

GREAT WAKERING ROVERS Football Club

2018/2019 Season

The Season to Celebrate our History of
100 Years in Non-League Football

Edited and Compiled by Richard Kirton

01 November 2018



1919 to 2018



Foreword

I would like to thank all of the past and present Club Officials, Players and supporters, for their contributions and support, in particular:

Roger Burroughs [Lifetime President]

Elaine Pitts [Treasurer, Licensee & Membership Secretary]

David Patient [Club Chairman & Assistant Team Manager]

Mike Lee [Vice Chairman & Club Secretary]

Jim Laird [Committee Member & Groundsman]

Roy Kettridge [Committee Member & Ex-Chairman]

Jim Johnson [Committee Member & Match Commentator]

Daniel Ellis [Press Officer, Website Editor & Programme Editor]

Brian Everett [Ex-Goalkeeper]

Eddie Ellis [Ex-President & Secretary]

Roger Sampson [Ex-Secretary]

Alf Hallums [Ex-Treasurer]

Fred Smith [Ex-Chairman & Player]

Frankie Banks [Ex-League Player]

Dawn Beadle [Wife of the late Barry Beadle]

David Axcell [Football League Referee]

Phil Adcock the son of John Adcock [Player]

Gordon Butler and many others not listed above

I would like to thank Jim Laird in particular for the assistance and guidance that he has given to me over the past year.

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100 Years in Non-League Football

Introduction

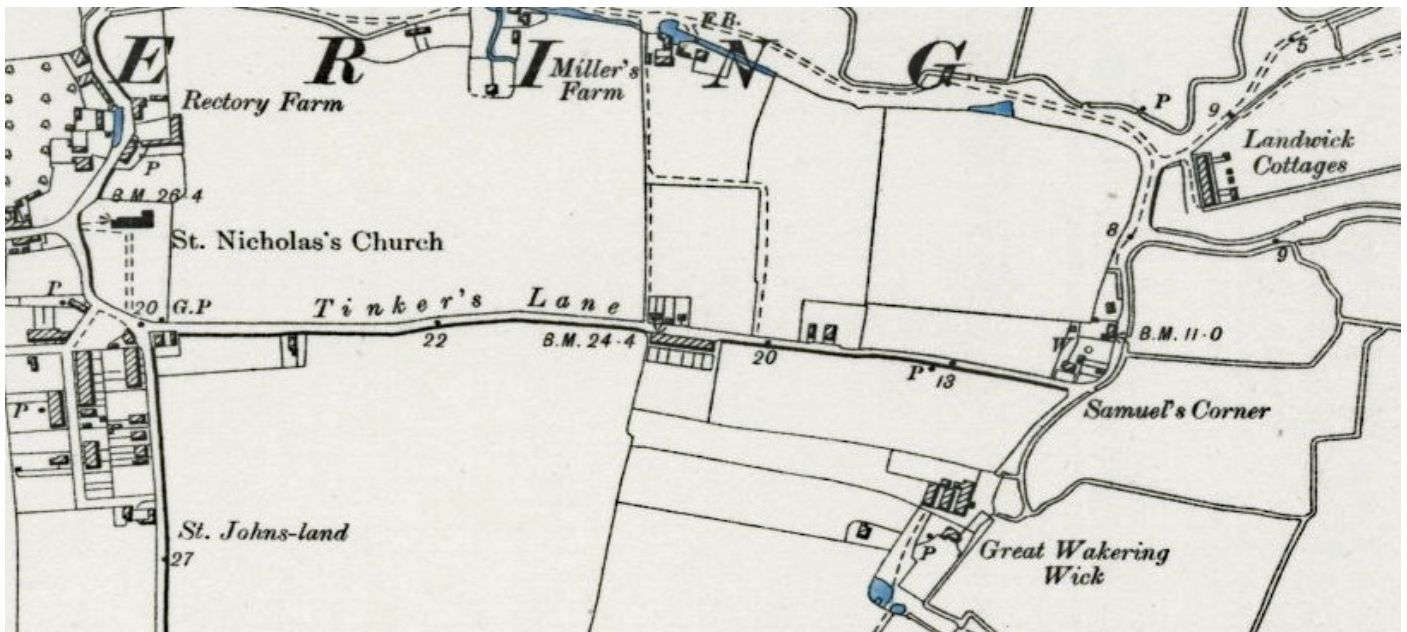


H. MILTON * B. WHITE * W. GLEN * A. CERSON * H. WATERS * J. CERSON
A. CHURCH * A. ADCOCK * B. ADCOCK
G. TERREL * P. RIVERS * G. STUBBS * A. SMITH * A. SELF

Pictured above is the earliest photograph of the Great Waking Rovers 2nd Eleven team, 1919 - 1920 season. This and subsequent matches were originally played on a field, locally known as 'Pikel', situated south of Tinkers Lane (now New Road) and close to Samuel's Corner. The official dictionary spelling for a small piece of enclosed land is a 'Pightel' but other variants include 'Pightle', 'Pightell', 'Pyghtle', 'Pycle' and 'Picle'.

Those soldiers, fortunate enough to have returned from fighting in World War One, had to settle back in to the normality of rural life and most ended up working in local brickfields and farms. Many of them formed the local Great Waking Rovers Club in 1919 and some wonderful team photographs from that period survive today and can be seen by visiting the Great Waking Rovers Galleries on the Barling & Waking Villages Plus website: <http://www.barlingwakingvillages.co.uk/plus/>

On 17th August 2017, I was lucky enough to talk to **Alan Crosby** and **Alan Pitts**, allotment holders in their early 70's who have been supporters of Great Waking Rovers Football Club over the years. They suggested that I spoke to Carol Chandler who has always been passionate about the club but more specifically, they persuaded **Gordon Butler** to stop what he was doing on his allotment and talk to me that same day. Before his retirement, Gordon explained that he and his partner George Bailey ran a local building company called Butler & Bailey for 40 yrs.



Gordon Butler, now 82 years old, remembers the 'Pikels' very well and his interpretation of this word is 'small pieces of land adjacent to a farm', in this case Great Waking Wick Farm, which was demolished by the military when they purchased the land and erected a high border fence.

On 24th August 1940, during World War II, a German KG53 Heinkel bomber was shot down and crash landed into the 3rd Pikel, close to Samuel's Corner and as a lad, Gordon remembers the excitement of going to see the aircraft. Back then, there were 3 Pikels but they eventually merged into one.

After the 'Pikels', the club teams trained on The Common and played matches at the Recreation Ground, paying rent to Great Waking Council for the use of the pitches. Today, Gordon manages an allotment in Little Waking Road opposite the football club and as a supporter, remembers very well the times when The Rovers never lost a match.

Roger Sampson clearly remembers when the teams first Played at Burroughs Park in 1988 and when the club was issued their first Drinks license in 1989. The Rover's original strip colours of dark grey shirt with a laced tie up collar, light blue shorts and white socks changed to the green and white strip around 1923. Since then, the green and white strip alternated through the years between green and white squares to green and white stripes.

Before parting company, Gordon shared his knowledge of the Great Waking Pickle Factory, which was owned by Harry Ellis from the 1950s to the early 1970s. The factory site is now a small housing estate, situated where Trevor Goodwin ran his car workshop at the High Street end of Little Waking Hall Lane. Bags of onions and barrels of vinegar were delivered to the factory and Harry distributed them to local home workers who would peel the onions for which they were paid by the bagful. Harry would then arrange to get them back to the factory for bottling in vinegar.

Not much of the history remains of those earlier years of the football club, so I decided to concentrate on the later history of the club. I have interviewed some past and present Club Officials such as Alf Hallums, Roger Sampson, Fred Smith, Eddie Ellis, Roy Kettridge and Jim Laird along with Dawn Beadle, wife of the late Barry Peter Beadle, all knowledgeable people who have been involved in the club through the years. Both Leslie Stubbs and Barry Beadle were talented players with the former playing professionally for Southend United and Chelsea. In total, eight of Great Waking Rovers' players turned professional and made it into the English Football League.

Timeline of Club Development

1919 to 1982

The club was formed in 1919, mainly by soldiers demobbed after World War I and finding employment in the local brickfields. They first played in one of Southend's oldest leagues, the Southend & District League in 1919 and remained members until 1982. They became the league's most dominant and successful club ever, especially in the 1960's and 1970, by winning the league championship and cups more times than any other.

1982 to 1989

In 1982, they switched to the newly formed Southend & District Alliance Football League but this league folded in 1989. It was felt to be the best squad amassed by a manager, in this case Eddie Nash and the decision was made to step up to intermediate level and join the Essex Intermediate League. 'Rovers' remained in the Essex Intermediate League for three seasons, winning the championships of Divisions Three and Two in successive seasons. After this, 'Rovers' successfully applied to join the Essex Senior League and found themselves in Step 5 of the Non-League pyramid, which for a village club was a tremendous feat. Sadly, this league folded in 1989 leaving 'Rovers' with a decision to move back to the Southend & District League or take a step up in standard.

1985

Negotiations with Great Wakering Parish Council were successful for the 'Rovers'. The result was that 104 disused allotment sites were made available for the club to begin work on creating their own ground and clubhouse. The ground was given the name of "Burroughs Park" in recognition of all the help given to the club by local farmer and former player Roger Burroughs'

1989/1990 Season

With the Southend & District Alliance Football League folding, the club had to decide on where to go next should it go upwards or back to its roots in local football. With the club and ground taking shape, it was decided to enter the Essex Intermediate League.

1990/1991 Season

Essex Intermediate League Division Three Champions.

1994/1995 Season

Rovers narrowly beat Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club for the Essex Senior League title. Rovers had collected 71 points for the season and lost just three times although the title win was only won on goal difference (18). During that season 'Rovers' forward Paul Flack scored 28 goals, which included a haul of 4 goals away at Eton Manor as Rovers celebrated a 9-0 victory. Also included in his stunning season were two further hat tricks. That season his strike partner Neil Ramsey grabbed 20 goals as 'Rovers' hit home 82 goals. 'Rovers' defence of the Essex Senior crown faltered the following season, finishing 2nd behind Romford.

1996 to 2000

In the 1996-1997 season 'Rovers' would also finish second again, behind Ford United by just three points. The 1997-1998 season would be 'Rovers' worst season in the Essex Senior League, finishing mid-table, 7th, and 36 points behind winners Concord Rangers. The club's final appearance in the Essex Senior League saw them finish 2nd behind Bowers United. However, due to Bowers United failing to meet ground grading requirements for promotion, Rovers were promoted to the Isthmian League in their place. With Isthmian League Division Three on the horizon for the 1999-2000 season, 'Rovers' move into Step 4 of the league pyramid was complete. At the very first attempt 'Rovers' were

promoted to Division Two finishing behind East Thurrock United by three points. Promotion to Division Two gave 'Rovers' some stiffer opposition and the season finished with them in mid-table.

2002/2003 Season

The Isthmian League then reorganised and Rovers found themselves in a new look Division One North, finishing mid-table but more than holding their own in what was a very competitive league. In 2003 the club were embroiled in a relegation fight, although this was won convincingly as Rovers finished 15 points ahead of the relegation zone.

2004 to 2007

A further league reorganisation in 2004 saw the club switch to the Southern Football League Eastern Division for two seasons. The 2004-2005 season saw Rovers miss relegation by one-point due to Erith & Belvedere FC being deducted three points. The 2005-2006 season Rovers bounced back to finish safely in mid-table. Rovers found themselves in familiar territory, switching back to the Isthmian League Division One North, where they finished 12th. Two further seasons saw Rovers finish 13th and stabilise themselves as a Ryman League club.

2009/2010 Season

The 2009-2010 season brought a record number of points for the Rovers at Ryman League level, 64, but towards the end of the season manager Iain O'Connell took over at Ryman Premier side Margate leaving assistant Ryan Wilkinson and physio Cleve Taylor to take over temporary control with 12 games to go. During the close season of 2010, Ryan and Cleve were made joint managers with Danny Heath being promoted from reserve team manager to first team coach to join a new management team.

2011/2012 Season

During the 2011-2012 season, after a poor run of results, Ryan Wilkinson and Cleve Taylor decided that it was time to move on and resigned, leaving coach Danny Heath as Caretaker Manager. After a short period, when new managers were interviewed, Danny Greaves was installed as manager and took charge for his first game on 29 October 2011, but saw his side lose 2-0 away at Leiston. Unfortunately, Danny's reign did not last long as his side lost 6 games in 6, scoring 4 and conceding 21, leaving Danny with no option than to resign.

Once again Danny Heath took over as Caretaker Manager although Dan Trenkel was installed as the new Player-Manager within two games. Trenkel, a Rovers youth and reserve player, joined the first team for his debut on the 4th April 2001, had played over 300 games for the club and immediately made a start on shoring up the frail defence which had conceded 52 goals before his arrival. Dan Trenkel remained in charge of the Rovers, instilling a new sense of belief into his side.

2017/2018 Season

Rovers found themselves in the Essex Senior League following a 3-year absence since winning the Essex Senior League and Cup double in the 2013-14 season. Iain O'Connell was chomping at the bit to bring in and build his new squad that he hoped was capable of promotion from the Essex Senior League once again.

2018/2019 Season

100-year Anniversary

Present & Past Committee Members

Roger Burroughs

[Lifetime President]



Roger is a farmer and contractor on Foulness Island and is also the Lifetime President of Great Wakering Rovers Football Club. He actually played for the 'Rovers' between the ages of 14 and 24 and Burroughs Park was named after him in recognition of his financial and constructional assistance. Boasting floodlights, a clubhouse and tea bar, it's highest attendance ever recorded was 1,150 for a pre-season friendly against Southend United in 2006.

He was a conventional farmer on Foulness Island for 15 years, rearing 150 beef cattle, 130 sheep clones and turkeys and chickens, with Marsh, the butcher in High Street Great Wakering, being his closest customer. By 1986 he ceased farming livestock and concentrated on his arable crops which included wheat, peas and barley. Roger had the opportunity and tenacity to survive and

decided to diversify and create a new business as a contractor and Haulage and Transport provider, licensed to operate vehicles under a National license for goods transport. Roger has always had a passion for heavy machinery and calls them his big toys.

In 1995, Roger was President of **The Rochford Hundred Agricultural Society**, the year of its fiftieth anniversary. Also, for many years now he been involved in the organisation of local Ploughing Matches and two of these matches in 1984 and 1995 can be seen on YouTube, both hosted at Tree Farm, Foulness Island, Essex.

In 2001 and 2002, Roger was President of **Essex Young Farmers**, a youth organisation made up of 16-26 year olds and despite the name, you don't have to be a farmer to join; absolutely anyone can be a member! Essex Young Farmers is run by its members, for its members, so everyone has the chance to have a say in what goes on and with 10 clubs across the county, there really is something for everyone.

If you attend a local Ploughing Match, chances are that Roger will be there either in a supporting or organising capacity. The event at Hawkwell Hall Farm in September 2017 was another great success and was indicative of the level of support that this iconic event attracts and the value that it gives to the community. In preparation for the 2019/19 Season Roger decided to have the clubhouse re-decorated and the following photographs show the new look Boardroom/Trophy Room and Bar areas.



Elaine Pitts

[Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Licensee and Trustee]



Elaine Pitts lives in the village and has always thrived on keeping herself busy. Her official roles within Great Wakering Rovers Football Club include Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Licensee and Trustee but she can always be seen helping with many other club duties such as serving behind the bar and she keeps her finger on the pulse with the general organisation and cleanliness of the clubhouse.

Elaine has known Roger Burroughs for 23 years and works for him as Personal Secretary at Tree Farm on Foulness Island. Even this workload is not enough for Elaine and for the past 18 years she has been a Councillor on the Foulness Island Parish Council, the past 2 years as Chairman.

Elaine has been happily married to 'Roy Pitts' for 3 years and she feels very happy with her life. It was a real joy when 3 years ago in October 2015, her son 'Ross' from her previous marriage and his partner 'Ellie' gave her a gorgeous granddaughter named 'Poppy' of whom she is so proud.

David Patient

[Club Chairman & Assistant Team Manager]

On 25th October 2017, I spoke to David Patient the then current Football Chairman and First-team Assistant Manager to Iain O'Connell. David had been Football Manager at Great Wakering Rovers from 2005 to 2009 and returned to the club as the Director of Football in July 2016. David's support for Wakering has always remained steadfast and he has been involved in non-league football now since 1980.

In 2018, David will be entering his 38th season, but not always as a player owing to a motor accident in his early days of driving. He continued his football activities in the roles of coach, assistant manager, manager and chairman with just three football clubs: Wakering, Barking and Aveley.

David currently lives in Hockley and spent many years with Dagenham Motors, a Ford dealership which started trading in 1981. In 1986, he was appointed as a Director on the Executive Board and retired in 2005. At their peak, Dagenham Motors ran 23 dealerships in London and the South-east. David is happy with Great Wakering Rovers' stable financial position and lately their results are constantly improving. On Monday 2nd July 2018, David was promoted to Club Chairman whilst remaining First-team Assistant Manager to Gary Kimble, who took over from Iain O'Connell in July 2018. His aim is to continue to keep the club on a stable footing over the 2018/19 season, at a time when the Rovers are back in the Isthmian League having had a very successful 2017/18 season, winning the Essex Senior League and the Errington Challenge Cup.



Jim Laird

[Committee Member and Groundsman]

Jim Laird, born 1948, came to Great Wakering from the Edmonton / Tottenham border in North London. He has always been passionate about football and in 1991 at age 43 yrs, he started to get involved in Great Wakering Rovers Football Club.

Jim has worn a variety of hats and I have personally known him for many years now. One of his regular tasks has been the organisation of team transport for away matches. He has contributed much of his time to ensure the smooth running of the club, including more menial jobs such as mowing and white-lining as well as secretarial positions, safety officer and press liaison. On his own admission, he prefers to leave the white-lining to others since lately, Jim's lines do not end up being very straight.



Along with Jim Johnson, Kelvin Swain, Rob Smith and many others, Jim Laird has promoted and managed the youth teams over the years, including my own son Trevor. Both were always there for the boys and expertly guided them every step of the way, and for that, all of the parents are extremely grateful.

Jim is a highly valued Committee Member and a stalwart to the day to day running of the club. Regrettably, he looks back to the good old days when local people including parents and Committee Members had more time to spare to help out with the running of the club.

Starting with the upcoming 2018/19 Season, Jim has taken on yet another task. He will be writing a report for most matches which will be included in each programme and non-league paper (Jim said that somebody else could wear the wellies and get the ball). I cannot thank Jim enough since he has identified key people for me to talk and helped me enormously with the production of this history of Great Wakering Rovers.

Roy Kettridge

[Committee Member and Ex-Chairman]



Roy Kettridge's involvement in Great Wakering Rovers Football Club started in 1996 and at that time, his youngest son, aged 17, had a trial, and was selected to play for both the Reserve Team and the Under 18's, of Great Wakering Rovers Football Club.

As Roy and his family lived in Rayleigh, and his son did not drive, he had to run him about for both training and matches with Wakering being half-an-hour trip, each way, from home.

Home matches for the Reserves were very poorly attended, from a spectator view point, sometimes just one man and a dog. It was not long before Roy became acquainted with an icon from the Club, by the name of 'Nobby' Johnson. Towards the end of that season, Nobby asked Roy one evening, just before kick-off, "What's this I hear that you want to become our New Commercial Manager?".

He explained to Nobby that he did not know what a Commercial Manager was, let alone want to be one. He later found out that John Hedderman, who was carrying out the Commercial Manager role, was moving onto other things, and this left a gap in that market place. So this was 'Nobby's Way', to identify a gap and fill it.

At the end of the 1995/96 season, Roy's son left the Club, to go off to University. Roy then became a Committee Member, and carried out the Commercial Manager's role. He saw this as a unique way to get adopted by a great Club and start a new venture. Roy carried out the Commercial Manager's role from the start of the 1997 season until the end of 2000 season, just three years.

Roy is of the opinion that he did not make a tremendous difference to the Finances of the Club, but did manage to get various tasks carried out, such as plumbing, electrical work and fence painting etc., at no cost to Great Wakering Rovers Football Club.

Then, before the start of the 2000/2001 season, the then Chairman, Fred Smith, decided to step down from the Chair. Fred was gracious enough to ask Roy if he would take over the role, one which he had previously held with Rayleigh Boys, for nine years. Roy thought that it was not his previous wealth of experience that Fred considered but more the fact that when recently interviewing potential New First team Managers, Roy was the only one on the panel, who wore a collar and tie.

Roy thought it amazing how small issues like that, could have a life changing effect on different individuals, so he volunteered, and was elected Chairman, in the Millennium Year, 2000. One of his first objectives was to ensure that all male Committee Members wore collar and tie, for both home and away matches. This set a standard for Members and specifically at Home Matches, helped identify to supporters, who the club officials were.

Roy was Chairman for fourteen years, from 2000 to 2014 and felt extremely proud to have arranged some historic events and improvements at the Club. Roy was conscious of not wishing to bore readers by listing all of his achievements. However, as a matter of record, some important achievements are highlighted below so that future generations could see how the Club had developed in those years, bearing in mind that the existing Club House, Pitch and Car Park had already been provided with many thanks to the tremendous efforts of others.

One of the new activities that Roy brought to the Club in 2000, was what became known as the "Special Occasion Day" and in association with Mencap, he arranged a day at the Rovers each year. This day included such activities as football training, skills sessions, 5-a-side games, a tour of the Stadium, football videos, lunches, soft drinks, more food, more football, and masses of laughter with a commemorative Tee-Shirt to take home. Roy thanked all of those people from the Club, who have helped on these occasions with both training and cooking over the years. These special days are still as popular and strong today with the 20th Special Occasion fast approaching.

Possibly one of Roy's more notable objectives, one that took the longest to achieve, was the creation of a new Training Pitch next to the Main Pitch. He consulted with the Local Council with the aim of re-arranging their spare Allotments to cover half a pitch in size to enable the football club to rent them. With the necessary area secured, Roy had a great deal of help from people like Bill O'Neill, in trying to get a Stadium Grant to finance the use of Astro Turf. Unfortunately, Grant rules required 65 hours of usage per week to be guaranteed and funding was refused. However, the Training Pitch was constructed with the assistance of Pendril Bentall and his tractor and John Marshall who arranged a digger. Also, one Sunday Morning, First team Players walked the area and removed stones

and glass by hand. It took 8 years from Roy initially meeting with the council to when the first ball that was kicked on the new Training Pitch.

During that time Roy had to get Council Planning Permission, organise an Ecological Study, arrange drawings for the New Proposal and agree Terms and Conditions with Rochford District Council. He also arranged the erection of new Flood Lights, the area to be fenced off, site clearance and grass seeding of the area as well as several other tasks. The club eventually had its very own Training Pitch which provided an area for warm-ups before a match which could also be hired out.

One knock-on effect of using new Flood Lights for the Training Pitch was that all of the Flood Lights could be connected to the Club's main Electrical Supply. Roy had recently agreed that mobile network operator, 'EE' could erect a Telephone Mast in the corner of the Stadium in order to boost Mobile Phone Signals in the area. In preparation of this work, 'EE' ran a new electric cable, from the meter in the Lane, to the Phone Mast, sited right next to the generator. Half of the rent charged to 'EE' went to the club and the other half to Great Wakering Council.

With the phone mast now up and running, Roy used his powers of persuasion, plus a few rounds of beers, to arrange for an Electrical Contractor to create a junction in the electrical cable, and run a feed to the generator hut. Here they installed a by-pass, so that all of the flood lights, on both the Main Pitch and Training Pitch, could be fed from the Mains Supply, with Generator back-up.

Committee Member Kelvin Swain, a bricklayer by trade, built a small brick enclosure, for the electrical works, in order to keep them weather proof. The Diesel Generator which was used to supply electricity to the Main Pitch Flood Lights was finally turned off resulting in no more noise or smelly smoke drifting across the pitch whilst a game was going on.

Roy secured a £43,500 Grant from The Football Stadium Improvement Fund, again with the help of Bill O'Neill, and this helped with other major upgrades to the Ground.

The cheque for this amount was ceremoniously presented to Roy at the Club, by local MP Teddy Taylor and his wife and represented not just a financial gain, but good publicity. A project was taken on board, and successfully completed by volunteers including Committee Members and "Friends of GWRFC". Some of the money was used to build a new Stand, on the south side of the pitch, behind the dug outs and new Toilet facilities on the north side of the Ground along with a few other minor improvements.

In order to gain "The FA Charter Standard Club Award", Roy as Chairman, had to attend several seminars and workshops. This was certificated to the Club on 17th January 2006, and signed by Sir Trevor Brooking. Since then, the Club has continued to supply the necessary information in order to maintain that Standard.

One further item that sticks in Roy's mind, is a letter that he wrote in November 2008, to the Non-League National Paper, concerning the "Respect" Campaign, where the Football Association were demanding that respect be shown to all Officials. The letter graciously pointed out that respect was a two-way process and needed to be earned rather than just granted, otherwise it had no substance.

To Roy's amazement, the paper printed the letter for all to see, and the Club framed a copy of the letter, and mounted it in the Club's Boardroom. It has become a talking point on many occasions with visiting Club's Committee Members.

Roy's reign as Club Chairman came to an end in 2014 and looking back, he said that it gave him fourteen years of commitment, effort and some sleepless nights coupled with numerous highlights which included meeting some famous people and attending several memorable occasions.

Most of all, he worked with a group of superb volunteers, who made up the Committee of Great Woking Rovers Football Club. He pays tribute to a group called "Friends of GWRFC", who although not elected Committee Members, along with them, they provided their skills, experience, enthusiasm and dedication, resulting in a highly successful football club.

Roy said that it was a privilege to work with everybody and that he will cherish the memories, as the real reward, for his personal involvement in Great Woking Rovers Football Club.

Iain O'Connell

[Ex-First Team Manager]



Back in February 2017, this was Iain O'Connell's brief 'You have ten games to save Great Woking Rovers from relegation to Step 5' with Rovers' Committee admitting that Iain faced an "extremely difficult task".

Iain was a former Rovers player and manager who had been brought back to the club to replace Keith Wilson who took the reins as First Team Manager at the beginning of November 2016. Keith was unable to turn the club's fortunes around after a run of nine defeats in 11 games and they were then bottom of the Ryman Football League, Division One North. Rovers had just ten league games left and would have needed an almighty turnaround if they were to avoid relegation with the club, at the time 12 points adrift of safety.

The Rovers Committee met to discuss recent results and performances and agreed by a majority decision to sack Keith Wilson as First Team Manager. It was not a decision taken lightly, with a must-win crunch game against Soham Town Rangers in just five days time. However, it was necessary to make this bold decision due to a run of results that has seen Rovers record just two points from 30, drop to the bottom of the table and see the gap increase between them and the second team from bottom, Wroxham. Keith Wilson was thanked for his hard work and dedication. Iain O'Connell was immediately contacted since he was seen as the right man to lead the charge for promotion from the Essex Senior League, if relegation did occur. Iain thankfully accepted.

Roger Sampson

[Retired Club Secretary]

Roger Sampson, cousin to Barry Peter Beadle, is a friendly face to anyone familiar with Great Woking Rovers Football Club and a man whose association with the club stretches way back to those historic days of the late fifties and sixties.

Like those who joined him in the classic line ups of over 40 years ago, Roger is Woking born and bred, brought up to the sound of St Nicholas church bells and a true villager. Born on June 5 1943, he joined the Southend Minor League of Great Woking Rovers Football Club as a 15-year-old youth player in September 1958 and in 1960, he started



playing for the first team. Such were his talents as a hard, tough defender who was rumoured to have the hardest kick of a football on the local scene, he was hardly ever out of the first team.

Later in life he trotted out for the Rovers Veterans side and played continuously until he was fifty. "Sambo", as he is known to his friends, was highly regarded and acknowledged as one of the best defenders around at the time. His talents brought him many representative honours for the Southend and District League, the Southend Sunday League and The Wednesday League. The widespread domination of the Rovers on the domestic scene owed much to Roger's prowess.

Roger started work with Southend Fire Brigade in 1962 but this service merged with Essex County Fire Service in 1974 he worked at Southend initially and latterly moved to Leigh Fire Station where he retired in 1995. He lives in Lee Lotts, Great Wakering and for many years has had an allotment which is adjacent to his back garden. The council agreed to him having a gate from his garden to the allotment which through the years has been very convenient for his many trips to the football club. His job as a fireman restricted his number of appearances per season because of shifts. But it didn't get in the way of his passion for the game when he took over the administration of the fire brigade team. He took over as club treasurer then in November 1980 he took over as secretary from Gary Mumford where he combined the two administrative jobs. Roger's faultless work as an administrator is on a par with his enthusiasm as a player, soon brought a place on the Southend and District League committee.

His knowledge was very influential in Rovers transition from the all-conquering side in the District league through to the Alliance league to Essex Intermediate to Essex Senior League to the Ryman's Isthmian league and to today's Southern League division one. Such was his aptitude for administration that Roger picked up many awards and accolades and only an Essex Senior league ruling that officials can only be voted Secretary of the year once stopped him winning the award season after season.

It was in June 1999 that Roger had the shock of his life when he returned home from holiday only to find his house gutted by the very thing that he had spent a lifetime fighting - fire. But such is his dedication that he was determined to see the big step up that the Rovers had just made, by going into the Ryman League, went as smoothly as possible. Rogers personal problems took a back seat as he guided the club with efficiency into the Isthmian League.

In 1975, Roger married Christine, who was Club Secretary at the time and they had two children, Terry and Jenny. Roger was forever grateful for all of the support and understanding that Christine gave him over the years which enabled him to continue the role of Secretary, which he thoroughly enjoyed. As well as being Rovers' Club Secretary and a Spurs supporter, Roger was very much part of the construction team who transformed "Burroughs Park" into a fine football stadium. Not content with all this he could also be seen tirelessly marking out the pitch prior to each match as well as carrying out vital ground maintenance work.

"Sambo" was a vital cog in the club's everyday existence, working with the utmost efficiency, which of course is Roger's Trademark. Roger resigned as Club Secretary in 2011 and continued working as a groundsman until 2016 and after the arrival of his third grandchild he finally stopped working for the club having actually been a player for a total of 37 years. Roger is very proud of what the club has achieved through the years, developing from a village team playing in the local park to a well-run, semi-professional club, with a proper pitch, a stand and a clubhouse. He was named village citizen of the year for 2008 by Great Wakering Parish Council and was given a gift of a crystal bowl by the parish chairman, Trevor Goodwin. In response, he said "It's a great honour, and I was surprised when the council contacted me and said that I had been nominated".

Eddie Ellis

[Ex-President 1990-2005]



Eddie was born in York in 1943 and at 10 days old he and his mother moved to Southend-on-Sea. At that time, his father, Harry Ellis, was fighting in France during World War II and after the war in 1946 went with his family to live in Germany for 3 years, working for Control Commission Germany. This was set up to support the Military Government, which was in place at that time and was gradually phased out to take over the role of 'Local Government'.

Eddie's father Harry, returned to the UK in 1949 and set up a local pickled onion factory and ran it until 1980. In 1960, Eddie left school and together with his brother Kenny, set up their company 'E & K Ellis' with advice and assistance from their father. They initially supplied fresh peeled onions and later on, vegetables to the first wave of Supermarket chains, their first customer being Wallis in the east end of London. Eddie's father Harry was Club President in the early 1960's until he died in 1990, at which time Eddie took over as President. He was Club Secretary in the late 1960's for 3 years taking over from Taffy Morgan and in 1967 when the club won the Charity Shield, Eddie was its custodian and it stood under his bed for a whole year. In 2005 he had a heart problem and gave up all of his involvement with the club.

In 1992, Eddie became a General Haulage contractor running up to 7 lorries, delivering his fruit and vegetables throughout the UK. He gave up the business in 1998, his lorries having covered 3 million miles and became a Taxi driver working for Andrews Taxis. Eddie First played football in 1957/58 for Woking Rovers minor team, initially as a 'winger' until he broke his leg. After his recovery, he played at full and half back positions for a total of 25 seasons.

Alf Hallums

[Ex-Treasurer for 18 years]

Alf Hallums was born in Shoeburyness in 1927 and reached the age of 90 in December 2017. He attended Shoeburyness High School in Caulfield Road and he married a Woking girl, Georgina Everard, whilst living in Woking. Only last year, Alf gave up his allotment plot in Great Woking village. In August 1956, Alf started working for AWRE Foulness as a Magazine operator earning 126 shillings a week. He worked there for 37 years as one of 300 staff employed during the peak of operations. He remembers Whitsun of 1956 very well since that was when he gave up smoking for good.

A few years later he was encouraged to apply for a vacancy on the committee of the Rovers Football Club at the time when meetings were held in a room above the British Legion. He accepted the position but it was not long before he was asked to take on the role of Treasurer, despite having had no previous experience apart from his passion for working with figures. Remarkably, Alf recited the formula for Standard Deviation as:



$$s = \sqrt{\frac{\sum(x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}$$
 I was taken back because although I had studied Calculus at school, I would never have remembered such an equation. Alf continued as Treasurer for 18 years, being responsible for securing insurance policies each year for the players, hiring football pitches and fund raising through various events such as dances at the village hall. Roger Sampson took over as Treasurer when Alf left.



Back in the late 1950's, it was a rule that all players had to live in Woking and the first two players who breached this rule were Bill Pirie and Peter Dawson. Players came dressed ready for play since their dressing room was a little green shed which backed on to the bottom of Daisy Webb's garden. It was a tiny shed 8' by 6' for 11 players with no toilets or wash basins. Players had to relieve themselves in a can which was poured outside. Daisy made the tea. Her bungalow was demolished to make way for 2 semi-detached houses (254 & 256 High Street, Great Woking). The original football pitch had a ditch running right through it and the ball would often get lost in the ditch.

The picture to the left shows, from left to right, Cyril Bright, Alf Hallums and Arthur Burles in the Village Hall in Great Woking. They are peeling potatoes for one of the various functions that the committee had organised. Tommy Davis the headmaster, arranged for the potatoes to be taken to the school kitchen to be cooked and taken back to the Village Hall. Alf remembers when Roger Burroughs was a player in the 1st team and contracted dermatitis one season, from the dust kicked up from combine harvesting. Roger had to take his kit home and wash it himself. His grandfather ran the farm which originally sat where Hanningfield Reservoir stands today. Alf can recollect as though it was yesterday, his trips to away matches in Roger's little white car.

Woking Rovers had three teams:

- 1st Team - managed by Cyril Bright
- 2nd Team - managed by Arthur Burles (nickname 'Gwenny')
- Junior Team - managed by Jim Padbury

Also, there was John Collicut who played Centre Forward and Alf's late brother, George Hallums who played Centre Half for years before emigrating to Australia. John Adcock, father of Phil Adcock played in goal and Roy Cornwell played on the wing with Barry Beadle on the other wing.

The picture to the right shows Alf Hallums [left] and Les Dillaway [right]. They are both holding collection boxes for fund raising purposes. Significantly, Alf remembers the floods of 1953 when he happened to be dancing in the village hall and stepped outside in the late evening to realise the extent of the flooding.



Alf fondly remembers most of the Woking Rovers 1st Team players including Bernard Rawlings of Foulness who died quite recently. Other significant players include Jackie Bridge who ended up playing for Southend United and Les Stubbs who ended up playing for Chelsea after Southend United.

Although fund raising today is not as obvious as it was back then, the clubhouse is hired out for various events throughout the year and the proceeds are added to the bank balance. Club Treasurer, Elaine Pitts, monitors the financial well-being of the club at all times and keeps the finances on an even keel.

Alf produced an original copy of the Rovers Song which was written by Ernie Adcock and it is reproduced in **Parting Finale** at the end of this booklet.

Norman David ("Nobby") Johnson

[Ex-Bar Manager]



To his vast following of family, friends and acquaintances he was known as 'Nobby', an acclaimed goalkeeper in local leagues in his youth and then, for many years, the man known far and wide as Mr. Great Wakering Rovers. Aside from his family, the football club was his love and passion.

It was early one Sunday morning in February 2002, that Nobby rang Roger Sampson to say that they had been robbed and along with his colleague Len, had suffered serious injuries

after being attacked by hammer-wielding robbers who stole takings as they cashed up. Roger rang the police and other committee members and rushed immediately to the club. He was the first to turn up and saw Len sitting there holding his face beside his 12-year-old daughter and Nobby was lying behind the bar having been left with a fractured skull after he went to get up and get the keys. Nobby had managed to get to the phone in the kitchen leaving a trail of blood. When the ambulance arrived, there was no hesitation, Nobby was immediately rushed off to hospital.

Two weeks after being released from hospital, Nobby was rushed back complaining of chest pains and awoke from his sleep to find a crowd of doctors and nurses standing around his bed in the middle of the night. He complained of a few pains in his chest in the previous weeks and the doctors thought that it was angina. He went to sleep at about 11.30 pm because the pain wasn't so bad and the next thing he remembered was waking up at 12.15 am to find doctors standing around his bed telling him that he'd had a cardiac arrest. He did not know that he had been resuscitated until the next morning.

Even after he was attacked and badly injured, Nobby recovered and returned to continue to build the football club's reputation but regrettably, he passed away in July 2010. Southend Crematorium was packed with a standing-room only congregation to pay tribute and respects to the Southend born football fanatic who became a local legend in his own lifetime, cut short in his 65th year. Glowing tributes from another well-known local amateur footballer, Johnny Heiser, and Rovers club official Roy Kettridge were applauded by mourners at the service, which was conducted by Reverend Frank Smith, himself a former well-known local player and referee and one-time team mate of Nobby.

A memorial match for Nobby was held at Burroughs Park Ground on 28th October 2010 with a second match held on 28th July 2011. The Club erected a covered terrace at the back of the clubhouse to protect those wanting cooked food & drink from the elements, something that the late Nobby Johnson had inspired to do before his untimely death. In his honour, Rovers have named the terrace 'Nobby's End'. Albeit a comical name, it is a name that Nobby would have approved of, such was his sense of humour.

Many might remember Nobby's shop 'Southend Sports Trophies' in Sutton Road, Southend. The shop stood between Wentworth Road and Cromwell Road and immediately opposite Jones Memorial Recreation Ground.

Brian Everett

[Ex-Goalkeeper and current Turnstile Operator]



Brian Everett, at 77 years of age, is pictured left on 20th June 2017 at the Summer Flower and Homecraft Show, organised by the Thorpe Bay Horticultural Society and held at the St. Augustine's Church Hall.

Brian took home the Rose Trophy and the Cramphorn Trophy for the most points gained by a gentleman at the Summer Show.

Brian has been involved in the Great Waking Allotment Society for 51 years and his other main passions in life have been football, cricket and exhibiting at horticultural shows.

Brian currently manages the gate at Great Waking Rovers and has been involved both as player and staff. His brother Derek Everett, also played as a 1st and 2nd team defender for the Rovers but for many of his later years has been involved as committee member of the Foulness Heritage Centre. Brian mainly played as goalkeeper for all three teams between 1957 and 1973 ending up in the 1st team during the last few years. He is also pictured in the back row of the 1967 Great Waking Rovers team photograph.

Brian used to live next door to David Axcell, a League Football Referee, in Little Waking and was employed as a plumber by Hubbards the builders in Christchurch Road, Southend for 50 years until he was 65. The company has since moved to Purdeys Industrial Estate in Rochford.

Brian has always stood up for the interests of Waking residents and this was recently demonstrated when he challenged plans for housing developments in the village. He is quoted as saying *"I feel the proposed development plans for Great Waking are unsound on the grounds that the land is Grade One farmland of the highest quality. Roads from the village are inadequate to deal with the existent amount of traffic without the possibility of extra housing. Also, the local primary school at this time is bursting at the seams with children being ferried to other schools."*



Brian started playing for the Rovers at the age of 17, in the under 18 youth team in the Southend Minor League. At age 18 he moved up to the reserves and soon became a regular 2nd Team player.

At that time there was an abundance of good players including 3 goalkeepers. He moved for 2 seasons, playing for Shoeburyness Old Boys and went on a continental tour for a fortnight, playing in France, Austria and Switzerland, a trip that he fondly remembers and enjoyed.

Brian returned to play for the Rovers in the newly formed 3rd team and in the 1967/68 season each of the 3 teams won their respective divisions plus their league cups; French, Ramuz and Ellis (Harry Ellis - proprietor of the pickled onion factory). Also, the 1st team won a Charity Shield at Roots Hall. The 1967 photograph shows a line-up of all 3 teams together with all the cups they had won.

Brian moved up to the 2nd team and finally to the 1st team for the 2 years before his retirement. Then there was a big gap until 1992 when he volunteered for the job of turnstile operator and assisting with the maintenance of the pitch when the club moved up to the Senior Level. Brian can still be seen on the turnstile and his wife Hilary assists with issuing the programmes. He married Hilary in 1967 and they have two children, a boy and a girl. Brian has never aspired to becoming a committee member. According to Brian, there was an outstanding passion for most footballers to play for Great Waking Rovers. The club has always been successful and most of the players are local lads.

Great Waking Cricket Club has been running for as long as the Rovers and significantly five of the football players also played cricket during the summer months, namely, himself, Tommy Beadle and his younger brother Barry Beadle, Les Stubbs and Danny Baynes.

Brian played for the cricket club every summer since he was 14 years old up until 1994. Goalkeeper John Adcock, although not in this photograph, also played cricket along with Mick Burles and Jamie Padbury. Brian and Danny Baynes have been friends since he was 14 years old. Danny is 2 years younger and has had a varied employment record. He was another excellent goalkeeper for the 1st team. Danny played cricket alongside Brian and for 25 years they both opened each match innings, Brian's achievements include 7 centuries and his highest score was 120 not out, at a match on Canvey Island.

Great Waking Primary School Football Team 1951/52

Many of the players in this school photograph are still alive today.



**Mr John Edwards • David Grigg • Roger Sampson • Danny Baynes • Peter Robinson • Barry Beadle
Brian Mead • Freddie Smith • John Collicutt • Michael Burles • Johnny Grandsen**

Some Prominent Players

Eight Great Waking Rovers players made it into the English Football League and their names are highlighted on the [Back Page](#). The profiles of two of them, the late Les Stubbs and Peter Stanley Sampson, are highlighted on the following pages. Also, the profile of ex-League Player, [Frankie Banks](#) is featured in [Parting Finale](#) on the inside back cover. After finishing his professional career, Frankie played for Great Waking Rovers during the 1989/90 season. Barry Beadle was also very talented and had the potential to have made it into the English Football League in his early days.

Great Waking Rovers started their Centenary Year celebrations with a friendly match against Southend United at Burroughs Park on 7th July 2018. Over 500 fans turned up to see the match but regrettably, Rovers lost 0 - 5. It was not a bad turnout considering the quarter final between Sweden and England which ended in an excellent result for England of 2 - 0.

Les Stubbs

(Ex-League Player, b. 18 Dec 1929 d. 01 Feb 2011)



Leslie "Les" Stubbs was an English footballer born in Great Waking, Essex. He started out playing mainly as an inside forward with his local side, Great Waking Rovers before signing for Southend United. He made his debut for Southend in 1948 and scored 45 goals in 88 games over the next four seasons. In November 1952, he joined Chelsea for £10,000 having been persuaded by Blues manager [Ted Drake](#) that he was capable of playing in the top tier.

His career with Chelsea started slowly and Stubbs played just five games in his first season, without scoring. However, he scored nine goals in thirty league games in 1953-54 and in the next helped Chelsea win their first League title. He scored five goals that season, including a crucial stoppage time equaliser against Chelsea's main rivals Wolverhampton

Wanderers at Molineux, paving the way for team mate [Roy Bentley](#)'s winner a minute later. He then helped Chelsea win the Charity Shield.

His later years at Chelsea saw his playing opportunities reduced by the emergence of talented youngsters such as [Jimmy Greaves](#), [Peter Brabrook](#) and [Ron Tindall](#). He made only sixteen appearances in his final two seasons, though he did play for the representative London XI side which competed in the 1955-58 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.

He ended his Chelsea career with 123 appearances and 35 goals to his name and left in 1958 to re-join Southend for a further two years, scoring 3 goals in 23 games. He later turned out for Bedford Town before re-joining Great Waking Rovers, where he remains the most successful product of that club. When Chelsea won the FA Premier League title in 2004-05, Les and his surviving team mates from the 1954-55 title-winning side, such as [Roy Bentley](#), [Stan Willemse](#), [Frank Blunstone](#) and [Jim Lewis](#) were invited to the trophy presentation.

Les Stubbs - Game Statistics

Year	1948	1948 - 1952	1952 - 1958	1958 - 1960	1960-1961
Football Club	Great Waking Rovers	Southend United	Chelsea	Southend United	Bedford Town
League Matches	N/A	88	123	22	36
Goals Scored	N/A	45	35	3	21

Fred Smith

[Ex-Chairman and Player]



Fred is a carpenter by trade and at 74 years old is still employed part-time by AWRE on Foulness Island. He has lived in Wakering most of his life and his football playing days go back to when he played for his School Team. In 1957 and not long after leaving school, he started playing for Wakering Rovers when he was 15 years old and then for the 1st team when he was 16. He played at 'left half' (position 6) most of the time and suffered in his early 20's with a broken collar bone then not long after, with a broken ankle.

In 1966, when he was 23, he was spotted by the manager of Heybridge Swifts while he was playing in a cup final at Maldon. He was encouraged to join their team and he ended up playing for the team for two seasons. After that, he returned to Wakering Rovers and played until 1969 and a year later played in the 'Veterans Team' as goalkeeper, alongside Barry Beadle and Roger Sampson.

Fred drifted away from the club for a few years and had just finished building his house when he was approached by Roger Burroughs. Roger asked him if he would take over from Trevor Lovell as Chairman of the club which he readily accepted. Not long after the building of the new Clubhouse had started, Fred and several others helped Roger Burroughs with the necessary construction work.

Fred considers himself as very fortunate in having some really good managers under him from the start including Eddie Nash and Kevin Maddocks. Fred remained as Chairman of up to 20 committee members for about five years and after that took on the responsibility of groundsman, looking after the football pitch until 2012 when he gave up his involvement with the Club.

He remembers well, the installation of the northern seated football stand, it being an ex-farm building from and solicited from another farmer, Roy Millbank. The seating was unbolted and transported from the old Bolton Wanderers ground of Burnden Park. It took two trips for Roger Sampson, Roger Burroughs, Jim Laird and Fred Smith to go the ground, unbolt the seats and transport them to Wakering. There was always plenty to do and Fred's expertise was also put to good use, this time as a welder with the construction of the southern stand which only cost £5000 to build. The chairman of South Thurrock, Tom South asked Fred if he could use the six old floodlights from Rainham Football Club. They were gratefully accepted and were used at Wakering as the original 'diesel generator' floodlights.

Not a lot of people would know this, but Fred remembers when Jimmy Greaves stopped playing football and started an Insurance Business in Leigh-Sea, just off the Broadway and close to what used to be Richardson's fabric shop near the church. Fred is pictured in his role as Chairman on the left of the bottom photograph in Gallery Seven of the Team Galleries. His father, Jack Smith can be seen in the top photographs in Galleries One and Two of the Team

Galleries. The boy Mascot, Alfie Cornwell, who is sitting at the front of the top photograph (1932/33) in Gallery Three of the Team Galleries can also be seen later, in the bottom photograph (1967) in Gallery Six of the Team Galleries, which was taken at the Kursaal.

As the weather warmed up in the early 90's, Fred always remembers the very pronounced smell of the cockle shell base which surrounded the pitch. League rules stated that there had to be hard standing all around the football pitch and cockle shells from Leigh Cockle Sheds were used. Waking was the only club in the country in the early 90's to have such a base but they were replaced with concrete slabs as soon as possible. Fred is constantly busy with his hobbies of fishing and construction of remote controlled aircraft and boats. His latest project is the construction of a 4 ft long model Barge, named 'Celia Jane' which is a work in progress.

Barry Peter Beadle

(Ex -Player, b. 09 Nov 1942 d. 06 Oct 2003)

The following tribute from the committee of **Waking Rovers Football Club** says it all about Barry Peter Beadle: "The village of Great Waking and many, many people who have followed football in this area, were stunned by the news of Barry's sudden death last Monday morning. How do we begin to equate the life of a man that was a larger than life personality, a true character in every sense of the word, tireless worker always believing in those that worked and played for our club and builder of dreams?"

Barry wasn't just liked by a lot of people, he was a character that cared deeply and therefore loved by many. Born on the 9th November 1942 to Tom and Doris Beadle, Barry was the youngest of four children, eldest brother being Tom then sister Peggy and brother Arthur.

Barry even went to school in the village, but when he left school he was urged by his father Tom to pick up a trade. Barry did this with great success, as he became a carpenter and found much work in and around Great Waking. He never advertised for work, it was all done by recommendation. It was often said if he ever ventured

beyond Star Lane for work he was to take a map and a compass with him to ensure his safe return to the village. Whilst at school Barry developed his love for sport (mainly football). He and his schoolmates often played together at school or on the Recreation Ground and it was this group of village lads that included the likes of Freddie Smith, his cousin Roger Sampson and Tony Thorpe that persuaded in the summer of 1958 the committee of Great Waking Rovers to form a youth section.

Barry spent just one season in the youth side before making his first team debut in September 1959. The same group of lads were also cricketers and played regularly throughout the summer months. Barry's outstanding football ability could have quite easily taken him on to play at a much higher level, but he chose to play for the Great Waking Rovers sides that dominated local football throughout



the 60's and 70's. He gained many representative honours for the District League, Sunday League and Essex, and was widely accepted to be the best footballer in this area.

It was in 1966 that he married a staunch Rovers supporter and village girl Dawn Belton and between them they have two sons, Darren and Dean. When it was time to hang up his boots Barry concentrated on putting his vast knowledge back into the game and entered into management on two fronts, on Saturdays with the Rovers in the Essex Intermediate League and on Sundays as the manager of the all-conquering Great Wakering Colts side that included son Dean. Prior to that he and Dawn became a strong supporter of Priory Athletic Colts for whom Darren played and it was from this connection that the whole family took part in exchange tours to Germany, to Hamburg, Breithart & Idstein and guess what? The Germans loved him as well.

The progression of the football club into senior non-league football saw Barry take up a new role as the club's bar manager, a job he said he would help out with fourteen years ago for just a couple of months and was still doing it at the time of his untimely death. Barry was also chairman of the social club and president of the Colts.

It was through football in 1990 that Barry received a life-threatening injury whilst playing for Great Wakering Rovers Vets. As he was preparing to take a throw-in, he pulled the ball back over his head for extra leverage and suffered a freak accident when the action trapped a nerve at the back of his neck.

In the months that followed it was becoming apparent that Barry was losing the use of his limbs down one side. In consultation with a surgeon he was informed that if left untreated he would be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. For such an active man, the thought of this was intolerable but there was hope in a risky operation that could cure the problem.

Thankfully, the operation was a complete success and still wearing his neck brace he returned to his managerial duties at the time, but it was the end to Barry's playing days. His love for football never died but his competitive spirit yearned for an outlet, so he took to playing golf and helped form the Great Wakering Rovers Golf Society and again with the help of Barry's magic formula it has turned out to be a roaring success with over sixty members competing on a regular basis. Not sure of what to buy Barry for his sixtieth birthday present, club members, persuaded by Barry's new-found passion, bought him a new set of clubs.



Barry had one or two sayings that he often used. When being offered a drink from the bar he would say, "It would be rude not to", or if someone was reminiscing and said "If only" he would always say "If the dog hadn't stopped for a s*it he'd have caught the rabbit". Another phrase he always used was "You're always the same sometimes". It's ironic that Barry, who died on Monday, had his bags packed to go with Dawn to see Darren in Australia, leaving on the next day. Everyone I am sure will have their own special story to tell or their own special memory of Barry as he took an interest in people and listened to them. He took them in to his heart and cared about them. The mould has been broken, he was unique but he will live forever in our hearts."

Peter Stanley Sampson

(Ex-League Player, b. 09 Jul 1927 d. 16 May 2009)



Peter Stanley Sampson, Roger Sampson's older brother, was a professional footballer, born in Great Wakering, in Essex, and attended Great Wakering School, for whom he once scored 72 goals in a single season. He was the cousin of former Chelsea player, Les Stubbs, but spent his entire Football League career with Bristol Rovers and who also went on to play for Trowbridge Town after retiring from the professional game.

He initially trained as a butcher, before being called up to the army and stationed in West Africa during World War II. He bought himself out of the army for £65, and returned to England to sign as in 1948, and had a thirteen-year-long career with them, making 340 league appearances and scoring four goals during that spell. He moved to Trowbridge Town in 1961, where he stayed for two years before taking over as assistant manager of his former youth club, Oldland.

Away from football, Peter Sampson had run a poultry business with his Bristol Rovers teammate Vic Lambden, while playing in Bristol, and after his retirement from the sport he worked as a gardener and a milkman in his adopted home town of Cadbury Heath. Towards the end of his life he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and spent his last few years living at a nursing home in Congresbury near Bristol. He died on 16 May 2009, aged 81.

John Adcock

(Ex-Goalkeeper)



Phil Adcock is Treasurer of **Great Wakering Cricket Club** and has fond memories of his father, John Adcock's football days. John came out of the army in 1952 and started playing for Great Wakering Rovers the same year.

In his later years, John was a self-employed painter and decorator in the village and his best friend was John Mead, a carpenter from North Street, Great Wakering.



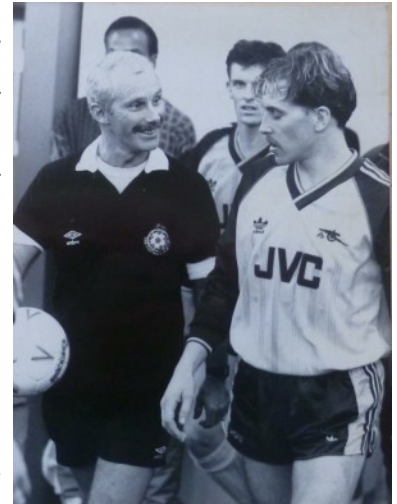
John, pictured left played as goalkeeper in the 1st team until 1961 and is the tallest player in the photograph to the right pictured directly above the cup which is being held by the captain, Doug Hallums.

In the same photograph, Doug Hallums (holding the cup) was apparently one of the best players the Rovers has ever had and Roger Sampson is standing behind John Adcock's left shoulder. After John stopped playing he became club secretary during the 70's and 80's. Phil mentioned an unrelated 'Sloppy Adcock', who played a little football in the mid to late 50's. His real name was Bill and he was the brother of Ernie Adcock. Bill was a bricklayer and was linesman for several years during the Tommy Davies era and was renowned for his errors of judgement. 'Sloppy' is pictured in the 1931-1932 Team Photograph in **Gallery Two**.

David Axcell

(Football League Referee)

David Axcell was born in Southend in 1945 and is a former Echo proof reader who spent a short spell working on the sports desk. I was lucky enough to be able to talk to him on the 9th January 2018 when he confirmed that he qualified as a referee for the Essex County Football Association in March 1963 and has refereed at fourteen Football League matches for Chelsea. He was also an association football international referee and has officiated at several World Cup qualifying matches played in many competing countries.



David was one of the linesman in the FA Cup Semi-Final when Liverpool met Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup Semi-Final at Sheffield on 15 April 1989 - the day of the **Hillsborough Disaster** that saw 96 Liverpool fans lose their lives and 766 injured. David is reported as saying just how badly he was affected by watching those dreadful scenes of bodies being laid out on the pitch and I can verify that since when I mentioned it to him he preferred to say no more about the event.

David is pictured right later that same year, talking to Arsenal's Kevin Richardson on 12 Nov 1989. David lived in Little Wakering for a while, next door to Brian Everett, and now lives in Westcliff. He is still refereeing today at the age of 73, having refereed many matches for Great Wakering Rovers 1st Team and to this day still referees their under 16 and under 18 matches.

David was nominated for the 2007/08 season, as Referee of the Year for the **Essex Veterans Football League**. This particular season saw an amazing increase of 11 teams on the previous season with 60 teams playing in six Divisions. March 2018 is quite a significant date for David since it marks being a qualified referee for 55 years. He was the first referee to wear a coloured top. I have to say that it was a pleasure talking to him and I was appreciative of him giving up his time since he had a busy day ahead including another of his passions, that of bowls.

Danny Greaves

[Ex-First Team Manager]



In late October 2011, former Shrimpers striker Danny Greaves, was appointed the new Great Wakering Rovers manager. He is the son of the late Jimmy Greaves having played nearly 50 league games for Southend scoring 14 goals and from the outset he was aiming for promotion.

Danny, was Rovers' tenth boss after Ryan Wilkinson left at the beginning of October 2011 following a 7-0 away defeat to Waltham Abbey. Danny's assistant was ex-Tiptree striker, Adam Flint but he kept the club's Danny Heath as coach. Apparently, he is believed to have said to the Evening Echo newspaper "Wakering has been in my life since I was 16, when I used to play against them in pre-season friendlies for Southend. It has always been in my life, and I've always felt it is a smashing club and a very well-run club. I think success here would be promotion. I'm under no illusions that it will be easy, but ultimately, we want to go up. Being realistic for this season, the main aim is to consolidate results and to build a team that people want to come and watch. But there are a lot of points still to play for

and we want to finish as high as we possibly can. There was nothing wrong with Iain O'Connell's reign or Ryan Wilkinson's reign, and they are both good friends of mine. But what I'm saying to players, staff and supporters is this is a new dawn and if people want to come back they will be welcomed with open arms." Danny took over as manager the following Saturday, when Rovers took on Leiston away but after just 6 games he decided to resign. Despite many changes to the squad that he inherited from previous manager Ryan Wilkinson, his new players did not perform as he had expected. Results therefore suffered and he realised that it was going to be a tough task to get Rovers back on the front foot and playing with confidence and determination. It was a tough start to the 2011-2012 season and Rovers had conceded over 45 goals already, the worst in the whole Ryman League. The Rovers Committee agreed to release Danny from his duties with immediate effect and thanked him for his efforts.

Great Waking Colts



Great Waking Colts were founded in 1978 to provide kids with the ability to play football within the local community and to progress and possibly play for Great Waking Rovers.

Through the years, the Colts team managers arranged various annual events such as Golf Days, Coach Trips and days out to Dreamland in Margate. In 2017, Great Waking Rovers announced the addition of a new under 14's girl's team to the Great Waking Colts Youth Football Club section and that they would participate in the Essex Girls County Football League, along with the likes of West Ham United and Leyton Orient.

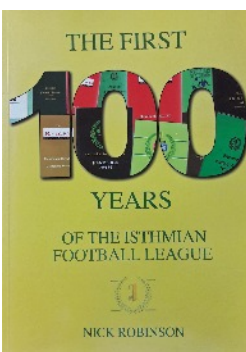
Essex Intermediate Football League

In 1989 the pitch and clubhouse were ready to be used and so The Rovers stepped up from playing local league football to play Intermediate level and joined the **Essex Intermediate Football League**.

Building and ground improvements continued and in 1992 the ground was graded and accepted for Senior status and the club took it's place in the **Essex Senior Football League** for the 1992-93 season. Building continued further, extending the newly built clubhouse in order to provide bigger changing room facilities in accordance with senior status rules.



The Isthmian Football League



The Isthmian League is a regional men's football league covering London, East and South East England featuring mostly semi-professional clubs. It is sponsored by Bostik, and therefore officially known as the Bostik League. It was founded in 1905 by amateur clubs in the London area. It now consists of 72 teams in three divisions; the Premier Division above its two feeder divisions, the North and South divisions. Together with the Southern League and the Northern Premier League, it forms the seventh and eighth levels of the English football league system. It has various regional feeder leagues and the league as a whole is a feeder league mainly to the National League South.

Before the Isthmian League was formed, there were no leagues in which amateur clubs could compete, only cups. Therefore, a meeting took place between representatives of Casuals, Civil Service, Clapton,

Ealing Association, Ilford and London Caledonians to discuss the creation of a strong amateur league. All the clubs supported the idea and the Isthmian League was born on 8 March 1905. Membership to the league was through invitation only. The league was strongly dedicated to amateurism; the champions did not even receive a trophy or medals; the league motto was 'honor sufficit'.

The following extract is taken from the book 'First Hundred Years of the Isthmian Football League':

Great Waking Rovers (1999-2004)

Ground: Burroughs Park, Little Waking Hall Lane, Great Waking, Essex.

Colours: Green & White shirts White shorts.

Nickname: The Rovers.

Formation: 1919.

Formative years: Southend & District 1919-1982. Southend Alliance 1982-89 and Essex Intermediate 1989-92.

Senior leagues: Essex Senior 1992-97 (champions 1995).

Isthmian era: Promoted to Division 3 as Essex Senior League runners-up in 1999, winning promotion to Division 2 as runners-up the following season. The club finished 9th and 7th respectively in 2000/01 and 2001/02 before re-organisation placed the club in Division 1 North. They just avoided relegation in 2004-05 when restructuring allocated the club to the Southern League Division 1 East.

The Building of Burroughs Park

The Committee of Great Waking Rovers Football Club are immensely proud of their ground, mainly because it was built by its members and supporters who gave up a lot of their own free time for the sole objective of giving the players a proper home to play football.

In 1985, a long lease was acquired from the local Parish Council on 104 allotments that were no longer used. From then on, volunteers kept coming forward to offer, free of charge, their various appropriate professional skills and commenced building the football club's dream.



The help of local farmer, businessman and lifelong Rovers man, **Roger Burroughs** was paramount in this plan as Roger provided the heavy machinery and equipment to clear the land, dig the drainage and remove any excess soil and rubbish. He aided with the creation of the pitch area, which when laid, was seeded and left for two years to settle and grow.



THE BUILDING OF BURROUGHS PARK
Top Right ; Eddie Hicks posing whilst bricklaying Top Left ; Doug Smith where the referee's room is now.
Bottom Right ; The Clubhouse starting to take shape Bottom Left ; Building the interior walls.



The club of course were extremely grateful of this massive support that would otherwise have taken a number of years to achieve and in recognition of its gratitude, named it's ground after Roger and 'Burroughs Park' was born.

In 1989 the pitch and clubhouse were ready to be used and so The Rovers stepped up from playing



local league football to play Intermediate level and joined the Essex Intermediate League. Building and ground improvements continued and in 1992 the ground was graded and accepted for Senior status and the club took it's place in the Essex Senior League for the 1992-93 season. Building continued further, extending the newly built clubhouse in order to provide bigger changing room facilities in accordance with senior status rules.

After seven highly enjoyable years in the Essex Senior League, the club won promotion to the Ryman Isthmian Football League and competed in Division Three in 1999-2000. This move saw the end of a feature that was much talked about by visitors to Great Wakering, and that was the hard standing area around the pitch, which was made of tons of crushed cockle shells obtained from the local shellfish industry at Leigh-On-Sea. The shells were not accepted at our new playing level. During the close season of 1999, a workforce of committee and club members built the spectator stand on the allotment side of the ground. At the same time, a new external fence was built. The main stand was improved by obtaining seats from Bolton Wanderers old ground of Burnden Park. A new stand was also added in the summer of 2000, covered terracing, almost directly opposite the old seated stand.



During the 2009-2010 season, Rovers Chairman, Roy Kettridge was successful in liaising with the local council to gain access to old allotment land next to Burroughs Park. During the summer of 2009, a tall perimeter fence was erected, protecting gardens and allotments from wayward balls, as well as preventing those playing on the adjacent recreation ground from entering. The land was stripped of old vegetation and de-stoned by volunteers, management and players, as well as the Chairman himself and then seeded.



Currently, players use the training ground for pre-match warm ups as further improvements are required for it's long term usage, such as collapsible goal posts, line painting and general area upkeep. In 2010 the floodlights were transferred from generator to mains electric thanks to the help of Roger Burroughs and Graham Pavitt who oversaw pre and post installations.

Rovers erected a covered terrace at the back of the clubhouse to protect those wanting cooked food & drink from the elements, something that the late Nobby Johnson had inspired to do before his untimely death in July 2010. In his honour, Rovers have named the terrace 'Nobbys End'.

Albeit a comical name, it is a name that Nobby would have approved of, such was his sense of humour. During the close season of 1999, a workforce of committee and club members built the spectator stand on the allotment side of the ground.

The Future of Great Waking Rovers



Non-league clubs have to rely upon a steady income throughout the season and this comes from the turnstiles, club shops and club houses. Inclement weather creates periods of time when clubs have no games, due to unplayable pitches through snow, rain or frost and postponed games affect clubs financially. Artificial '4 G' pitches would be a viable option resulting in fewer games being called off.

There are obviously many other criteria and it is difficult to predict the future for Great Waking Rovers since they have always been very successful and benefited from dedicated Club Officials on hand to promote a sense of achievement through hard work and allegiance. Worthy of note is the fact that the stalwarts of Great Waking Rovers are in their late 60's and early 70's and there does not appear to be many people coming forward to fill their shoes. Despite this, the current Club officials are both passionate and optimistic about the future of Great Waking Rovers and sincerely hope that the football club remains successful for a further 100 years.

It has been a real pleasure for me to compile this Centenary History of Great Waking Rovers Football Club. It has been interesting and enlightening to talk to so many conscientious people over the past year, including such people as Dawn Beadle, who has and still does devote a lot of her time supporting the club and still attends many events with her cousin, Roger Sampson.

I felt privileged when Roger Burroughs asked me to put this document together and I am so grateful for all of the assistance and patience given to me by Committee Members and Supporters. In particular, I wish to say a final 'Thank you' to Jim Laird who has been as passionate as myself to document as much as possible about the 100 Year History of this fine football club.



Team Galleries
Gallery One



**W.GLEN. W.SWAIN. G.BRADLEY. G.BAYNES. W.POOL. A.BAYNES.
G.BLUNT. J.GROVES. G.SELF. E.STUBBS. F.CORNWELL. J.SMITH. G.HOWARD.
T.SMITH. J.WHYAT. J.CRISP. F.WALL. A.EVERARD. J.CHURCH. A.CORNWELL.
A.SMITH. HADCOCK. A.CHURCH. E.ADCOCK. A.ADCOCK. S.ADCOCK. A.GLEN.**



Gallery Two

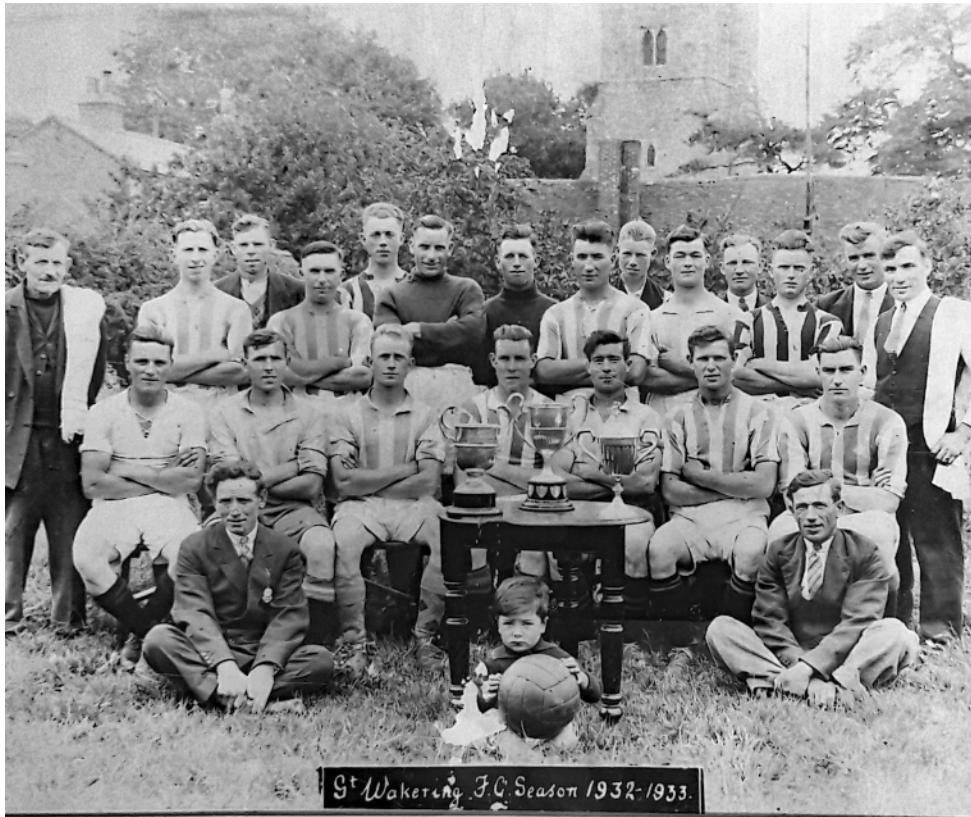


**M.SMITH. W.CORNWELL. P.LITTLE. W.ADCOCK. J.MANNING.
S.REYNOLDS. J.SMITH. G.SMITH. C.BRIGHT. F.WIGG.
F.CORNWELL. A.CORWELL. C.WIGG.**



Great Waking F.C.
SEASON 1931-2.

Gallery Three



St Woking F.C. Season 1932-1933.

Picture taken at the Parry Meadow, Little Woking Road

Standing: MIKE SMITH (Trainer), CHARLIE SMITH, BILL ADCOCK, REG MATTHEWS, REG RAND, BILL (SLOPPY) ADCOCK, WAG WILKINS, ALBERT COLLICUT, ALF BURLES, WALL CORNWALL, ALBERT BAINES, PERCY LITTLE, CHARLIE REYNOLDS, TOM MOSS (Trainer)

Seated: ALEX WISEMAN, FRED WIGG, CYRIL BRIGHT, JESS FORD, ALF CORNWALL, CHARLIE WIGG, ARTHUR SUSANS

Seated on the ground: ARTHUR SMITH, ALFIE CORNWALL JUNIOR, TED BROWN

Picture taken at the Parry Meadow, Little Woking Road



St Woking F.C. Season 1932-1933.

TOMMY MOSS	CHARLIE SMITH	ALBERT COLLICUT	WAG WILKINS	WALL CORNWALL	ALBERT BAINES
ALEX WISEMAN	JESS FORD	PERCY LITTLE	ARTHUR SUSANS	ALF BURLES	
REG MATTHEWS			FREDDIE WIGG		

Gallery Four



GT.WAKERING ROVERS . F . C .
ESSEX . JUNIOR . CUP . RUNNERS . VP . 1933-1934



St Wakering F.C Season 1932-1933

M.Smith, C. Smith, B. Adcock, B. Matthews, R. Rand, W. Adcock, C. Wilkins, A. Collicutt
A.Burles, W. Cornwell, A. Baynes, P. Little, C. Reynolds, T. Moss, A. Wiseman, F.Wigg
C. Bright, J. Ford, A. Cornwell, C. Wigg, A. Susans
A. Smith, Alfie Cornwell, T. Brown

Gallery Five



**R.CORNWELL. N.SWAIN. T.THORPE. B.RAWLINGS.HALLUMS.
J.ADCKOCK. R.SAMPSON. B.BEADLE. G.HALLUMS. R.BRIDGE.**



**J.PADBURY. T.DAVIS. K.ELLIS. M.CLIPT. B.BURLES. B.EVERITT.
L.STUBBS. B.PIRIE. D.EVERITT. P.DAWSON. A.BURLES. T.BEADLE.
L.MAYES. R.SAMPSON. B.BEADLE. F.SMITH. G.WILKINSON.**

Gallery Six



D.SUTTON. T.DAY. I.UWIB. T3TUBB5. J.DICK. B.BEADLE. D.SMITH.
K.KELLY. P.AOCCOCK. T.BEADLE T.DGBSON. T.MUMFORD.



Great Waking Rovers 1967

Back Row
Basil Gay * John Stoten * Maurice Waterhouse * Charlie Key * Terry Baker * Brian Everett * Alan Key * Eddy Ellis * Ken Turvey * Mike Burles
Middle Row
Alf Cornwell * Jim Padbury (Trainer) * Derek Everett * Kenny Ellis * Phil Green * Barry Burles * Roger Sampson * Les Stubbs * Graham Randall * Ken Smith * Peter Dawson
Front Row
Peter Thorpe * Roger Burroughs * Danny Baynes * Tony Thorpe * Barry Beadle * Freddy Smith * George Hallums * Michael Clift * Brian Cox

Gallery Seven



**T.DAVIS. R.RUDGE. J.APPLEYARD. N.SWAIN. R.BRIDGE.
J,ADCOCK. B.RAVLINGS. G.HALLUMS. W.ADCOCK. T.MOSS. L.KEY. B.BREBNER.
D.STUBBS. T.BEADLE. B.GAY. V.MORGAN. BALLBOYS. KEITH STUBBS. KEY GAY.**



Gallery Eight



Waking Colts 1988

MARK FRY * TREVOR KIRTON * IAN STOBBS * ?Darren? * JIM JOHNSON * WILLIAM SCAIFE * ?Andrew Irvin? * CARL SMITH
IAN HALE * BEN JOHNSON * MARK TUGWOOD * DANIEL CRADDOCK * KEVIN BAILEY

Parting Finale

The Rovers Song

TO BE SUNG TO THE TUNE "CLEMENTINE"

1. In a village, by a brickfield,
There was formed a football team,
They were called the Wakering Rovers
And of honours they did dream
**Chorus: Up the Rovers, Up the Rovers,
We all know that you can win
For you play good honest football,
And you will never give in.**

2. All the boys in this small village
Want to play in this fine team,
And they practised on the Common,
After work and in between.
Up the Rovers etc

3. Families grew up together,
Some had nearly half a team,
Cornwells, Adcocks, Smiths and Reynolds,
Selfs and Churches, strong and keen.
Up the Rovers etc

4. They had lots of funny nicknames,
We remember them with glee,
Banger, Slogger, Butcher, Leager,
Delsa, Cocker and Butty.
Up the Rovers etc

5. Pont and Taffy, Nutty, Fredda,
Roger Stickel, Scimps and Mac,
Stainless, Weasel, Jock and Cuthy,
Nutsy Dixie, Wonka and Hack.
Up the Rovers etc

6. Now the team is Danny, Birnie,
Brian, Ronnie, George and Les,
Boy and Barrie, Alfie, Roger,
Peter, Tony, John and Fred.
Up the Rovers etc

7. The Reserves are all good triers,
Wal and Mac still do their best,
Trainer Arthur helped by Roger,
Eddie Tillbrook and the rest.
Up the Rovers etc

8. Taffy Morgan does the writing,
Tommy Davies takes the Chair,
Alfie Hallums keeps the money,
And Jim Padbury does his share.
Up the Rovers etc

9. Quite a sport is Harry Ellis,
He's our President alright,
And we never will be gloomy,
While we still have Dusty Bright.
Up the Rovers etc

10. Many others work like trojans,
Tommy Moss and linesman Bill,
And while we all Pull together,
Boat 'em all we always will.
Up the Rovers etc

11. Time rolls on and we get older,
Some retire and some are born,
But there'll still be Wakering Rovers,
When all other teams are "GORN".
Up the Rovers etc

Interview with Frankie Banks

[Ex-League Player]

Frankie Banks was invited to a reunion that I had arranged at The Rose Inn on Monday 15 October 2018, for former residents of St Lukes Road, Southend-on-Sea, in the 1950's and 1960's. This gave me the opportunity of talking to Frankie about his football career.

Frankie spent just 2 months in Hull before moving to Pitsea at 6 months old and moved to Cluny House, Cluny Square, Southend-on-Sea, at the age of 6 or 7. He went to Temple Sutton Primary School and then Wentworth Secondary School and studied at Southend Technical College for a year. Football was always in Frankie's blood and at age 13, he was spotted by a scout playing football in the park at Cluny Square. From then on, he trained regularly at Roots Hall until 1962, when at the age of 17, Ted Fenton the ex-Manager of West Ham offered him a contract to play for Southend United Football Club, also known as the 'Shrimpers'.



His initial earnings were £7 pounds per week and he made 91 appearances with Southend United, before he left to join Hull City 'Tigers' in 1966. He spent a decade with them until 1976, having made over 300 appearances and achieving 18 on the list of 'most appearances'. Back then, Hull City 'Tigers' voted him their greatest-ever 'Right Back' player and he returned to play for Southend United again in 1976 until 1979, retiring at the age of 35.

He went on to say said that Southend United Football Club had been a major part of his life for 55 years, having been a Player, Reserve Team Manager, Assistant Manager, First Team Manager and Coach. After his retirement as a player, Frankie said that he has fond memories of his association with Great Wakering Rovers as a player during the 1989/90 season and he remembers with pride the games that he played alongside his son Gary Banks. Mickey Wright and Ray Scott were joint Team Managers during this season.

Frankie was later appointed as Southend United's first ever Community Officer, eventually working alongside former popular coach, Ray Scott, who sadly died in 2004, aged 59. Ray was well known for his spell in coaching Alan Hull of Great Wakering Rovers. Frankie continues working today for Southend United as a Community and Education Trust Volunteer.

On Sunday 16 March 2014, Frankie was nominated and won the 'Unsung Hero Award' at the Football League Awards, beating off competition from Norman Rimmington of Barnsley and Fred Woolven of Brighton & Hove Albion. He was overwhelmed by this honour and regarded it as something rather special and an incredible moment in his life.



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Club Officials

Club President	Roger Burroughs
Club Chairman Vice Chairman Club Secretary Treasurer & Memberships Commercial & Media Manager Press Officer Website Editor Programme Editor } Groundsman Match Commentator Bar Manager Social Secretary Committee Members First Team Manager First Team Assistant Manager Physio	David Patient Mike Lee Mike Lee Elaine Pitts Roy Kettridge Dan Ellis Jim Laird Jim Johnson Elaine Pitts Elaine Pitts Andy & Carole Knight, John King, Jim Laird, Maisie Hare, Roy Ketteridge, Jim Johnson Gary Kimble David Patient Cleve Taylor

Football League Players	Ex-First Team Managers
Les Stubbs (Chelsea, Southend United) Alan Hull (Leyton Orient) Jackie Bridge (Southend United) Terry Howard (Chelsea, Leyton Orient) Frankie Banks (Hull City, Southend United) Graham Franklin (Southend United) Neil Harris (Nottingham Forest, Millwall) Iain O'Connell (Southend United)	1989-90 Micky Wright - Joint 1989-90 Ray Scott - Joint 1990-94 Ben Embery 1994-97 Kevin Maddocks 1999-2001 Eddie Nash 2001-04 (Jan) Alan Hull Jan 2004-Feb 2005 Tony Cross Feb 2005 Iain O'Connell 2009 Ryan Wilkinson 2011 Danny Greaves 2017 Iain O'Connell