YES WE CAN NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS EDITION



It has been another busy six months for all our sports as well as our outreach work much of which will be covered in the individual reports later in this newsletter, but I would like to highlight just a few, so in no particular order. The move of Otters to the new Leisure Centre and Ross King winning the Swim England Regional Coach award, the securing of a winter home in Leighton Buzzard for the Mixed Ability Rugby, the funding of our Outreach by the Lottery/ Sport England & The Wixamtree Trust and of course our fantastic Oscars Awards Event sponsored by long term partners Osborne Morris & Morgan Solicitors. The Oscars is always the highlight of the "Yes We Can" year and this year we celebrated 9 years of operations and were honoured to be joined by Mark Ormerod DL.

Next year promises to be incredibly special as we celebrate 10 years of Rotary's "Yes We Can" program so please keep an eye out for special announcements as 2027 unfolds.

I hope you enjoy reading about all our sports, none of which would be possible without all our fantastic clubs, coaches and supporters, plus the efforts of the brilliant Rotary/ YWC team and indeed the wider Rotary community - Thank You to them all.









GOLF

Our golfing cadre continue to strive on a weekly basis to gain their achievement certificates in a wide variety of golfing skills. With the clocks going back the sessions now take place on a Wednesday afternoon under Kevin's expert tuition. It is hoped that if funding can be secured, we will be able to add a U18 golf section by the spring of 2027. In the meantime, our current cadre are looking forward to their annual Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club.









TENNIS

As we enter the colder part of the year our Tennis coach Sara, her assistants and of course our participants and their parents / carers are to be applauded as they brave the temperatures on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Whilst the Friday session is pretty much full, we do have some vacancies on Saturday morning (9am to 10am) if it is something that is of interest to you or someone you know get in touch. Our thanks continue to go to Leighton Linslade Town Council and Linslade Tennis Club for the way they support inclusive tennis.







SAILING

Unfortunately, it was another frustrating sailing season due to the re emergence of the dreaded blue-green algae issues at our sailing venue Caldecott Lake in Milton Keynes. We know how hard our valued sailing partners MK Sailability are trying to rectify an issue which is out of their and our control. Having said all of that I know that our enthusiastic sailors thoroughly enjoyed themselves when they were able to get on the water and behind the scenes Yes We Can are doing all we can to support the volunteers at Sailability.

HOCKEY

It is sometimes easy to forget that Hockey has been a staple of "Yes We Can since the program's start and has been supported by Osborne Morris & Morgan for almost the whole time. It was therefore great to see so many Hockey participants at this years Oscar's and to be able congratulate them. I am reliably informed that Sunday at Hockey together with tea and bacon rolls is a highlight for many parents/ carers long may it continue.











Rugby

The mixed ability Rugby continues to thrive and really announced their presence in the summer by dressing a float and taking part in the Leighton Carnival a unique experience for many of the participants so a big shout out to Pippa and her coaching team for making that happen. It has also been a real positive that working with our long-term partners at Oak Bank Academy we have been able to secure and fund a winter home in Leighton Buzzard for the Rugby, this is a real upgrade and no longer means long trips to Milton Keynes on dark winter nights.

Swimming

A memorable few months for Otters as they moved into their new home at the Leighton Leisure & Community Centre. Everyone Active the leisure centre operators have proved brilliant hosts and the club, and all its participants have settled in really well to this fantastic new facility. As if this wasn't enough Alyssia Lake a regular volunteer scooped the Young Volunteer of the Year at the Leighton Linslade Sports Council Awards ceremony and then just two days later Ross King won the Swim England Eastern Region Participation & Community Coach for 2026 award and goes forward to represent the east at the national awards.













FOOTBALL

It's a pleasure to report that football continues to be a vibrant part of "Yes We Can" with lots of highlights to report over the last six months. We must record our thanks to Richard Hird for his outstanding contribution to the football program as he moves on to take up a roving role with particular focus on the team sports as a member of the Rotary YWC team. With Richard moving on Nick, Damien and Rob have all stepped up and the 26/27 season has started really well, we are so fortunate to have Leighton Park Rangers as our football partners. We have some fresh faces in our juniors (10-16) which is great but do have room for more if you know anyone that maybe interested. On the adult front the teams continue to thrive and as I write this our Buzzards squad are undefeated in League competition having conceded just 2 goals in 10 matches., hopefully they can keep it up for the rest of the season.

OUTREACH

We continue to be grateful to Alex, Dean & Mark for supporting and enabling Outreach to be an integral part of Yes We Can. The exciting news is that the work has been recognised by Sport England, National Lottery, and the Wixamtree Trust which will allow us to sustain and grow this element of the program.







OSCARS

Once again, the Oscars sponsored by Osborne Morris & Morgan were a true highlight of the year, as we recognised all our special participants. The atmosphere is always electric and for one of our guests Mark Ormerod DL to comment that it is one of the best things he has been to shows what a joyous event it is. We were as always grateful to Brooklands Residents Club for their hospitality as well as all the other guests who gave up their time to come along and present awards. Was this year's rendition of "Sweet Caroline" the best yet, will let others decide. A special shout out to Colin Creasey of Ukie Toones fame who not only came along and presented some awards but also made a donation to YWC from the Band – Thank You.









CRICKET

Harry and all the coaches at Game Changers Cricket continue to provide an excellent weekly program whether it be at the picturesque Cublington Cricket ground in the summer or indoors at Cottesloe School as winter sets in. One highlight at the end of summer was a fixture that included the participation of other inclusion players and indeed the Rotary President with everyone enjoying a pizza feast instead of traditional tea at the end.







THANK YOU

A big thank you to all our participants, parents/ carers, sports partners, facilities partners, coaches, and funders without you "Yes We Can would not be possible. I reserve a special thank you to Anna & James from OMM Solicitors who do loads in the background and without whom this newsletter would be exceedingly difficult to produce.

And Finally:

2027 will be the 10th Anniversary of Rotary/ Yes We Can it is going to be great.

















