

England's representatives in the 5th Seniors World Cup 2010

Harrogate Veterans FC

Living the Dream!

As world cup fever grips the country, local veteran footballers from the Harrogate district will once again be playing in the Seniors World Cup in Thailand



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MICHELLE MILES
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What it's all about ?



This is the fifth World Cup that the Senior Footballers Association of Thailand has organized and the third that a team from England has been asked to participate. The competition is staged in order to promote Senior's football and encourage players to continue playing. The games, played to FIFA competition rules, are structured to ensure that each side plays an equal mix of players between the ages of 38 to 55.



History of the competition



Felix Magath holds aloft the trophy in 2007

The host nation Thailand has twice won the competition in 2006 and 2008 – their squad which prepares throughout the year contains many former international players and last year included Chalermwut Sa-ngapol, former Asian player of year who was at the time seen as the Asian “Glenn Hoddle”. In 2007 the awareness of the competition was raised when Germany entered a side containing several famous ex-internationals including Felix Magath and Manny

Kaltz who had previously played in both the Fifa World Cup final and the Euro championship Final. It was perhaps no surprise that their star side won the competition but only after a tight 1-0 victory over Taiwan's professional veteran side.

England – World Cup Winners again!



Last year Harrogate Veterans represented England, and after producing a series of well organised performances, won the final and brought home a football World Cup to England for the first time since 1966. This year in a Fifa World Cup year, they are returning to defend the trophy.

Previous Finals

2006 Phuket	Thailand 3-0 UAE
2007 Chonburi	Germany 1-0 Taiwan
2008 Pitsanulok	Thailand 1-0 Australia
2009 Udon Thani	England 1-0 Australia



**Good luck &
best wishes**

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Harrogate Veterans FC



Harrogate Veterans FC have been running as a Veterans side for the past 16 years, competing each season in the Umbro National Veterans Cup.

They are one of the founding teams of the York Charity Veterans league that started in 2002.

Having finally reached a National Umbro Final for the first time in 2008 they were successful at both Over 40 and Over 45 level – the first club to win two age groups in a single season. Last year they won the Umbro National Over 40s Masters Cup by beating Walsall based Pelsall Villa 2-1 in the final. Three days before going out to Thailand, they clinched the York Charity Veterans League and Cup double for the second consecutive season.

Previously the club made local history by becoming the first Veterans team to win an open age competition when they won the Harrogate FA Sunday Trophy in 2006.

York Charity Veterans League Champions 2003, 2006, 2008, 2009

York Charity Veterans Cup Winners 2004, 2008, 2009

Harrogate FA Sunday Trophy Winners 2006

Umbro National Over45s Masters Cup Winners 2008

Umbro National Over40s Masters Cup Winners 2008, 2009

England's representatives in Seniors World Cup 2008, 2009 (winners)



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In the Community



The Veterans help in many ways to give back to grass roots football development – which provides fantastic health & well-being opportunities for young boys and girls. It can provide team and friendship building, and family bonding time cheering on encouragingly from the sidelines. Several of the players invest many hours

coaching & managing football teams of all ages in the Harrogate & District Area – the older generation giving back to the younger generations. Additionally part of our obligation when in Thailand has been to dedicate a day to coaching young Thai children to encourage their involvement in football.

How can you help ?

Players – we are constantly on the look out for new players at both **Over 35 and Over 45**

Sponsorship - Opportunities ranges from shirt branding, to match day sponsors and matchball sponsorship. For the World Cup individual players can also be sponsored.

As with any football club – any help or involvement is welcomed.
If you are interested please contact us on **07896 900759**



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How the cup was won!



In 2009 Harrogate Veterans FC brought a football world cup back to England last year for the first time since 1966!

The tournament was held in the northern Thai city of Udon Thani, with all games being played in front of enthusiastic crowds of around 5,000.

Apart from the USA who were represented by Hawaii, all the other countries had hand picked former players to take part in the competition. "New Zealand played as many as 7 ex internationals against us" said manager Paul Bell, "whilst the Thailand, Iran and Australia teams also included former internationals and ex professional players." – where as the English squad boasted only a couple of players with football league experience.



England began the tournament, not only with a game vs the host nation and current champions, Thailand, but also having to contend with an earlier kick off time in the mid afternoon sun to fit in with Thai TV's live coverage of the spectacular opening ceremony and the match. However, the English team were to prove party poopers, as they lined up with an unfamiliar 4-5-1 formation, aimed at restricting space for the very mobile Thai team. The preparation England had put into set pieces was to pay dividend as Ian Simpson headed in an Andy Toman free kick for the only goal of the game.

The English team then went on to be the only side to win its three group games by beating New Zealand 1-0 (with a last minute goal from Toman) and the USA 2-1 (Lee Henry netting both goals) and went into the semi finals full of confidence against Iran, despite the condition of the pitch which was starting to feel the strains of the province's rainy season.

Once again, it was the head of Simpson which gave England a deserved lead – but despite creating several chances they were unable to score a clinching second goal. The experienced Iranian team though did take their chance to equalise which eventually meant the game going into the usual English drama of a penalty shoot out.

Smitheringale, Toman, Collier and Deacey all held their nerve to execute their kicks before keeper Alaister Hogg got a slight touch to Iran's fourth kick to divert it onto the bar. Simpson duly dispatched his kick to send England into the final 5-3!



There were scenes of mass jubilation as the squad celebrated first on the pitch and then with their 500 adopted local fans.

There was however, little time to celebrate or even enjoy the sweetness of the victory as less than 22 hours later the team had to line up and take on the new favourites Australia in the final. Made up of ex professional state players and complimented by a couple of ex Soceroos, the Aussies had seen off Thailand 1-0 in the other semi final. However Saturday morning brought a torrential thunderstorm that further flooded the Udon Thani Stadium pitch and whether the game could be played was doubtful. However, with live television cameras and a closing ceremony planned – there was sufficient pressure for a variety of maintenance work to be done to ensure the game went ahead. “There was however still far too much surface water for it to be a flowing game of football” said manager Bell, who waited until the last minute to include injury doubts Douglas and Toman in an unchanged side. “All our preparation for the game had been without Godwin in mind” said Bell “there just seemed no conceivable way he would make it.” But make it he did and once again in that lone striker role he dragged the Aussies gigantic defenders all over the place throughout the half. He also set up the game's only goal with a cross from the left that Simpson bursting through from midfield, met powerfully with his head 18 yards out – the ball took a ricochet off both post and keeper Christos Barbos before nestling in the net and the jubilant English were ahead.





Six minutes later it was almost two as Simpson again arriving late to a Douglas cross saw his shot go narrowly past the post. Whilst Douglas continued to cause problems, at the other end the Aussies were getting little out of Nigel Emery and Graham Bootland at the heart of the English defence. Despite Chris Lambert limping off after 12 minutes, Daz Ekin had once again stepped into the right back position, as Bell managed the competitions age rules which meant only a fifty year old could replace an over 50! As the half drew to a close, the Aussies were resorting to a direct style of play in the hope of making their height count but half time came without Hogg having to make a save of note.



However as the teams walked out to begin the second half, the skies once again opened and it wasn't long before the already sodden pitch had developed huge pools of water on it forcing the referee to call a halt to proceedings. As the teams sat back in their dressing rooms – officials and organizers frantically ran about in the hope of getting the game restarted. “We were up for continuing” said Bell “but the Aussies were reluctant given the amount of rain still falling.” Both teams did a lap of honour – in front of an electronic scoreboard which brightly reminded everybody that it was England 1 Australia 0! Finally, as it was impossible to replay the game - both teams were scheduled to fly out the following day – England, were awarded the cup!



“Sadly, there wasn't that sudden elation of the previous night, that there would have been at a final whistle” said Bell “but once the cup was put in captain John Deacey's hands and we had our winners medals around our necks , the enormity of what we had achieved began to sink in and we could begin to celebrate!” Those celebrations carried on in to the early hours of the morning in Udon Thani despite the fact that the team had an 8.30am flight to catch! “It was a very special day, and the end of a very special week – that will stay firmly in the memories of all the squad.” said Bell “and it was great that we all celebrated together as we did. The whole experience was unforgettable”

The English team took on five of the tournaments eight sides in six days to lift the cup and beat them all. Ian Simpson, who scored three crucial headed goals against Thailand, Iran and Australia was named as player of the tournament.





“The whole week has just been the most amazing experience – the stuff that dreams are made of!” said Simpson, who just three weeks prior had scored the winner for Harrogate in the National Umbro Veterans final.

Skipper John Deacey said “I’ve been lucky enough to play football at Wembley, Old Trafford and other great grounds in my career – but this experience is right up there and we deserved to come home with this world cup!

The pride the players felt, about representing England, was summed up by Andy Newell, at 54, the squads oldest member “When you line up in the shirt, with those three lions on it.....and then the national anthem begins, the hairs on your neck stand on end, and you sing your heart out...”

For manager Paul Bell, this was the culmination of months of preparation as he sought to take a stronger and more balanced squad back to Thailand for another crack at this prestigious international competition. “We learnt a lot the previous year, especially in regard to the age restriction rules and of course how to play in the heat. We needed to be able to keep the ball more and be patient and organised - in the end our players, all regulars with the club, rose to the challenge and made this dream come true”

Bell was quick to praise his management team. “At the end of the day, the players delivered on the pitch but our preparation and organisation off the field was first class, as was the attitude of the whole squad. We were there to win a cup for England, not for a holiday, and there was daily training, team lunches and curfews adhered to, as well as memorable community involvement when the squad visited the local school that had provided their supporters, plus taking part in a skills coaching session with the local youngsters.” “I was fortunate to be able to call on a wealth of experience” said Bell “ Daz Ekin (Manager of Boroughbridge) and Charlie Brown (Manager of Ripon City) assisted in the daily management, Mark Smitheringale ran the training sessions and John Deacey (Manager of Bradford Park Avenue) was superb with his coaching, in particular our set pieces, which were eventually to prove so crucial. In the dugout I was lucky to be aided by Andy Newell and physio Richie Scarth.”



The novelty of a football world cup coming back to England was not lost on the media as within hours of getting back into the country, some of the players were in the ITV studio whilst Bell himself was interviewed on Radio 5 Drive time!

Sponsors ASDA also arranged for Bell to be re presented with the seniors World Cup by 1978 Fifa World Cup winner Ossie Ardiles.



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The Draw

Date	Kick off Times	Group A	Group B
31st May	16.00	Thailand v Iran	Australia v USA
	18.00	England v Armenia	New Zealand v Taiwan
1st June	16.00	Thailand v England	Australia v New Zealand
	18.00	Iran v Armenia	USA v Taiwan
2nd June	16.00	Iran v England	USA v New Zealand
	18.00	Thailand v Armenia	Australia v Taiwan
3rd June Rest Day		Coaching session for local children	
4th June Semi Final		Winner A v R/up B	Winner B v R/up A
5th June Final			

England 2010 Seniors World Cup Squad

1. Alaister Hogg
 2. Tony McDermott
 3. Graham Bootland
 4. Earl Grey
 5. Nigel Emery
 6. John Deacey
 7. Mark Smitheringale
 8. Godwin Douglas
 9. George Woodhouse
 10. Rob Turnbull
 11. Ian Simpson
 12. Paul Brown
 13. Lee Henry
 14. Rich Mudd
 15. Paul Marshall
 16. Daz Ekin
 17. Adrian Owers
 18. Blair Nixon
 19. Paul Rowntree
 20. Mark Brady
 21. Simon Deakin
 22. Steve King
 23. Andy Toman
 24. Andy Newell
 25. Paul Bell
- Physio - Steve Bradbury



A word from the Manager



We go back to Thailand this year determined to bring the Seniors World Cup home again, and hope it is the first of a wonderful double with our “younger team” that will kick off in South Africa a week later. However we know that it will be a lot tougher this year as all the countries participating are likely to come back with stronger squads – this is a prestigious competition that they all want to win. We have looked to strengthen our own squad and there is no doubt that the lads will all show the same determined attitude to our preparation and the games. We all consider it the ultimate honour to be representing our country. Additionally, we got great pleasure from being able to give something back to the game whilst we were over there, with our visit to local schools and the coaching sessions for the local Thai children. We plan to do the same again this year.

Finally, can I on behalf of the squad give our thanks to all our sponsors to date and for the support we have received from many individuals and local football clubs.

We will be aiming to make you all proud of us again.

Paul.





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FOOTBALL!**

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