

UXBRIDGE AMBLERS ON TOUR

Herefordshire FA Walking Football Tournament – 30th January 2016

The weekend began with a hearty breakfast at the Cricket Club before the Uxbridge Amblers headed off for a weekend in Hereford getting the coach at 10am on Saturday morning, arriving and checking-in at the Premier Inn just before 2pm. We then made our way to the Hereford Leisure Centre where the tournament was to be hosted.

Five teams were competing: Uxbridge Amblers Blues, Uxbridge Amblers Yellows, Ross-on-Wye and the two home teams of Hereford Scrumpy Boys and Hereford Un-Athletic.

Playing for the Amblers Blues were Dave Gentry in goal, Barry Morris, Mel Craig, Mick Harvey, Ken Wood, Wayne 'Pickle' Little, Dave Walsh, Dave Ball, Colin Dennison and Roy Shields. Playing for the Amblers Yellows were Terry Nicholson in goal, George White, Maurice O'Connell, Chris Tiretis, Frank Nicholson, Alan 'Bunker' Mathieson, Alan Godleman, Paul Vinton, Steve 'Dobby' Johnson and Neil 'Robbo' Robson, managed by Club Physio Peter Dean.



Seven-a-side with rolling subs ensured that we all got to play. 10 minutes per game was not really long enough, especially on a relatively large pitch, but it was the same for everyone and meant that games would be tight and not very high scoring. It would be a case of having to take our chances when they came along.

The format was a league basis, all teams playing each other. Four games to be played by each team, with two games played at the same time.

The first two games saw the Amblers Yellows play Ross-on-Wye while the Amblers Blues played the Scrumpy Boys. As predicted, these were two close games with the only goal being scored by Ross-on-Wye who got the better of the Amblers Yellows somewhat against the run of play. Not the best of starts for the Silver Foxes, but there was still a long way to go and hopes remained high.

The second round of games saw the Amblers Blues pitched against Ross-on-Wye with the Hereford derby of the Scrumpy Boys and Un-Athletic playing each other. A second 0-0 for the Amblers Blues put us behind both Ross-on-Wye and Scrumpy Boys, as they had beaten Un-Athletic by 3-0.

As the sun started to go down and the wind got up from across the Racecourse, the temperature began to plummet.

Round three games were the Uxbridge Amblers derby and Un-Athletic v Ross-on-Wye. Although a tight game, Amblers Blues ran out 3-0 winners with goals by Dave Walsh and a brace from Colin Dennison. Ross-on-Wye beat Un-Athletic by 1-0. This put Ross-on-Wye in a clear lead with seven points, ahead of Amblers Blues on five and Scrumpy Boys on four but with a game in hand.

The fourth round games saw the Amblers Yellows gain a good 2-0 victory over the Un-Athletic with a penalty from Neil 'Robbo' Robson and a second goal by Alan 'Bunker' Mathieson. The Scrumpy Boys got the better of Ross-on-Wye with a 1-0 win in Ross-on-Wye's last game. They had finished with seven points. With one game remaining, the Scrumpy Boys also had seven points; Amblers Blues were on five points and Amblers Yellows on three points. We had a lot to do to get anything from this tournament.

Going into the final round of games, it was the Silver Foxes against Hereford all the way, with the Blues playing Un-Athletic and the Yellows playing the Scrumpy Boys. With Ross-on-Wye and Scrumpy Boys sitting with seven points, and Amblers Blues on five points, the Blues needed both games to go their way to have a chance of a tournament victory. The Blues overcame the Un-Athletic comfortably by 5-0 with a goal from Colin Dennison and four by Dave Ball. However, probably the best performance of the day, with a heroic defensive display, was put in by the Amblers Yellows to hold the Scrumpy Boys to a goalless draw which allowed the Blues to take the trophy on goal difference ahead of the Scrumpy Boys, with Ross-on-Wye a point behind. Amblers Yellows finished a creditable fourth with four points ahead of Hereford Un-Athletic.

By the time the trophies were presented and some photos were taken it was now very cold, and a warm shower was very welcomed.

Ross-On-Wye	1	Uxbridge Amblers Yellows	0
Hereford Scrumpy Boys	0	Uxbridge Amblers Blues	0
Hereford Un-Athletic	0	Hereford Scrumpy Boys	3
Uxbridge Amblers Blues	0	Ross-On-Wye	0
Uxbridge Amblers Blues	3	Uxbridge Amblers Yellows	0
Hereford Un-Athletic	0	Ross-On-Wye	1
Ross-On-Wye	0	Hereford Scrumpy Boys	1
Uxbridge Amblers Yellows	2	Hereford Un-Athletic	0
Hereford Un-Athletic	0	Uxbridge Amblers Blues	5
Hereford Scrumpy Boys	0	Uxbridge Amblers Yellows	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Uxbridge Amblers Blues	4	2	2	0	8	0	8	8
Hereford Scrumpy Boys	4	2	2	0	4	0	4	8
Ross-On-Wye	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	7
Uxbridge Amblers Yellows	4	1	1	2	2	4	-2	4
Hereford Un-Athletic	4	0	0	4	0	11	-11	0



Amblers On Tour – Scrumpy Boys’ Hospitality

After a quick drop off of the bags etc. back at the Premier Inn and a few beers in the aptly named ‘Starting Gate’ Beefeater, we headed off in the coach to find the Barrels pub where we had been invited for some after-match refreshments by our hosts. Well done to the coach driver “Hew” getting us through some narrow streets and those at the front of the bus who eventually got us through the town centre and found the place.

A sharing of local customs (double parked!!!), friendly rivalry and good beer made for a great night out in the Barrels and all the players soon became best mates with the beautiful game and the local brew being some of the main points of conversation. Thanks to Boycey for organising it.

All good pubs have somewhere close to move on to when you get the munchies after a few beers and the Barrels was no exception, with the Jalsagor Indian Restaurant just across the road. Well done Chris for managing to book a table for 20 plus people on a Saturday night with about 30 minutes notice! Amazing bit of negotiation.

As the coach driver had clocked off for the evening, cabs back to the hotel were the order of the day. So our arrivals back were staggered.



Amblers On Tour – A Good Night’s Sleep?

After midnight, some of us had already got to bed, others of us were still arriving back when the fire alarm went off requiring everybody to gather in the Beefeater in varying states of undress (thanks to the chef for his trousers) – well it was a matter of life and death after all!!! After about an hour, we were allowed back into the hotel looking forward to a good Sunday morning lie-in.

6am: The alarm goes off again!!! The fire brigade attends and we’re back into the Beefeater. I bet Lenny Henry doesn’t get this type of wake-up call in the mornings. A burst hot water pipe in one of the rooms, which had flooded that room and the room below triggered the alarms. With a refund due from Premier Inn for a disturbed night’s sleep, it will help to boost the club’s charitable funds for the year.

After breakfast, back home on the bus leaving at 10am and arriving at Uxbridge Cricket Club by about 1pm.

A great weekend away was had by all and a weekend that will live long in the memory, not just for the football, but also the company and the events that occurred. Here’s to the next one...

Woody



Ken Wood