



# Bury Relics Walking Football Annual Review 2022

## *Synopsis of 2022 Season from President Keiran Tilley*



As I look back on the season 2022 it is with a great amount of pride in what we have all achieved at Bury Relics Walking Football Club.

We have had a terrific first full season since 2019 due to Covid. Results wise we've collected an amazing 6 trophies between the teams which is no mean feat, but I think it's a lot more than that. We have a really good set of lads who get on well in the main but also who look after each other both

on and off the pitch which is great to see.

We are really well respected by the officials of ( GMWFL) and I have been told by them several times this year that we are the best run club in the league. Also our opponents respect us for the way we conduct ourselves and the way we play the game itself. We have used over 36 players in league matches this season as we now have four teams in all.

What we do is of course about walking football but I believe it's much more than that. We socialise together and have several well attended events such as Golf days, curry nights and of course our brilliant presentation evening. All these events bring us closer together and I must say the comradery is brilliant, please keep it going guys.

Other things I definitely feel deserve a mention are:

- Keith Bibby's selection for the England Parkinson's Walking Football team in July.
- Sir Pat's selection to carry the commonwealth games Baton in Bolton in July
- Also Tex being recently selected to go for trials for the England over 70's walking football team in February 2023 an excellent and deserved recognition.

So things are looking good for the Relics. Let's all work hard together to keep up the standards and keep improving Bury Relics for us all. I'm looking forward to the 2023 season together.



**Sponsored by Tower Family Healthcare**

## 2022 Review

2022 saw the first full year of fixtures for the Relics since 2019. 2022 also brought further expansion for the Relics with an additional team in the Greater Manchester Walking Football League over 60's, making it four teams in the league for the Relics, two over 60's teams, an over 65's team and an over 70's team.



**Most league appearances**  
**Eddie Ford**

A total of 36 players were involved in the GMWFL games during the year, including the Spring and Autumn seasons. Most appearances went to goalkeeper Eddie Ford on 19, while Pete Shev and John Wardle achieved 14, and Gaz Sweeny, Graham Walton, Alan Blackley, and Keith Bibby were in the league squads on 12 occasions throughout the year.

### *Presentation Night 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022*

The year started with the 2021 Presentation Night, held on 28th Jan 2022.

Over 50 people attended a wonderful evening of laughter, entertainment, and good food culminating in the award of the trophies. Over 60's player of the year went to Tony Greenall, over 65's player of the year was awarded to John Morris, and the over 70's player of the year was won by Tex O'Rourke. The player of the year went to goalkeeping superstar 'General' Gaz Sweeney.



**In safe hands – goalkeeper Gaz with his award**



## GMWFL Spring Season 2022

### *Over 60's Whites (GMWFL Div 1)*

The over 60's Whites had a difficult season in the GMWFL first division. Although never being totally outclassed in a very tough league, and despite being the best team in a number of games, the Relics finished bottom of the division and were relegated.

Division 1		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Club Kingsmaid	16	6	9	1	7	27
2	Manchester Corinthians Reds	16	3	11	2	1	20
3	Rochdale AFC Strollers	16	2	12	2	-1	18
4	Wakefield Wanderers	16	3	9	4	-1	18
5	<b>Bury Relics Whites</b>	16	1	9	6	-6	12

GMWFL Over 60's Division 1 – Final table.

### *Over 60's Stripes (GMWFL Div 5)*



The new Relics over 60's Stripes had a good start in their first season in the league.

In a tight league with only one point between the bottom three teams, the Relics just missed out on second spot by one goal after tying on points and goal difference with Wakefield.

Division 5		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Winstanley Walkers	12	5	6	1	5	21
2	Wakefield Wanderers Whites	12	2	7	3	-1	13
3	<b>Bury Relics Stripes</b>	12	2	7	3	-1	13
4	Ribble Valley	12	2	6	4	-3	12

GMWFL Over 60's Division 5 – Final table.

### Over 65's (GMWFL Div 1)

A great Spring season for the Relics over 65's resulted in the Relics finishing in second spot, just three points behind Corinthians. The Relics were only 2 points behind at the start of the last day but seven points on the day wasn't enough to overcome Corinthians who had gained 8 points pipping the Relics to top spot in the league by 3 points.



Division 1		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Manchester Corinthians	16	7	9	0	12	30
2	<b>Bury Relics 65's</b>	16	6	9	1	10	27
3	Rochdale AFC Strollers	16	2	9	5	-4	15
4	Preston North End 65's	16	3	6	7	-10	15
5	Manchester Senior Citizens	16	3	5	8	-8	14

GMWFL Over 65's Division 1 – Final table.

### Over 70's (GMWFL Div 1)



After only 6 points from the first day of the season, and 4 points from the second day games, the Relics over 70's came back strong with 10 points from each of the last two days games to win the league by 6 points.

Division 1		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	<b>Bury Relics</b>	16	7	9	0	7	30
2	Rochdale AFC Strollers	16	5	9	2	4	24
3	Blackpool	16	4	8	4	0	20
4	Manchester Senior Citizens	16	2	7	7	-5	13
5	Preston North End	16	1	9	6	-6	12

GMWFL Over 70's Division 1 – Final table.



## GMWFL Autumn Season 2022

### *Over 60's Whites (GMWFL Div 2)*

The Greater Manchester Walking Football League over 60's (Division 2) Autumn season came to a dramatic end on the last day of the season.

The Relics started the day in second place on goal difference behind Bolton. The top spot changed a few times as the games were played and resulted in Bolton needing a win in their final game against Carlisle to be Champions. Bolton went ahead early on but Carlisle came back to lead 2 – 1 only for Bolton to equalise but couldn't get the winner that would give them the title.

The Relics over 60's bounce back to Division 1 at the first attempt.



Division 2		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	<b>Bury Relics</b>	16	5	10	1	4	25
2	Bolton	16	5	9	2	8	24
3	Blackpool	16	5	7	2	2	22
4	Carlisle	16	3	9	4	0	18
5	Preston North End	16	1	7	8	-14	10

GMWFL Over 60's Division 2 – Final table.



### Over 60's Stripes (GMWFL Div 5)

The Relics over 60's stripes had a solid Autumn season in a strong division with a number of new players making their debuts during the season.

Division 5		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Bolton	12	6	5	0	9	24
2	Ribble Valley	12	6	5	1	8	23
3	<b>Bury Relics</b>	12	3	2	7	-8	11
4	Wakefield Wanderers	12	1	3	8	-9	6

GMWFL Over 60's Division 5 – Final table.

### Over 65's (GMWFL Div 1)

The over 65's autumn season was dominated by Club Kingsmaid who had clinched the title before the last day of four games had even begun. This left the other teams playing for second spot with the Relics holding that position at the start of the day 5 points ahead of third place Corinthians.



The Relics 8 point haul on the day, including a win over the previously unbeaten champions elect Club Kingsmaid, ensured a runner up spot in the league and another addition to the trophy cabinet.

Division 1		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	Club Kingsmaid 65's	16	13	2	1	17	41
2	<b>Bury Relics 65's</b>	16	6	8	2	6	26
3	Manchester Corinthians 65's	16	4	5	7	-3	17
4	Preston North End SW 65's	16	1	9	6	-5	12
5	Rochdale AFC Strollers 65's	16	2	4	10	-15	10

GMWFL Over 65's Division 1 – Final table.

## Over 70's (GMWFL Div 1)



Following on from their league title success in the GMWFL Spring 2022 season in June 2022, The Relics over 70's made it Back-to-Back title wins in 2022 by claiming the Autumn Season title on goal difference from Rochdale.

The final game of the day, the final game of the season, its Relics v Rochdale both on the same number

of points, but the Relics have a far superior goal difference. That didn't matter now, Rochdale only needed a 1 – 0 win, and the title was theirs. On the other hand, a draw for the Relics would be enough. The game was close, with not too many attempts on goal from either team and ended 0 – 0. The Relics claim back-to-back league wins for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time following this group of players back-to-back titles in 2019 when in the over 65 age group.

Division 1		P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1	<b>Bury Relics</b>	12	7	2	3	13	23
2	Rochdale AFC Strollers	12	6	5	1	5	23
3	Blackpool FC SS	12	2	4	6	-11	10
4	Tameside Striders Blues	12	2	3	7	-7	9

GMWFL Over 70's Division 1 – Final table.

## **WFLA Champions League**



The Relics over 70's won the inaugural Walking Football League Alliance (WFLA) Champions Cup in June.

The Competition was open to the top two teams from all 16 Walking Football Leagues that are affiliated to the WFLA. The Relics beat Rochdale Strollers 3 – 1 in the final held at Leek Town Football Club on 11th June 2022.



## **Pharmacy2U WFA National Cup**

Another first for The Relics as two teams were entered into the WFA National Cup for the first time. Relics competed in the over 60's and over 65's age groups.

### **Over 60's Whites**

The over 60's won their first round tie 2 – 1 away at Nelson Nomads but went out in round two 1 – 6 to a very strong Fleetwood team

### **Over 65's**

The Relics over 65's entered their age group at round two with an away game against Winstanley Walkers who had knocked the Relics out of cup the previous season. The Relics took revenge over Winstanley with a 4 – 2 away win.

Round three was a 1 – 0 home win against Oakwood Glossop which put the Relics into the North West (East) Regional Final against GMWFL leaders Club Kingsmaid. In a close game the final result, a 3 – 1 win to Kingsmaid, was not a true reflection of a close game.

## **GMWFL Over 60's Martin Dawson Trophy**

The Relics over 60's lost on penalties in the Plate semi-final.

Having won the Plate in the same competition last year, the Relics were looking to try to better that performance if possible.

However, on the day the Relics didn't seem to be firing on all cylinders and, although dominating some games, they failed to get the results.



**Sponsored by Tower Family Healthcare**



## Personal Highlights

### *Tex O'Rourke and Stewart White selected for GMWFL league teams*



Tex

Tex O'Rourke and Stewart White were included in the Greater Manchester Walking Football League (GMWFL) league teams that competed in the inaugural Walking Football League Alliance (WFLA) Inter League Cup Finals played at Leek Town FC on Saturday 28th May 2022.



Stewart

Tex was included in the over 70's team. Stewart played in the over 65's team. Both teams won their respective competitions.

### *"Sir" Pat Fitzgerald carries the Baton*

Relics Vice President and player Pat Fitzgerald was selected to carry the Commonwealth Games Queens Baton around Bolton on 16th July 2022.

"Sir" Pat, as he is known to the Relics squad, was nominated by fellow Relics player Iain Dawson.

"Sir" Pat's commitment to his local community, charities and The Relics was captured by Iain in his nomination.



### *Keith Bibby selected for England Parkinson's Walking Football Team*



Keith became the first Relics player to be selected for England at any Level when he was selected for the newly formed England Parkinson's Walking Football Team in July.

The England trials took place in Solihull on 3rd July 2022 involving 35 players arranged into seven teams. The teams played a mini league against each other while being observed by the England WFAPD Management team in order to choose 18 players to form the squad. Keith made his England debut in a tournament in Belfast in December 2022.

## 2022 Summary

June	Over 65's	GMWFL Runners up
	Over 70's	GMWFL League Champions
	Over 70's	WFLA Champions League Winners
December	Over 60's	Whites, GMWFL Division 2 Champions
	Over 65's	GMWFL Runners up
	Over 70's	GMWFL Champions

## Finally

*Thank  
you*

And finally our sincere thanks got to Tower Family Healthcare for their continued support of the kits and web site.

Also our thanks got to Radcliffe FC for their tremendous hospitality in using the facilities at The Neuen Stadium for training each week, friendly games, social events, and the annual presentation night. Thank You.



**Sponsored by Tower Family Healthcare**