

## **Walking Football Leagues Alliance National Cup 9th/10th September 2023**

This year was the first occasion that the WFLA held their National Cup for teams that are members of FA affiliated leagues and whose leagues are affiliated to the WFLA. We had 237 original entrants and 43 teams contested the Grand Finals.

The Grand Finals were held at the Redditch Utd FC Trico Stadium and many thanks must go to the staff there, 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. Redditch Utd FC published an interesting article about the event on their website, it can be read [HERE](#).

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.

Thanks to Mick Hill, Tony Norton and Tony's wife Mandy who did a fantastic job collating all the results and tables. All three put in lots of time and effort to make the event a success. Thanks also to the National Walking Football Alliance (NWFA) who sponsored the trophies for this competition.

We mustn't forget our band of referees, who received many compliments on their officiating from the competing teams and on social media. No event could succeed without strong refereeing.

Recently the WFLA entered a partnership with the NWFA and the England Walking Football Community (EWFC) who use the Trico stadium as their training venue and for England home games and are now the premier organisation for international walking football in the UK.

The teams in the Grand Finals 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. We look forward to seeing more entrants to this prestigious event in 2024.

The 2023 winners and runners up are listed below.



## WALKING FOOTBALL LEAGUES ALLIANCE

### WFLA National Cup Honours 2023

<b>Winners Over 50s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 50s</b>
Bolton Arena	Bracknell Town
<b>Winners Over 60s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 60s</b>
Godalming	Newcastle Benfield
<b>Winners Over 65s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 65s</b>
Blackburn Rovers	Grimsby Corinthians
<b>Winners Over 70s</b>	<b>Runners Up Over 70s</b>
Manchester Corinthians	Little Oakley
<b>Winners Women's Over 40s</b>	<b>Runners Up Women's Over 40s</b>
Bolton Arena	Collingham FC Ladies
<b>Winners Women's Over 50s</b>	<b>Runners Up Women's Over 50s</b>
Braunton	Hartshill Strollers





**Bolton Arena Over 50s**



**Godalming Over 60s**





**Blackburn Rovers Over 65s**



**Manchester Corinthians Over 70s**





**Bolton Arena Women's Over 40s**



**Braunton Women's Over 50s**

Fabulous couple of days of football. Brilliant to attend such a professionally run event. Thank you for all the hard work that goes into organising such a huge event. Please also pass on our thanks to the whole WFLA Committee. I thought the refereeing was of a high standard. I found them all to be very consistent & fair. They handled the games in a firm but courteous way. Personally, I felt it was the best refereeing I've ever witnessed.

**Wendy Benson, Braunton Ladies WFC**

Kevin McGovern Top contributor

So glad I popped along this morning to see the superb positive influence the WF community, RUFC, sponsors & refs are making.

It's not easy to ref & you could see why today. The WF LOTG are challenging to ref well & keep the game honest, moving and enjoyable. I observed Dave & Mick Hill ref several highly competitive games superbly well. They were always up with play, explaining decisions and asserting the LOTG. Blue cards worked really well.

Well done everyone, Walking Football was the unanimous winner this morning 🏆👍👏

John Cooney Top contributor

Top set of referees this weekend.

We would like to pass on our thanks for all of the volunteers on the day. We really enjoyed playing new teams from different areas in the country. The organisation was very good and the facility was great for what we needed.

**Danni Toward, Bolton Arena Ladies**

On behalf of Bracknell Town WFC, the managers and players of our 50+, 65+ and Ladies 40+ who took part on Sunday, and our supporters who made the trip, can I thank you and the organising committee for an excellent day of Walking Football.

Special thanks to the superb referees, and all the volunteers behind the scenes, and to all the teams for their sportsmanship.

**Ray Saunders, Football Manager, Bracknell Town WFC**

Dave Marriott

Thank you Mick for you and your team of referees. Really enjoyed the event played with respect and sportsmanship all round from everyone involved. Credit to the game, well done all. 🏆👍👏 Dave BEDWORTH & DISTRICT Walking Football

**Pete Limbrick**

Thoroughly enjoyed it. Congratulations on a well organised event

**Gary Borthwick**

I have to say bloody well done extremely well organised , a huge success 🏆🏈👏

**Rick Hopgood**

Well done all involved and the Bracknell lads for reaching the final.



**Clive Billingham**

Thanks from me and all my team-mates at Godalming (60s & 70s). Great organisation - great fun 👍👍

**David Bearham**

Well done Mick and colleagues in putting on a great event.

**Bob Davies**

Met some great people and took part in some great games, glad we arrived early as it was a real joy to watch some fantastic ladies football. Congratulations to the organisers, match officials and all those players participating.

**Glenn Mitchell**

Well organised and refereed. Hot conditions for the players but a lot of smiling faces demonstrated the success of the event.

**Mike McCarthy**

Very impressive!

Well done to all involved 🏆

**Stuart Saint**

Well Done to all WFLA committee and helpers also the officials. I think everybody knows the hard work you all contribute to make the competition a success and come to a successful conclusion.

I won't name individuals You all know who you are. Big Big Thank You from all at Club Kingsmaid WF and hope to see you all again in future tournaments in whatever capacity. Organising, officiating and playing.

Keep up the Good work everyone. 🏆🏆🏆





**Tony Norton**

2 d · 🌐



This weekend was a Very proud time for me in my Walking Football journey . Three weeks short of my 9th anniversary I was very proud to be acting Chairman of the WFLA on the weekend of our 1st National Tournament grand finals . It's been a lot of hard work but not possible without a fantastic committee , volunteers, referees and all the teams and players that made it happen.

Special thank you to Mandy, [Bill Murney](#) and [Mick Hill](#), great team effort this weekend 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

We did it and what a success, next year will be bigger and better



**Tony Norton**

[Admin](#) [Group expert](#) +1 · 23 h · 🌐

Well done to all teams , not just the winners. The big winner was the game of walking football. This was how to put on a weekend of walking football finals, slight delays in fixtures as the days went on but this was a common sense health and safety decision to give teams more breathing space between games due to the heat. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, everyone enjoyed the experience and that showed in their faces .

Thank you to Redditch United FC for a fantastic venue, thank you to our sponsors The [National Walking Football Alliance](#) and thank you to the team of refs for doing a great job.

Any clubs out there that want to enter in 2024, join an FA walking football league , make sure that your FA leagues are affiliated to the WFLA, after all its free for your league to affiliate, we have 26 leagues so far and counting.

See you all in 2024.



**Mick Hill**

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Congratulations to all the winners at the WFLA National Cup Finals, also to all the runners up and every single player that played slowly and fairly. Well done to [Bill Murney](#) [Tony Norton](#) (and Mandy) great work. To the referees a massive thank you , there were some testing games and some lessons to be learned but overall some great performances. Thanks once again to anyone who came along to support the event and the players. It was a very special weekend and very enjoyable, but I am absolutely cream crackered 😞





**Mick Hill**

3 d · 🌐



Well that was an extremely long hot day refereeing at the WFLA National Cup Finals. But it was enjoyable day nevertheless . The women's games were a joy to referee as were the 70s. The guys 60s were overall great but one or two perhaps need to get over themselves a bit and be a bit more grateful for the opportunities available to them at our time of life. Referees did a great job in really hot conditions. Well done to the winners and runners up and also to all those who played Slowly , safely and well 🍌🍌🍌 Brilliant work by the WFLA team behind the event especially Mandy Norton who kept on top of all the results today.



**Anonymous participant**

4 d · 🌐

This weekend sees the culmination of lots of work to provide the walking football community a National Walking Football tournament played under the FA LOTG.  
From the 26 FA league's affiliated to the WFLA we have 3 finals today and 3 tomorrow at Redditch United FC.  
Congratulations to all involved especially [Bill Murney](#), [Mick Hill](#) and [Tony Norton](#) who have made today happen.  
Good luck to all teams and referees, without you all this would not happen.  
Thank you to our trophy sponsors the [National Walking Football Alliance](#) and [Redditch United F.C.](#) for such a great venue.  
Huge thank you to Bill Murney for your patience, vision and determination 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌

**Tony Breslin**

Absolutely top class refereeing well done to all concerned in a great day

**Mick Wilde**

Absolutely agree 🍌

**Steve Eede**

Overall really great reffing by all the officials on an extremely hot day!!