

YES WE CAN NEWSLETTER

EASTER/ SPRING EDITION

Well, the winter is very much in the rear-view mirror and the warm sunshine and lighter nights puts a real spring in everyone's step especially all our "Yes We Can" participants. However, it's still worth a quick look back at winter and some of its highlights many of which will be covered in detail elsewhere in this newsletter.

We can start with Joe and Richard's continuing long distance running feats and in particular their fundraising efforts at the local Dirt Half Marathon, keep your eyes and ears peeled for more heroic efforts as 2025 develops. Then there was the Footballers out with Santa, the Golfers adapting to winter in their splendid bobble hats and of course January saw the return from maternity leave of Sara our brilliant Tennis coach.

However back to the warm sunshine and things to look forward to, like the return of Sailing the debut of Cricket and Croquet and of course our 2025 Oscars which this year will be a little earlier on Sunday 14th September. There is so much going on as we approach our 8th Birthday, so enjoy the newsletter and celebrate the achievements of our fantastic participants and their equally wonderful coaches.



SWIMMING

At Otters the participants enjoyed a particularly impressive Christmas Party with all the regular attractions but this time at Brooklands Club. Otters also managed to seamlessly navigate accreditation to Swim England in January, largely thanks to Kevin and his dogged determination to avoid the hiccups encountered in 2024. Swimming remains one of the YWC network's most popular sports with regular attendance across the two sessions in excess of 30 a week.



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.

Rotary
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GOLF

Our four dedicated golfers have navigated the cold winter weather and continue to progress under the expert guidance of Kevin the LB Golf Club professional. At regular intervals the participants are tested on specific aspects of Golf and where appropriate a certificate is presented. The most recent test being around pitching and all our players managed to achieve Level 1 success. It was also a real boost to receive financial support for Golf from the Leighton- Linslade Sports Council, thank you to them for such a brilliant vote of confidence.



TENNIS

The big news at Tennis was the return to action of Coach Sara after her year's maternity leave with Oscar. Sara brings a calm professional presence to the Tennis Court, and we are pleased to see her return to both Friday and Saturday sessions. In terms of other support, it is vital that we thank Linslade Tennis Club and Leighton Linslade Town Council both of whom enable our Tennis initiative to thrive.





SAILING

As I write this sailing is due to make its debut for 2025 so hopefully, we will have some new photos to share with everyone by the time this newsletter is ready for release. As always, we are incredibly grateful to the team at MK Sailability and for the partnership we have fostered over the last few years. We also wait with bated breath to find out the result of our blue token opportunity at Tesco over the winter as any proceeds will go to new life jackets for sailing, we understand that it could be £500 or maybe even more we shall see. Whatever the outcome we hope for sunshine and light breezes for our sailors as the season unfolds.

HOCKEY

Great news for Hockey this spring as our longtime partners Osborne Morris and Morgan have agreed to continue their support for Hockey ensuring our participants can benefit from the facilities and coaching at Leighton Buzzard Hockey Club and proudly wear their very special t shirts and sweatshirts. Recently we also celebrated World Down's Syndrome Day, and it was great to see a significant number of our Hockey players being highlighted on that special day.



FOOTBALL

As always, our Leighton Park Rangers/ Yes We Can football section has seen some significant highlights. The start of the 24/25 Bobi League season and the debut of our U16 side, a friendly fixture at MK Dons SET for our Adult Conference Side, and most recently attendance at the MK Dons Ability Counts Day when a number of our players got the opportunity to walk round the pitch. Mixed into this was the fun and laughter of Tuesday training the very mainstay of our football and something that would not be possible without coaches Chloe, Damon, Joe, Nick and Richard with additional support from Steven & Laurie.

We are truly grateful for our partnership with Leighton Park Rangers and the Oak Bank Academy facilities which enable us to have such a respected and thriving disability football provision.



OUTREACH

Perhaps one of our lesser-known activities it has been great to see it develop further through the winter and our thanks go to regular coaches Alex & Dean and also to Mark from Encore Football. We now provide sports sessions at Friends Within, High 5's, Freddie & Friends, Tibbs Dementia, Beds Inclusive Girl Guides and most recently the local Parkinson's group. Our sincere thanks to Harpenden Building Society who have given this initiative tremendous support.



ON THE HORIZON

The summer promises to see two new sports added to the "Yes We Can" Network as we have had very positive discussions with Cublington Cricket Club and Leighton Buzzard Croquet Club. Please do keep an eye on our social media sites for more information, we are quite excited about these developments and although the provision will look very different in their own way they will add significantly to our summer sports.



AWARDS

Recently two of our most active and dedicated volunteers received recognition for their outstanding contribution to the Leighton Linlade Community. Sandra and Richard had their respective awards presented by Town Mayor David Bligh at a YWC Fundraiser at L B Golf Club. A very fitting event as YWC has been one of the Mayors Charities and of course LB Golf Club is home to our Golf provision.



THANK YOU

Rotary/ Yes We Can continues to be about Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable Sporting Opportunities and enabling our community to be a Centre of Excellence for our fantastic participants, so a big Thank You to everyone who helps deliver that ambition.

