

Chairman's Report to WHSPAA Executive Meeting 12th October 2011

Introduction

We welcome Rosemary Basden who has kindly volunteered to fill our Secretarial post and Shelly Harris (Monks Walk school) who has kindly agreed to represent the Youth Council and School Leaders.

County Scene

The Pilot of the Olympic-style School games at HSV in July was very successful with Sue Campbell (youth Sports Trust, CEO) and Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport) interviewed for BBC TV News.

The new School Games Partnerships, as they are now called, are gradually being clarified and a county-wide review will be available at the Herts Sports Partnership Executive, 19th October. In the meantime, their website www.hertsschoolgames.co.uk is very informative.

The Regional Physical Activity Alliance, 3rd Annual Physical Activity Conference 4th October was well attended and upbeat. There is the increased optimism that physical activity (and sport) will feature more prominently in the NHS reforms.

Local Scene

Our, new, Welwyn Hatfield School Games Partnership (WHSGP) is headed by Sarah Mitcherson, Director of Sports College, and Michelle Bavington WH School Games Organiser. Final confirmation is expected soon on which schools are in our WHSGP.

A very successful Corporate Games, with 20 organisations competing.

Facilities

The Borough Council's facilities planning team lead by Matt Rayner, following production of the a mammoth 259 page study report, has been hampered in producing a strategy by the loss of the Building Schools for the Future and the indeterminate number of houses being planned. But Matt Rayner working with Sports England hopes to have the Strategy ready by the end of the year.

Updates

Clubs Audit to Find their Main Concerns and Directions for WHSPAA

A draft paper was circulated to the Executive on a questionnaire to clubs to find their main concerns to inform our Club Forums and on the role of WHSPAA. The updated report will be provided at our Executive meeting. Work needs to be done to find a suitable, cost effective, survey provider and someone to analyse the resulting replies.

University of Hertfordshire Freshers Sports Fair, 28th September

Hundreds if not thousands of students attended the UoH Freshers Sports Fair on Wednesday 28th September. There were probably 30 Uni Sports stands - and on our WHSPAA stand I gave away over 200 of our Sport in the Community brochures and 50 WHSPAA October newsletters.



Andrew Butterworth, UoH Badminton Club, with WHSPAA chairman on WHSPAA stand, UoH.

WH Olympians-Paralympians Banner-stand and Web-page Project

Our project with Mill Green Museum is progressing slowly.

Following the appeal in the Welwyn Hatfield Times

some more Olympians/ Paralympians have been identified. Shelly Harris, Monkswalk school, is endeavouring, through her WH Leaders meetings, to find Olympians/Paralympians who attended our schools.

It is planned that the banner-stands and web pages of past and potential WH Olympians-Paralympians will be created over October half term.

The banner-stands are intended to be used, particularly in the coming year, in schools and other public events to show what can be achieved by local people.

WHSPAA Sport and Physical Alliance Community Sport Brochure 2011

The final version of the brochure has been reviewed and commented for updates.

It is likely this will be published at the end of October.

WH Olympic and Paralympic Community Action Group

There have been two meetings of this exciting group, comprising all the main sports, physical activity and cultural organisations, lead by Matt Rayner. The plans and many events are well defined for the whole of 2012. There are still many opportunities for clubs, organisations and individuals to be involved. Matt will report on this in more detail.

WHSPAA at Village Events

Shelly Harris, Gill Bartlett and me took the WHSPAA stand and literature to Woolmer Green Village day. We provided taster sessions in table tennis and badminton were provided to some 50 children. Judith Watson, Chair of the Woolmer Green Parish Council, said that it was the largest and possibly most successful Village Day they had had.

Clubs Keen to provide Coaches for School Sessions

The intention was to provide assistance to schools looking for coaching and clubs.

Seven clubs replied to an email (to 133 clubs) that they were interested in providing coaching to schools or having school-club links. These broke down into:

Angling: 1 Athletics: 1 Cricket: 1
Disability Sports (Badminton, Boccia, New Age Kurling, Table Cricket, Goalball): 1
Football: Girls/Womens, 1; Boys/Mens: 0
Hockey: 1 In-line hockey: 1

Many of the clubs have or would like school-club links.

While it is disappointing that more clubs did not reply, there is considerable detail in the replies and it would be helpful if this could be analysed.

Gosling Sports Park Meeting on Potential Impact of a Gym on the Shredded Wheat site, 27th September

A gym on the shredded wheat site would adversely impact on GSP's viability because they obtain 52% of their income from their gym. Clubs at GSP that have created international sports stars only contribute a few percent of the income but a significant proportion of sports status of the Borough. GSP is a charity with no financial support from the Council (or other agencies). So the viability of GSP would be unsustainable if they lost 10% of their income to another gym close by. There was a good attendance and unanimous support to write to the Council on the matter at the meeting.

WHSPAA website (ongoing)

Continually updated by Matt and myself. Also more clubs are adding their presence and keeping their details updated. Our Facebook receives less of our attention but is getting interest from other Welwyn Hatfieldians.

David Bartlett
Chairman WHSPAA
10th October 2011