

YES WE CAN NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS EDITION



SWIMMING

The Otters continue to be incredibly successful and there are no shortage of new swimmers joining and enjoying the freedom of the water and the teaching skills of the dedicated poolside team. It can and has been difficult to capture action photos in the pool but recently thanks again to the poolside team we were able to obtain some excellent photos showing why swimming is still an inspiration for the whole YWC community.



As our Rotary "Yes We Can" initiative passes its eighth birthday it is fantastic to see it continuing to grow and provide the accessible, affordable, and sustainable sports opportunities that it set out to offer back in 2017. This summer we have celebrated the first full season of the wonderful Game Changers Cricket run by Cublington Cricket Club and at our Oscars ceremony we were able to confirm that Mixed Ability Rugby organised by Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club had joined the "Yes We Can" family. All our Sports are covered individually in this newsletter as is our recent Oscars event sponsored by OMM Solicitors which was a brilliant showcase for the program and was supported on the day by the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire and our Town Mayor. Please enjoy the newsletter and continue to spread the word that in Leighton-Linslade we are leading the way in sports opportunities for those with SEND.



GOLF

We are so proud of our "Yes We Can" golf provision as it has opened up a sports opportunity for five individuals who have thrived under the leadership of Kevin our superb golf professional. Continually striving to progress Kevin regularly tests their skills against set criteria and awards certificates for success. Recently they even held their open mini championship and Becky emerged triumphant, well done to her and all the participants and a big thank you to LB Golf Club for their continued support.



TENNIS

Our thanks as always go to Sara and the good folk at Linslade Tennis Club who support our YWC Tennis provision and of course Leighton- Linslade Town Council whose financial support enables our two tennis sessions to take place. Recently Rotary Photographer Martin Kennedy managed to get to a Friday evening session and again capture some wonderful photos which we have been entered into an LTA competition, fingers crossed. We have discovered over the years that Tennis is not just a brilliant sport in its own right but a great enabler and many of our Tennis players now enjoy other sports with Sara and Tennis giving them confidence they didn't know they had.





SAILING

Our friends at MK Sailability had a bumpy 2025 season due to no fault of their own. The good old British weather seemed to intervene often, and they had to deal with a severe outbreak of Blue-Green Algae Bloom. However, despite the significant challenges our intrepid sailors got out on the water, and it was pleasing to see some fresh faces as well as individuals who have progressed to a point where they can sail solo

HOCKEY

There are few better ways to spend a warm September Sunday morning than visiting our YWC/ LB Hockey Club Flyerz. This September Rotary photographer Martin Kennedy was able to capture the group in action, and the results were stunning. We are so grateful to LB Hockey Club, all the coaches and OMM Solicitors all of whom allow this fantastic opportunity to thrive. We can also vouch for the Tea/ Coffee and Bacon Rolls.





FOOTBALL

It's always difficult to pick out highlights when it comes to our Football provision with every Tuesday night training session providing fun and friendship for over 30 participants. The togetherness forged on Tuesdays stood all our teams in good stead when it came to competing in the Bobi League and we saw several of our players excel and grow both as footballers but also as wonderful young people. Top all that off with friendlies against MK Dons Community Trust and participation in the LPR 24-hour football match at May Day Fayre then it was quite a six months. We are so grateful to Coaches Richard, Nick, Chloe, Damon & everyone at Leighton Park Rangers, their commitment to pan disability football has been outstanding.

OUTREACH

We are now reaching more groups than ever and many of these were recognised at our Oscars Event. We are delighted that through Alex, Dean & Mark we are now regularly reaching High 5's, Friends Within, BIGG, Freddie & Friends, Tibbs Dementia, Parkinson's and for the first time the Mencap Summer Camp. This outreach approach is pretty unique, and we will endeavour to support its efforts as the feedback we receive is tremendous.



OSCARS

September 14th saw our Oscars Awards Event celebrated by 150 participants, parents, carers, and guests and hosted at Brooklands Residents Club. It was an afternoon of pure joy as we celebrated all our sports and welcomed Rugby to the network all in the presence of the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, our Town Mayor and of course our wonderful sponsors OMM Solicitors. This year saw a record number of medals and trophies presented but special mention must go to Joe Langdon winner of the OMM Special Award for his outstanding contribution to "Yes We Can" both as an inspirational participant and coach/ helper something he so ably demonstrated recently by running a 1:53 Half Marathon and the very next day scoring a goal for our LPR Kites against Oxford City Nomads sealing a great win.



CRICKET

This summer has seen the introduction of Game Changers Cricket to the YWC program, and we are extremely grateful to Harry and his team at Cublington Cricket for putting together such amazing sessions on a Saturday morning. The facilities at Cublington are marvellous and as one parent commented it really is quintessentially English on a warm Saturday morning in the sunshine. However, the cricket will not stop for the winter with sessions continuing indoors at Cottesloe School so why not give it a try.



THANK YOU

To all our sports partners, coaches, sponsors and particularly our participants, you all go to create the largest integrated pan disability sports program in Bedfordshire.

However, "Yes, We Can" is more than 8 pan disability sports it is a community and one the Rotary Club of Leighton Linshire is proud to lead.

A special thank you to Osborne Morris & Morgan Solicitors for their invaluable help in preparing the latest Newsletter. Your support and input are greatly appreciated!

