

## **Walking Football Leagues Alliance**

### **League Champions Cup & Inter League Cup 21st/22nd May 2023**

This year was the second occasion the WFLA held their League Champions Cup and Inter League Cup. In 2022 we had thirteen entrants for each of the cups. This year we originally had thirty and twenty six respectively.

Unfortunately and disappointingly four teams withdrew from the League Champions Cup and five teams from the Inter League Cup in various age categories, some at the very last moment, causing many problems with the fixtures.

However the weekends events were a great success and judging by the testimonials on social media and those received by email, it seems that everyone had a tremendous weekends walking football. The brilliant weather made the conditions hot for players and officials but everyone seemed to keep themselves hydrated.

Many thanks must go to the staff at Redditch Utd, our venue at the Trico Stadium, who were a tremendous help in making the events go according to plan, especially Liz who served in the snack bar all day. All the feedback on the day and the days following have all been highly complimentary about the facilities and staff at the Trico stadium and we all look forward to hosting the National Cup finals here in September.

This was the first year the WFLA have used the Trico Stadium and comes after the WFLA entered a partnership with the England Walking Football Community who use the Trico as their training and England home games.

Of course no football events would happen without the referees and we had some excellent officials on board for the weekend, well done guys, the comments on social media regarding your officiating were well deserved.

This wouldn't have been the success it was without our recent appointments in the WFLA, Mick Hill the Referee Development Officer and Tony Norton, the Chairman of the England Walking Football Community, the foremost organisation in England International Walking Football. Both put in lots of time and effort to make the events a success.

The teams in the two cup competitions were from all corners of England and Wales. All WFLA competitions are sanctioned by the FA and all member leagues are affiliated to the National Governing Body, the Football Association. There was some top level football played over the weekend and more importantly it was played in the correct spirit.

In the WFLA League Champions Cup last years winners Sleaford Academicals over 50s came runners up to the impressive Oxford Rovers.

In the over 60s, a special mention must be made to Hartshill Strollers who started the day with a bare squad of six. In their first fixture they were down to five players due to injury and remarkably they remained unbeaten to top their group. They won the groups semi final and were beaten by the only goal in a great final versus Godalming WFC. A great achievement lads.

Club Kingsmaid won the over 65s and Woodley Pensioners came runners up.

## WFLA Champions Cup Honours 2023

<b>Winners Over 50s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 50s</b>
Oxford Rovers	Sleaford Academicals
<b>Winners Over 60s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 60s</b>
Godalming WFC	Hartshill Strollers
<b>Winners Over 65s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 65s</b>
Club Kingsmaid	Woodley Pensioners
<b>Winners Over 70s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 70s</b>
Not Played	Not Played



**Oxford Rovers**



**Godalming**



**Club Kingsmaid**

In the WFLA Inter League Cup, Lincolnshire FA WFL won the over 50s, with Birmingham County WFL runners up. Wiltshire County WFL won the over 60s with Birmingham County WFL runners up once again.

Last years over 65s and over 70s champions, Greater Manchester WFL retained their titles. Thames Valley WFL were the over 65s runners up and Dorset FA WFL were runners up in the over 70s as they were in 2022.

The events over the 21st and 22nd May were a great success, enjoyed by all and we look forward to increasing the entrants in 2024.

## WFLA Inter League Cup Honours 2023

<b>Winners Over 50s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 50s</b>
Lincolnshire FA WFL	Birmingham County WFL
<b>Winners Over 60s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 60s</b>
Wiltshire County WFL	Birmingham County WFL
<b>Winners Over 65s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 65s</b>
Greater Manchester WFL	Thames Valley WFL
<b>Winners Over 70s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 70s</b>
Greater Manchester WFL	Dorset FA WFL



**Lincolnshire FA WFL**



**Wiltshire County WFL**





**Greater Manchester WFL 65s**




**Greater Manchester WFL 70s**



Busy weekend



**Mick Hill**  
1 d · 🌐

Well back home now after a couple of very busy days at the Trico Stadium with the WFLA competition's. A massive effort by the the WF Leagues Alliance Tournament Committee getting the event organised and especially during the last week with some late withdrawals causing more work than should have been required. Our team of referees did a great job and we were well supported by staff at the Stadium. It was great to see players helping tidy up at the conclusion of the event as well, a massive thank you for that. It was great to see so many players enjoying the weekend, lots of international players on view throughout the weekend too. The players deserve a lot of credit for the way they conducted themselves throughout the games which helped provide a truly great atmosphere. Well done everyone especially [Bill Murney](#) 🏆  
🏆🏆🏆🏆 let's do it again but not to soon 🤔🤔🤔🤔



**Bill Murney**

Walking Football played in the right spirit with some very skilful players on view. Thanks to the excellent referees, the very helpful Trico Stadium staff and of course to Mick and Tony for their massive input.



**Mick Geraghty**

Well done Mick ,Bill ,Tony and all the Refs . Great venue and well organised event . Top quality teams showcasing competitive walking football.... who would of believed it 9 years ago !



**Pope Steve**

I had two great days of football , met old friends, the refs were superb, organisation, faultless, sausage baps delicious and some great football, many thanks to all



**Rick Hopgood**

Very well organised and some of the best refereeing I've seen in the game. Credit when due. Well done all. 🏆🏆🏆



**Pete Johnson**

1 d · 🌐

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Oxford Rovers won all of their games on Saturday including a tightly contested final against Sleaford Academicals Walking Football Club to win the WFLA over 50's Champion of Champions tournament at the Trico Stadium in Redditch.

A very well run competition with some fantastic refereeing.



**Pope Steve**

Great comments, thank you, very well organised, thanks everyone



**Dave Bent**

Top contributor 🗣️ · 1 d · 🌐

On way home after 2 fantastic days refereeing at the Trico Stadium in Redditch... Made some new friends and maybe a few new enemies lol...



**Pope Steve**

All the refs were great, I had two very enjoyable days of football and you **Dave Bent** always first to go to an injured player, I won't tell anyone you have a heart, thanks again.



**Shaun Ashley Sherrick** 🗣️

The Barnet walking football team would like to congratulate the refs on an excellent performance along with the organisers  
A super day out



**Rick Hopgood**

**Dave Bent**, great day played in the right spirit as refs very much in control.  
Credit to all. 👍👍



**Kenneth Hitchell**

excellent organisation of such a large event with a great number of teams and players involved



**Steve Tingle**

**Alan Kumrou** really enjoyed the whole experience again. Great to see and play against the lads from GMWFL again.



**Simon Atherfold** is with John Sander.

1 d ·

Very proud to have played for and managed the GMWFL representative O65s team in the national inter-league tournament today. And we won it! Two days at Redditch and two trophies. Won every game in fact on both days. So a top weekend all round.

Thanks very much for organising the weekend we thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Redditch for the WFLA weekend. I thought the refereeing was excellent - very concise, assured and communicative. I appreciate that organising the event was a challenge with so many teams withdrawing at a late stage.

**Glenn Mitchell**  
Godalming 60s



**Steve Tingle**

13 h ·

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Managed to play for Dorset at the WFLA National Inter League Cup for the 2nd successive year. Really enjoyed the camaraderie of my team mates from [Dorset Walking Football League](#) at this years event held at REDDITCH UNITED FC ground.

Delighted to see and play against several of the football family from Greater Manchester who are super blokes. We forged a sporting friendship through this competition 12 months ago when Dorset travelled to Leek Town for our 1st ever competitive tournament. Hope to see you again next year [Kenneth Hitchell](#) [Tony Breslin](#) [Clint Walmsley](#) [Waihong Tsang](#) [Stuart Saint](#)

A special thanks to [Bill Murney](#) captain at the helm of organisers. With Mick Hill and Tony Norton

Good Afternoon Bill

Just a line on behalf of BCWFL to thank you for all the hard work you and the team put into staging the event over the weekend.

The feedback from all our sides was that they enjoyed it immensely, from my club Coleshill and I'm sure Hartshill, we'd also like to send our thanks and congratulations. Shame on those that pulled out late.

Congratulations to all the Winners, we look forward to the next one. Kind Regards.

**Colin Strong**  
Coleshill Strollers & Birmingham County WFL



Thank you all for the use of the venue, support and help without which we would not have had such a successful weekend on the 20th/21st May.

The WFLA committee members present at the weekend are very grateful of the help and support given by Richard, Liz and Samuel, opening the classroom up as a registration area, the back turnstile and everything else they all did.

We have had nothing but positive feedback from all the teams, referees etc about the facilities and staff at RedditchUtd FC. The food was great, lots of good feedback about the quality and choices available .

**Tony Norton**  
**WFLA**



**Pete Johnson**

2 d · 🌐

...

Oxford Rovers won all of their games on Saturday including a tightly contested final against Sleaford Academicals Walking Football Club to win the WFLA over 50's Champion of Champions tournament at the Trico Stadium in Redditch.

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**John E McGinnell**

1 d · 🌐

The West Midlands over 60's Regional squad representing the County at Redditch Utd FC on Sunday against the best Regional sides in the Country. I even got interviewed by the press before the tournament started.

Many thanks to the referees who work brilliantly to make these events so rewarding.

Thanks for a great weekend of football played in a good spirit. Well organised and well officiated. Everyone at Hartshill, Coleshill and BCWFL appreciated the hard work that went in to the Tournament and thank you all for organising a great event. Thanks also to Redditch United FC for hosting.

**Reg Walker**  
**Hartshill Strollers**

Thanks again for a great day at Redditch last weekend. A terrific tournament and well run!

**Kevin Hinds**  
**Connah's Quay Nomads**



Tony Breslin

Well done to all referee's and organisers brilliant day

Like Reply Share 2 h



Dave Bent Top contributor ☕

Thanks for the invite and experience... Absolutely loved it

Like Reply Share 2 h



Michael Smith

Well done to all involved a great event 🏆⚽

Like Reply Share 2 h



Mel Miller

Great job 👍👍

Like Reply Share 2 h



Kate Brady

Well done 👍⚽👍 2

Like Reply Share 3 h



Andy Beal

A very well run event. 👍



Mick Franklin

Well run tournament, especially as fixtures had to be changed at short notice due to drop outs!

Refs we're very good and all teams played in a very sporting manner.

Well done to everyone



Tony Norton

Huge congratulations in the main to **Bill Murney**, we all worked hard to make this weekend happen . The planning, organising and running but it would not have been the successful weekend it was without the support of Redditch United FC, all the Refs, the teams and leagues co-ordinators but also the players.

At the end of the day there was one big winner, Walking Football !!



Mick Hill Author Top contributor +2

Tony Norton definitely echo those comments about **Bill Murney**, a colossal amount of work done by Bill.



Bill Murney

Mick Hill And you Mick.