

Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre Walking Football

They say that from acorns grow mighty oak trees, well similar is happening at Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre Walking Football. The class started in 2016 and we just had enough each week for 5 or 6 aside. Sometimes only 3 a side. The original group below.



Out of the original group that started 4 still play every week but we now have about 18 who turn up regularly but on average 14 making up 7 a side. The youngest is 59 the eldest nearly 72. Besides the football the session has created friendships, camaraderie, laughs and fitness. Who would ever believe that we would be playing football at our time of life experiencing the craic, laughs, competitiveness and smell of liniment that we experienced 30 /40 years ago. It's brilliant.

Now walking football has taken off both locally, nationally and internationally and Stocksbridge now enter tournaments all over Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. We have also been and played in an international tournament in Holland and just booked for a tournament in Portugal next April.

Our first experience of Tournament football was in 2016 at memorial tournament in Rotherham held in memory of a player who played for the Millers over 60s. We got to the final! But got narrowly beaten. The exact same happened in 2017 and 2018 so this September we are aiming to win and confident we can enter 2 strong sides. Our first Tournament in Rotherham – below.



Earlier this year we did in fact win our first tournament in Doncaster. A fantastic performance by those who played. Pictured below.



In May a squad of 8 entered a tournament in Holland at Leidenshendam – We were successful in winning our group stages but unlucky only to finish 3rd in the finals but we were up against strong teams which included the Sheffield Utd squad who actually won the tournament without conceding a goal – but it did have 3 players from the current England over 60's team.. The football was followed by a great evening of drinking, eating and dancing at an event put on by our hosts. On Tour!!!



On the 28th July we were invited to enter a team into the Steel City Cup. In fact we entered 2 teams. This is a very difficult tournament and is for all the teams who play in the Over 60s Northern Premier League - Teams from Blackburn, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Manchester, Grimsby, Redcar, Matlock, Harrogate, Sleaford and Sheffield – who play against each other every month. Our 2 teams were not over awed by this and gave great account of themselves. Both teams finished in 3rd or 4th place in their qualifying group and then went into the Plate Trophy. One Stocksbridge team was controversially eliminated in the quarter final with a dodgy penalty. The other team managed to get to the final but were narrowly beaten 4 – 3 by Grimsby – who are currently the Northern Premier League leaders. Members from both squads below.



Next year we have entered a competition in Portugal – for the EuroCopa over 60s Tournament. 2 full days of football followed by a presentation dinner. Looking forward to making memories again.

