristol Rovers 3rd

Not sure there is a lesson there but it sure is interesting. Oh yes, every Division Champion came from North of Watford

It is what it is though and we have to just get on with it and hope West Ham and their owners get their comeuppance, blow a shed load of cash and go under quicker than a brick trying to swim.

West Ham though, obviously, are cock-a-hoop. They celebrated their good fortune in their age old tradition by kicking shit out of the Man United team coach before the match.

Ah, the Good Old Days

STOP PRESS

The **PRESTON COMMUNITY INCLUSION LEAGUE** is set to resume on Thursday 22nd September 2016.

To register your team please contact:

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Disclaimer

For those of you that have made it to the end of this edition it goes without saying that the views expressed are not necessarily those of Creative Support or the organisations that support the League. We hope you have enjoyed the read and the variety of contributors that have given their time. As well as the funny stuff there are some heartfelt stories which are both humbling and uplifting. We have purposely cut down on the corporate stuff to concentrate on football and its wider cultural connections as that is what has brought us all together.

However...

We are also here if you need us. Please don't forget that. You can contact us here:

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You can also use the above contact details to send us your stories and pics. Go on, get it off yer chest!