



The history of Bury Relics walking football team, from inception and 3-a-side games to Greater Manchester Walking Football League champions in only 2 years

Bury Relics

The story so far ...



TOWER
FAMILY
HEALTHCARE

Keith Bibby

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Bury Relics

Lancashire FA affiliation V-LAN3935

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In the beginning

Following on from the success of Nifty Fifty (over 50's) football sessions run by Bury FC The Trust at PlayFootball in Bury in late 2016, Stefan Taylor (Health Improvement Specialist for Public Health Bury at Bury Council) had the idea to hold walking football sessions.

Stefan commissioned Lee Buggie (Principle Wellbeing Development Offices for Sport and Physical Activity Service at Bury Council, and ex Bury FC footballer) to deliver Bury Exercise and Therapy Scheme (BEATS), and, as a specialist offer to this health focused service, to set up Walking Football sessions at Castle Leisure Centre in Bury in partnership with Bury Leisure Service (Bury Council) and Bury FC The Trust.

The service was initially set up for a twelve-week period with participants referred from BEATS. There were small numbers early on, sometimes playing 3-a-side on a shortened pitch with staff from Castle Leisure Centre making up the numbers.

Gradually word spread, more players attended the sessions, and in April 2017 Keiran Tilley was invited to attend by Tony Marsden. Keiran became aware of the Greater Manchester Walking Football League (GMWFL) and gathered the players to enter a team. Struggling to come up with a name, his wife suggested The Relics, the name stuck, and The Bury Relics were born.

2017 - The first season

GMWFL Over 60's Autumn Season 2017 (September to December 2017)

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Wakefield Wanderers	13	4	7	2	6	19
2	Bury Relics	13	4	6	3	6	18
3	Nash Bees	13	4	6	3	2	18
4	Bolton Wanderers B	13	3	3	7	-14	12
5	Third Space Seniors FC	4	1	2	1	0	5

GMWFL over 60's Div 3 Autumn League 2017 final table.
Bury Relics runners up by 1 point.



Image of the original 2016 poster advertising Walking Football at Castle Leisure Centre

The Relics joined the GMWFL in August 2017 ready for the Autumn season which started in September 2017; at that point The Relics only had enough players for an over 60's team.

The Relics conclude an impressive first season in the league as runners up in Division 3.



The Relics first season - GMWFL 2017 Autumn season

The initial pioneers registered for that first GMWFL season were Keiran Tilley, Dave Seel, Gary Lomax, Bob Daniels, Tony Marsden, Charlie Nangle, Stuart Laight and Andy Quayle, with support from Keith Swain, Lee Buggie (Bury Council) and Donna Godwyn (Bury FC The Trust).

Others joined in September 2017 after the start of the season including Kevan Collins and Ken Buggie.



The over 60's team with the GMWFL Div 3 runners up trophy.



Tsun Dai presents the GMWFL Div 3 runners up trophy to The Relics

Thanks to Bury FC The Trust, Bury Football Club acknowledged the success of the first season with an award of the trophy on the pitch at Gigg Lane.

The trophy was presented by Bury FC player Tsun Dai.

2018 - Consolidation and Progression

GMWFL Spring Season 2018 (February to May 2018)

Over 60's



The Relics in a shiny new kit for the 2018 Spring season

Following on from the Autumn 2017 league success the team looked forward to the Spring 2018 season.

Still in the GMWFL Div 3, The Relics once again just missed out on top spot finishing runners up for the second season in succession.

Second place is enough to get The Relics their first promotion to Division 2 for the autumn season.



Greater Manchester Walk

Season: Over 60's Spring 2018 Division

Over 60's Spring 2018

GO

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Division 3

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Preston North End Senior Whites	14	7	5	2	5	26
2	Bury Relics	14	5	6	3	4	21
3	Maccabi Old Codgers	14	3	5	6	-5	14
4	Middleton Legends	8	4	1	3	2	13
5	Third Space Seniors FC	14	2	5	7	-6	11

[Table detail](#)

GMWFL over 60's Div 3 Spring 2018. 2nd place again for The Relics

Over 65's

The Relics ventured into the over 65's league for this season. Not quite having enough players for the age group, the Relics entered a joint team with Vintage Celtic (Stalybridge) called Vintage Relics.

The team finished third in Division 1.


Greater Manchester Walk
Season: Over 65's Spring 2018 Division
Over 65's Spring 2018 GO
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Division 1

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Rochdale AFC Strollers 65's	18	12	6	0	16	42
2	Preston North End SW 65's	18	7	10	1	14	31
3	Vintage Relics 65's	18	5	10	3	7	25
4	AFC Blackpool SS 65's	18	2	9	7	-8	15
5	Tameside Striders 65's	18	1	11	6	-6	14
6	Rochdale Striders 65's	18	1	11	6	-10	14
7	Wakefield Wanderers 65's	18	1	11	6	-13	14

Table detail

Third place for the joint Vintage Relics



Vintage Relics featuring four Relics players

GMWFL Autumn Season 2018 (September to December 2018)

At this point the number of players available to The Relics had increased sufficiently enough to add an over 65's team into the league in our own name.

So, for the 2018 Autumn season The Relics, had two teams competing, one in the over 60's league, and one in the over 65's league.

Over 60's

The over 60's team newly promoted to division 2, (only 1 year after starting up),

The Relics found the higher division a tough test but consolidated their position by finishing in 4th place.


Greater Manchester Walk
Season: Over 60's Autumn 2018 Division
Over 60's Autumn 2018 GO
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Division 2

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Chorley FC Magpies	16	8	4	4	6	28
2	Fleetwood Town Flyers	16	7	6	3	4	27
3	Bolton Wanderers Walkers	16	5	10	1	5	25
4	Bury Relics	16	3	7	6	-6	16
5	Roach Dynamos	16	2	3	11	-9	9

Table detail

GMWFL over 60's Div 2 Autumn 2018. 4th place for The Relics

Over 65's

A really strong season for the first over 65's Relics team, finishing runners up to a dominant Rochdale team that had been supreme in this age group for the past few seasons.



Jubilant Relics with the over 65's runners up trophy



Greater Manchester Walk

Season: Over 65's Autumn 2018 Division

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Division 1

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Rochdale AFC Strollers 65's	16	11	5	0	15	38
2	Bury Relics 65's	16	5	6	5	1	21
3	Chorley FC 65's	16	5	6	5	0	21
4	Tameside Striders 65's	16	1	9	6	-7	12
5	AFC Blackpool SS 65's	16	0	10	6	-9	10

[Table detail](#)

Relics over 65's runners up in their first season

2019 - Progress and Success

The word has spread and the number of players in The Relics squad has increased yet again, now enough for 3 teams in the GMWFL.

For the Spring 2019 season of the GMWFL The Relics enter an over 60's team continuing in division 2, over 65's team in division 1 and for the first time an over 70's team.

[GMWFL Spring Season 2019 \(March to June 2019\)](#)

Over 60's

A great season for the over 60's finishing as Division 2 champions and Graham Walton winning the Golden Boot with 6 goals.



Relics over 60's celebrate their Division 2 Title



Greater Manchester Walk

Season: Over 60's Spring 2019 Division

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Division 2

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Bury Relics	16	5	8	3	4	23
2	Bolton Wanderers Walkers	16	5	6	5	-2	21
3	Fleetwood Town Flyers	16	4	8	4	0	20
4	Man City A	16	4	7	5	0	19
5	AFC Blackpool Senior Seasiders	16	3	9	4	-2	18

[Table detail](#)

Relics win Division 2 by 2 points

Over 65's

Continuing the Relics success, only a week after the over 60's won the Division 2 title, the over 65's were not to be outdone, clinching the over 65's Division 1 in a tense last round of games. Going into the day the Relics were four point clear and managed to maintain their top spot on a difficult day finally coming out Champions by 2 goals, pushing a very good Rochdale team into second place.



Over 65's Champions – Spring 2019



Greater Manchester Wall

Season: Over 65's Spring 2019 Division:

Over 65's Spring 2019

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Division 1

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Bury Relics 65's	16	5	10	1	7	25
2	Rochdale AFC Strollers 65's	16	5	10	1	5	25
3	Mancom 65's	16	3	9	4	1	18
4	Tameside Striders 65's	16	2	10	4	-5	16
5	Chorley FC 65's	16	0	11	5	-8	11

[Table detail](#)

Relics clinch the title on goal difference



... and we've all got injuries 😊



Over 65's Champions – Spring 2019.

Over 70's

An exciting first season for the over 70's Relics who were in contention for the title up to the very last day.

Unfortunately, the results in the games on the last day of the season went against the Relics and they ended up finishing in fourth place.



Lancashire FA

Greater Manchester Walk

Season: Over 70's Spring 2019 Division

Over 70's Spring 2019



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Division 1

League Table

POS		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Preston NE SW 70's	24	9	11	4	4	38
2	Rochdale AFC Strollers 70's	24	7	12	5	7	33
3	Tameside Striders 70's	24	6	15	3	4	33
4	Bury Relics 70's	24	5	17	2	2	32
5	AFC Blackpool SS 70's	24	4	17	3	0	29
6	Man City 70's	24	5	13	6	0	28
7	Mancom 70's	24	0	11	13	-17	11

Table detail

Only 1 point separating 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place



The Relics first over 70's team finished in 4th place in the league.

Training.

The Relics are active in the local community, with open training sessions at Castle Leisure Centre that involve players with learning difficulties, handicaps and health issues.

As well as training session at Castle Leisure Centre, in 2018 additional training sessions for The Relics were introduced at Radcliffe Borough FC on their outside astro turf pitches.

These additional training sessions at Radcliffe Borough, run by Head Coach Ken Buggie, proved an immediate hit with the players and contributed to the team's successes in the GMWFL Spring 2019 season.

Social

It's not all football with The Bury Relics, there is a great social side too with end of season social events, curry nights and golf days.



June 2019 Curry Night. - Don't worry boss, we'll run it off at the next training session

Bury Sports Awards

October 2018.

Keiran Tilley nominated for The Unsung Hero Award.

October 2019

Ken Buggie nominated for assisting with the community walking football sessions and coaching The Relics



Summary of Competitions and other events

Greater Manchester Walking Football League

2017 Autumn season	Over 60's	Division 3 Runners Up
2018 Spring Season	Over 60's	Division 3 Runners Up
	Over 65's	Division 1, Third place (as Vintage Relics)
2018 Autumn Season	Over 60's	Division 2 Fourth Place
	Over 65's	Division 1 Runners up
2019 Spring Season	Over 60's	Division 2 Champions
	Over 60's	Graham Walton Golden Boot Winner 6 goals
	Over 65's	Division 1 Champions
	Over 70's	Division 1 Fourth place

Other Events

2018, May	EFL Trust competition at Bolton Wanderers training ground.
2018, May	Relics training session at Gigg Lane, the home of Bury Football Club.
2018, October	Bury Sports Awards.
	Keiran Tilley nominated for the Unsung Hero award for his work with The Relics.
2019, May	Bury Relics Open Competition at Gigg Lane. Relics were competition winners also Shield winners.
2019, July	Fleetwood Tournament, semi-finalist.
2019, October	Bury Sports Awards, Ken Buggie nominated for assisting with the community walking football sessions and coaching The Relics.

Gallery



EFL tournament at Bolton Wanderers, May 2018



Fleetwood tournament, July 2019



Eight teams entered the inaugural Relics tournament. May 2019



Bury Relics Gigg Lane Tournament winners and Shield winners. May 2019