

YES WE CAN NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN/ THANKSGIVING EDITION



It is pleasing to report that our Rotary "Yes We Can" program has had a busy time since our last newsletter at Easter. We welcomed HM Lord Lieutenant to Football training where she was kind enough to award medals to all those who had been part of our 23/24 BOBi League Season. However there have been highlights in all the sports but perhaps our 7th Anniversary and the Oscar Awards event stands out (see more later). It is so rewarding to see our participants and their families across all our sports enjoying time together and celebrating everyone's collective and individual achievements. Something else to celebrate is the support the program has recently secured from the Harpenden Building Society via the Herts Community Foundation. This will enable us to reach more groups with our outreach and spread the word about our program to an even wider audience.

SWIMMING

Otters continue to go from strength to strength and regularly have over 30 participants on a Saturday morning enjoying the big and small pools. As usual everyone gathered for their summer awards BBQ with loads of smiling faces and laughter in the air. On returning after the summer holidays all members received a T-shirt curtesy of YWC with Helpers now standing out in their stunning Orange sporting the updated Otters logo.



Do you love Sport ? Come and Join the Fun at "Yes We Can"

Why not play sport outside school right here in Leighton - Linslade
Opportunities exist in Football, Hockey, Sailing, Swimming & Tennis



To find out more, just contact Sandra at tahomasandra@icloud.com
or leave a message on the 'Yes We Can' facebook page.



GOLF

We reported at Easter that there were promising signs that we would be able to pilot Golf as a YWC sport. Well, our hopes came to fruition, and we have been running a pilot scheme for 4 budding golfers under the expert tutelage of the LBGC Professional Kevin. The participants have really enjoyed Kevin's sessions, and we can now confirm that Golf will become fully embedded in the YWC menu of sports. Our thanks go to Kevin and LB Golf Club for all their support without which we could not make this happen.



TENNIS

We were all thrilled to learn in late spring that Leighton-Linslade Town Council had agreed to continue to support YWC Tennis for a further four years ensuring that we can continue to deliver a variety of Tennis opportunities to fit ages and abilities. So many of our participants start life in Tennis which often gives them the confidence to try other sports. We are, as always, grateful to the Tennis coaches and Linslade Tennis Club for all their help and support and we also look forward to seeing Coach Sara when she returns from her maternity leave.





SAILING

Our sailors recently de rigged the boats and put them to bed for the Winter with participants already looking forward to the 2025 Sailing season. The 2024 season saw some great times on the water with the highlight being 2 of our sailors learning to sail solo— What a fantastic achievement and one they should be enormously proud of. Thanks go to MK Sailability and Geometrix Earth Science for enabling this wonderful sport.

HOCKEY

If you visit Hockey on a Sunday morning (and you should) you will instantly see why it is such a wonderful sport and why it has been such an outstanding part of “Yes We Can” since the program was born. With continued support from Osborne Morris & Morgan Solicitors and LB Hockey Club, Coach Josh and his team deliver popular fun filled sessions week after week, it is no wonder that some of our most inspirational photos originate at Hockey.



OUTREACH

It was brilliant news that the Harpenden Building Society via Herts Community Foundation were going to help us reach more groups and thereby enabling us to deliver sports-based sessions in group's regular meeting venues. Already we have added Tibbs Dementia and Mencap High 5s to our earlier three groups and there is room for more when the time is right. It is also right to mention Alex & Dean our Outreach Coaches but also Mark at Encore Football who has played a key role particularly in terms of the Tibbs Dementia Group

Thank You Harpenden Building Society and here is some direct feedback from High 5s & Tibbs Dementia:

- Yes, We Can came to High 5s and played boules with my son and the other children, and he had an amazing time. He had never done boules before, and it was lovely seeing him interact.
- My children had a fantastic time when Yes, We Can came to High 5's.
- Thomas had a brilliant time with the Yes, We Can Team! Such great fun x
- The team were very engaging with all the children, and they all had a fantastic time.
- Mark from Encore football came today to do a session at our Tibbs Dementia group and the service users loved it. What Mark does is great, and he is such a professional. We are super grateful for your funding of him to come and work with our service users.

HARPENDEN BUILDING SOCIETY



FOOTBALL

Our partnership with Leighton Park Rangers goes from strength to strength and the way the club has embraced our Disability Footballers has been fantastic, so a big shout out to Nick, Richard C and all the good folk at LPR. All the participants (close to 40 of them) have been a joy to watch train and all those who have played in the competitive BOBi League matches have represented Rotary, YWC & LPR in an outstanding manner. Not surprising though when you realise that Coach Richard was the Disability Pathway Coach of the Year for Bedfordshire . On the pitch our League 1 side finished joint second in the table and our Conference & Under 14 teams both had very respectable mid table finishes. Of course, the new season is now underway and for the first time we hope to add a U16 side.



OSCARS

Supported by our longtime supporters Osborne Morris & Morgan Solicitors our awards event on October 6th was a truly inspiring occasion with fun, laughter, a great rendition of Sweet Caroline but most of all, well over 125 individuals all celebrating the achievements of a remarkable set of people. There is not enough space in this newsletter to share all the fabulous photos, but we have tried to pick some we think you will enjoy.



SPECIAL MENTION

A special mention goes to Football Coach Richard, with a "Hat Trick" of achievements since our last newsletter. We have already mentioned the award as Disability Coach of the Year for Bedfordshire, but he also managed to run three Ultra Marathons raising more than £3,000 for "Yes We Can" and to top it off he became only the second non-Rotarian in Leighton Linslade to receive the much converted and internationally recognised Rotary Paul Harris Award.

Well done Richard an incredibly special "Hat Trick"



THANK YOU

A massive thank you to all our participants and their families who make "Yes We Can" the organisation it is. Also, to all our coaches who give up their time and all the people behind the scenes in Rotary and other organisations who make things tick.

