

## Newsletter for Senior Spireites Walking Football Club – March 2024

*Dear Members,*

***Firstly, I'm sorry to be the bearer of such sad news, but our friend and Senior Spireite footballer for many years, Michael Wilson sadly passed away at Ashgate Hospice on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. For those who knew Michael, I'm sure that you would agree with me, he was a true Gentleman in every sense of the word. Michael's family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace Michael, you will be greatly missed.***

A little difficult to carry on after that, but here we go:-

With lots going on over the next few months, I thought I'd give everyone a quick update.

**1. A reminder that our AGM** takes place on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March** from 1pm – 2.30pm at Chesterfield F. C. S M H Stadium, in the first floor Sports Hall.

If you haven't done so already, please could you let our Secretary know if you are, or, are not attending. We have ordered sandwiches and hot drinks from their catering team, and we need to confirm numbers within the next week. Our Secretary is Ian Edmundson [ianed@live.co.uk](mailto:ianed@live.co.uk)

**2. On Good Friday,** we welcome a visit from The Spirettes at our Academy session. The majority of the Ladies are still of working age and very rarely can they play in the daytime except for certain holiday occasions. If you are there on the day, please give them a warm welcome and play with a little more care than usual!

**3. Hasland Goal Posts/Nets** – Although currently out of stock at Quickplay Ltd, we are going to purchase mobile Goal posts (One off initially to trial), to hopefully replace the current Traffic cones topped with corner flags.

**4. Walking Football World Cup** – Thanks to more than 30 members who have offered their help over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> May. We are still to hold our first meeting with the Community Trust to establish our roles, but a World Cup sub-Committee is now in place. Thanks to Charlie Last, Pete Jacques, Rob Church & Phil O'Gorman who have agreed to help organize our Group of volunteers.

**5. Staying with The World Cup.** Friendlies at 4 age levels (50s, 60s, 65s & 70's) are being finalized against The Australian national squad 'The Walkeroos'. This has been arranged for Tuesday afternoon 14<sup>th</sup> May at Queens Park 1pm – 3pm.

**6. Now here's the tough bit in relation to selecting players for the friendly games against Australia** – We have 111 members with varying skill and fitness levels, and with squads of 9 players, the most that will get any playing time is 45 members. (40% of the membership). Even though it would be nice for everyone to get a game, the basic sums won't allow it, and, against a National side we have to be as competitive as possible.

I have asked 5 members with competitive League experience, to be Managing Captains of each age group, all with the same competitive brief. They will choose their final Squads in the coming weeks.

- Over 50s – Rob Church
- Over 60s – John Quinn
- Over 65s – Shane Starkey
- Over 70s – Tony Bettison (In Bob Berry's absence) – This is our current Over 70s Match Squad.
- Over 70s Mel Pullen

**7. Now the 'possibly' better news** – Hopefully, this isn't the end of playing opportunities. The Walkeroos have already booked Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at Queens Park 11am – 1pm. I think they will want us there again. (But can't be sure just yet). If this is the case, I'll ask the Captain's to keep a 'core' of possibly 4 key players, and we will then give priority to those who are not involved on Tuesday.

Also, Keith Jackson from the Community Trust informed me a few weeks ago, that the Polish teams may well ask for warm up games as well.

**8. Colours for World Cup week** – For those involved in and around the Stadium over the weekend, we have been asked to wear either our blue Senior Spireites football shirts, our blue Senior Spireites rain jackets, or the old blue zipped jackets (Mansfield Building Society). This is so we can be recognized as Helpers. Yellow bibs maybe required Pitch side.

For the games against the Aussies, it will be our individual blue Senior Spireites shirts, blue or white shorts, blue or white socks and yellow bibs.

**9. New Kit Orders** – Ordering new kit (clothing) in bulk once a year, is the most cost effective and least time consuming for those involved in the ordering process.

In recent weeks we have purchased several items in 'dribs & drabs' and we really wanted to conclude our purchasing activity for the foreseeable future. However, in light of our World Cup involvement and several new members joining, we will have one final round of ordering Rain Jackets and Club Football shirts.

I would like the request process to be completed by the end of March, thus allowing April delivery, in time for May.

For Rain Jackets, contact Malc Perks [malc.perks@live.co.uk](mailto:malc.perks@live.co.uk) – These are priced at £30 to members (Club subsidised by £6.50). Sizes are S/M, L, XL, 2XL.

For Shirts, contact Ian Edmundson [ianed@live.co.uk](mailto:ianed@live.co.uk) – These are priced at £12 for short sleeved, & £14 for long sleeved. Sizes are M, L, XL and 2XL.

If you haven't got any of the above and don't want to purchase one, I don't think there would be a problem in asking another member who owns one to borrow it for a couple of days!!

**10. Finally**, please do take time to occasionally view our website, it is continually updated with all the latest news.

<https://www.chesterfieldwalkingfootball.co.uk>

And if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Committee member.

***Best Wishes to All***

***Malc***

**Malc Perks (Chair)**

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