



A WHSPAA welcome

A huge warm welcome to new readers and clubs, as well as those who have been supporting us for several years now. As summer fast approaches we are near the 1 year countdown to the greatest sports event in the world...the Olympic and Paralympic Games. At this year's AGM, 23rd May, we very fortunate to be joined by former Olympic Silver Medallist Mark Richardson. We will hear what it takes to compete at such a level, and, from Herts Ready for Winners, the opportunities for clubs - see the back cover for more information. With the national structure of sport changing and the new/modified school sports partnership WHSPAA is aiming to minimise the adverse impact on community sport. It is worth reminding you all that WHSPAA is the voice for sport in our Borough and has representatives from some 160 clubs and sports organisations including schools, sports facilities, Activate Forum (disability sport), Oaklands College, the University, WH Borough Council, Primary Care Trust, Community Voluntary Service, Herts Sports Partnership and so on. If you're interested in sport and physical activity then read on, if you want help get in touch and feel you would like to be more involved in a particular sport or in WHSPAA as an organisation we would love to hear from you.

Dave Bartlett: WHSPAA Chairman

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May '11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHSPAA AGM and Olympic Forum with Guest Speaker, Olympian, Mark Richardson (23 May, Gosling Sports Park)
June '11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herts Sports Partnership AGM (14 June, UoH) • Herts School Games (17th June) • Herts Youth Games (18 June, UoH)
July '11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herts Rugby Coaches Conference (9 July, TBC) • Herts Corporate Games (18 July, Gosling Sports Park)
Sept '11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Sports Awards (12 Sept, UoH)
Oct '11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herts Sports Partnership Coaching Conference (16 Oct, UoH)

Savva Receives Special Recognition Award



The 2011 Sports awards were a huge success with a special award going to Steve Savva (pictured) for his Outstanding contribution to Community Sport. Steve has been instrumental in the redevelopment of school sport across the borough and we were lucky enough catch up with him and asked him a

few questions:

How long have you been in Welwyn Hatfield working for WelHat SSP? It was 3 years to the day on the 7th April

What's the biggest change you have seen since moving here? The biggest change I have seen is the amount of Sport and Physical Activity that young people are now participating in, in school and the fantastic opportunities that are available to them outside of school.

What do you think is the most important aspect of School Sport? The most important aspect of School Sport are the values that young people gain as a product of being part of an activity..e.g leadership, teamwork, positive well being, self esteem, competition.

If you had piece of advice for clubs working in schools what would it be? Use the students that you have to become ambassadors for you within their schools and try and support the school in some of their events in order to gain some support in return.

Who do you think will win Men's Wimbledon 2011? Rafael Nadal.

If you had to choose one event to watch at London 2012, what would it be? This is difficult as I tend to watch most of the events, even the most obscure ones. If I was pushed to choose one I would probably go with Modern Pentathlon as it is an all round sport with different disciplines.

Local Updates

Council Finishes Sports Study

After nearly 18 months of partnership work an extensive sports facility study has been released by the borough council. The study reviews several different sports facilities across the borough and looks at what the current and future requirements might be up to 2026. The study has been approved by Sport England and been set as an example of best practice. The document has used feedback from its consultation, Sport England diagnostic tools and qualitative assessments to the given conclusions. The next stage of the process is for the strategic Sports Forum (which the WHSPAA chairman is a member of) to write the strategy and action plan. This process is set to take the rest of the year in order to ensure that the documents is owned and agreed by all members of the Forum. To review the study please go to the WHSPAA website.

2011 Sports Awards

This year's sports awards were a great success and thanks must go to the council for ensuring sport is given the opportunity to be in the spotlight a just deservers. There were 60 nominations put forward for the 10 awards and it was fantastic to see 200+ guests present on the night to celebrate what had been a fantastic 12 months in sport. WHSPAA sponsored the Club of the Year awards which went to Welwyn Wheelers after an unbelievable season across the club. Find out more later...



All the winners (pictured below) on the night are listed below. Special mentions go to Jodie Williams and Conor Walker who both picked up special Queen Jubilee Awards for their contribution to Sport and

Music. They are without question role model for young people across the borough.



Young Leader: Lotte Clapp (Rugby & Inspire to Aspire)

School Team: Northaw CE Primary School Basketball Team

School Pupil: Alex Chalker (Cricket)

School Teacher: Cherie Wiper (multi sport)

Contribution to Community Sport: Steve Savva

Contribution to Disability: James Lipscombe (Multi Sport)

Coach of the Year: Catherine Walker (Athletics)

Team of the Year: Gosling U14 Tennis Team

Club of the Year: Welwyn Wheelers (Cycling).

Sports Person: Joanna Miles (Skiing)

Service to Sport: Richard Bloom (Athletics)

7 Olympic & Paralympics Value Awards:

- Excellence – Laura Trott (Cycling)
- Inspiration – Barbara Scorer (Swimming)
- Equality – Philip Gray (Disability Sport)
- Courage – Max Crouch (Badminton)
- Determination - Jamie Kamani (Football)
- Respect – Matthew Rathbone (Cricket)
- Friendship – Tyrease Gilbert (Athletics)

Special Golden Jubilee Awards: Jodie Williams (Sport) & Conor Walker (Music)

National First for Welwyn Hatfield



Welwyn Hatfield Borough was the first location in the world to have Street Snooker. The play equipment designed by Play Innovation was installed at Moneyhole Playing Fields back in February. The equipment is innovative and encourages all abilities and all ages to use it.

The launch saw badminton Olympic Medalist Gail Emms, IBSF World Snooker Champion Alfie Burden and World football freestyler Champion John Farnworth support and open the site. The equipment is up at the playing fields and is there for anyone to use.

WUZZUP

There is a brand new website aimed at teenagers in Welwyn Hatfield. The website is run by a group of 11-19 year olds who are helped by the youth and sport partnership team at the Council to ensure the development and delivery of the website is appropriate. The website offers opportunity to anyone to promote their activities if they are aimed at anyone aged 11-19. For more information please go to www.wuzzup.co.uk



Health Matters DVD

Many clubs have been involved in the Council and PCT partnership health matters DVD which will be available very soon. The launch back in March gave local organisations and clubs involved review their individual sections before the film is sent for completion.

The DVD will be used by individuals, clubs and organisations to promote their activities. It will also be used by schools and health care professionals to promote the importance of a healthy and rounded lifestyle and highlight the enjoyment of taking part in sport.

Herts Youth Games 2011

Trials and training for the 2011 Herts Youth Games is well underway, however there are still opportunities to be involved whether as a volunteer coach or as a young athlete. If you are interested in being involved you need to speak with Lynne Pestle, l.pestle@herts.ac.uk. The games are a great opportunity for your club to promote itself and attract new members. This year's sports are:

Aquathlon – years 7, 8, 9 & 10 mixed

Athletics – years 5 & 6 mixed

Badminton – years 7 & below mixed

Basketball – years 6 & 7 boys

Kwik Cricket – years 6 & below girls

Football – years 3 & 4 girls

Table Tennis – years 9 & below mixed



Club News

North Mymms CC Proudly Celebrates its 150th Anniversary

Mymms is a small, friendly club based in idyllic surroundings, with an award-winning pitch and excellent facilities. We are very proud that Mymms is now acknowledged as one of the finest clubs in the county with newly upgraded grounds and a refurbishing pavilion.

At Mymms we actively promote cricket in the local community. Last year we ran more than 60 after school coaching sessions in 5 local schools, as well as weekly coaching workshops and a Summer Camp. This year we aim to extend these projects to include a Schools Tournament and a Sports Camp during the May half term. These are in addition to the Summer Camps and our very popular Cricket Week during the first week in August.



In April we celebrate our Sesquicentennial Anniversary. To mark this very special occasion we shall be holding a Celebration Dinner at The Fielder Centre, Hatfield Business Park, Hatfield Avenue, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 9TP. We are very pleased to announce Howard Morgan, The Mayor for Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council will be joining us as our

Guest of Honour. Geoff Miller, current England Chairman of Selectors, will be our guest speaker.

We have a very exciting year ahead of us at Mymms. We have started our pre-season training and our teams are approaching the new season with enthusiasm and confidence. At Mymms we cater for all levels of ability. If you are interested in joining or would like to find out more about the club please go www.northmymmscc.co.uk. Alternatively please contact Jon Mather on 07845733391 or jonathanmather21@hotmail.com

Success Breeds Success

Welwyn Wheelers is a successful and thriving club based at the velodrome at Gosling Sports Park in Welwyn Garden City. The club is a ClubMark and British Cycling Go-Ride accredited club. These awards show the clubs accreditation that young people are properly cared for when participating in club activities but also that talent is developed appropriately through a prosperous youth section.

The club's members are involved in a wide range of cycling activities ranging from track racing, time trials, cyclo cross and road racing to general social and leisure riding.

After a phenomenally successful 2010 including World and National Championship titles both at Junior and Masters level, the club has had an excellent start to 2011. Success started early in the year with Joseph Fry becoming the Junior Under 14 National Cyclo Cross Champion (pictured). This was followed in March by Laura Trott adding to her Junior World Championship title by winning gold in the women's team pursuit at the World Track Championships in the Netherlands. Laura who has raced at the Gosling Sports Park velodrome since she was nine years old shows great potential for the future and is testament to the club's ability to provide a pathway to success for our young riders.



The club's Spring / Summer activities at the velodrome start with novice sessions for Youth and Senior riders who have no or little experience on the track on Saturday 9th April from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Track bikes are available to hire but come early (8.30 a.m.) for fitting. A further Novice session is being held on the 16th April. From Saturday 23rd April the club's Go-Ride Track sessions will be run weekly (except for on Bank Holiday weekends) at the velodrome from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. These will be for riders with Track riding experience both Youth and Senior who wish to improve their Track skills. The club's Tuesday evening ten mile time trials start on 3rd May at 7.00 p.m. (please aim to arrive by 6.30 p.m.) at Cole Green. New comers are more than

welcome and these evening events allow friendly introduction to the sport of Time Trialling for newcomers. You don't need a specialist bike, just a serviceable bike and a pair of legs. The clubs senior (and junior) members will provide help and advice and friendly banter.

Further, up to date information can be found on the club web site: www.WelwynWheelers.org.uk

Max Smashes Two Awards in Two Months

Comets Junior Badminton, has had a good year with full attendances, and members and teams playing in the Herts Schools Badminton Association (HSBA) leagues and tournaments. This year, one lad in particular, stood out as a great helper – very patient, particularly with the younger and less able players, and also very reliable. Max Couch saved up to attend the 3-day BADMINTON



England Level 1 course. Since then he has continued to help at the club but also at his school, at tournaments and other clubs. This year all of his efforts were met with special recognition. Firstly at the Borough's Sports Awards, where he received an Olympic/Paralympic Value Award. The second in the Hatfield Town Council recognition of young volunteers, the award was a financial contribution to his Level 2 Coaching course. (picture Max Crouch receives award from Hatfield Town Council's Mayor and Councillor, Linda Clark).

Welwyn Rugby Football Club

Five Years of Success and More still to Come

Welwyn U11s (pictured below) have won the county finals for 5 years in a row and have since added to their already full trophy cabinet this season with wins at the Barnet, Hereford floodlit and Tring festivals, They also made it to the grand finals of the prestigious South of England tournament the Eithad Airways Curtain Raiser Cup at the Premiership club Harlequins; having won the competition last year.



The team will start pre season training in late August to early September and will welcome any new

players, irrespective of experience or ability to come and enjoy the teamwork and friendship that has always been at the heart of the game of rugby. For more information on mini and junior rugby please contact lack.jeff@btinternet.com

Promotion Success for U13's

The Under 13's have had a fantastic year. In their first season in the leagues Welwyn U13's secured promotion from division 4 to division 3 and are through to the semis in the Plate competition. New players have developed and with some tough training have pushed for starting places.

The boys have showed real team spirit in their matches and the forwards have battled every game when facing sizable opposition.

The backs defence has been awesome and with slick passing everyone has scored.

If anyone would like to join us pre season training starts mid August on Sundays 10am to 12am & Wednesday 7pm to 8pm at Welwyn RFC.

For more details please contact Peter Middleton on 07879 482784

Senior Success from Top to Bottom

The first team have finished their league off with an impressive nine game unbeaten home record since the turn of the year. The team have also progressed to the final of the Herts President's Tankard competition and will face Harpenden on 30th April at the home of Old Verulamians in St Albans.

The second team finished 3rd in their league and lost narrowly in the semi final of the cup. The fourth team finished mid table but managed to win a close battle with Hackney 3rd team to secure a cup success at the end of the season. The fifth team has also been resurrected and have played nearly twenty fixtures and have therefore ensured that there is a level of rugby to suit all levels of talent. The most successful "lower" team this year at Welwyn has undoubtedly been the Third team (pictured below). Combining a



blend of youth and experience to full effect to secure a well deserved league and cup double, giving promise to the future of the club with such young talent coming through.

Welwyn will be looking to build on these successes next season and have plenty lined up for the summer months in order to keep the momentum going.

Tuesday evenings in May and June will see touch and tag rugby, open to all abilities and will be a way of keeping fit whilst having fun. For more information please e-mail andrewjriley@live.co.uk

Next season will also see Welwyn field two colts teams on Sundays for those aged 19 and under. The colts players will also be introduced to senior rugby throughout the season with the introduction of a "Development Squad" which will play matches on select Saturdays and will combine the incredible young talent coming through with a few old stagers who will provide the "nous" that is required to make the transition from youth to adult rugby. If interested please contact matrayner@hotmail.com

Visit the club website for more information on anything mentioned above and more www.welwynrugby.co.uk

Partner News



Moonlight Football

Our successful moonlight football project ran from January to March this year, and was restarted on 1st April and will run till 13th May at Gosling (in partnership with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and Gosling Sports Park). The aim of the league has been to provide a fun and competitive activity for young people from ages 13 to 18 on Friday nights. Apart from the health benefits, it gives young people an opportunity to participate in something they enjoy, playing alongside friends and team mates, whilst staying safe.

The project has averaged 55 young people participating every Friday evening with a peak of 78. It's been very good natured with some humorous team names and prizes being given for teams, and a shield for the winning team will be presented on the last session of the term. The project has been funded from Herts Sports Partnerships (HSP) Livewire funding, and from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. This project will restart again in the autumn.



Moneyhole Lane Park

The annual summer project will run from 20th May to 19th August and deliver a variety of diversionary activities for young people. The existing project has been successful at Moneyhole Lane Park for the past few years during the summer months and attracts 35-45 young people each Friday evening to participate. They will be engaged in a variety of sporting activities. To make the project accessible for young people it will remain free of charge for those wishing to attend.

The project will take place in the playing fields and the Kickabout court area which now has the added attraction of the new Street Snooker activity. The project is partnered with Youth Connexions who will assist with delivery, Finesse Leisure providing the venue and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council that are kindly providing the funding.

Hazel Grove Community Centre

The project will take place at Hazel Grove Community Centre. From 7.30-9.30pm, 27th May to 29th July 2011 for 10 weeks.

The project has been devised from the consultations with young people who expressed a strong desire to have the option of a regular indoor facility to meet with their friends, ideally on a Friday night, to avoid potential bad weather and somewhere safe.

The activities will include a choice of Street Dance, Fitness Circuits and receive health related information from our partnership team with Youth Connexions. The project will be free and inclusive for all young people aged from 11-19 years old of all abilities, genders and ethnic backgrounds. The project is funded by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

Play Rangers

We have continued to run our outdoor play project "Play Rangers" during the February Half Term. Play Rangers is open to children from ages 6 to 12 (including their siblings). We use 5 open spaces such as parks in Welwyn Hatfield (one location per day), and by popular demand we had maintained the additional rural sites at Newgate Street and Welham Green/North Mymms, which were a huge success with again good numbers and great feedback from children, parents and local councillors. We also started up at a new site at Digswell Park, thanks kindly to free indoor and outdoor access from Finesse Leisure.



Over the year (201-11) we have run 89 sessions with an average attendance of 19 at each session. This is yet another successful partnership venture with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council who has kindly funded the project, and with Finesse Leisure kindly giving permission and free access to their sites. This has also been match funded by Extended Schools.



Health Matters

A Healthy Lifestyle project in partnership with 6 local schools, Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council, Welwyn and Hatfield PCT, Gosling Tennis and Sports Development departments and other clubs links who train or hire facilities at Gosling ran its spring term and will finish mid-summer term. Through

funding from the Borough Council and PCT, Gosling established 6 new links with local schools in priority areas of Welwyn and Hatfield and are currently running taster sports sessions as part of the schools PE sessions. This is a great opportunity to filter school children on to courses at Gosling as well as identify new talent and establish better community links. Activities included in the program are:

- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Boxercise
- Karate
- Tag Rugby
- Healthy eating educational talk

Gymnastics Club Keeps Rolling

The GSP Gymnastics development training program is progressing very well and has resulted in increased training hours; which in turn has seen an increase in the overall level within the club. We have also started a mini development training program which caters for 3-5 year olds and offers a higher level of coaching with a specialist program designed for the participants age and ability. The club has doubled in size since January which is a great achievement.

Thanks to the funding we received from WHSPAA we have been able to register our club plus the individuals with British Gymnastics and have started to train and work towards competitions. We had a visit by the eastern Gymnastics Association at the end of March who came to analyse our club, coaches and training program and have given us great feedback and ask us to join their organisation.

Joint Tennis Academy

North Herts College Gosling Tennis Academy: Gosling Tennis IHPC and North Herts College created a partnership in 2010, centred around the two organisations progressing forward together and generating increased educational opportunities for both Students and Tennis players. One such scheme, the - Tennis Academy – has been in operation this academic year and will be again next academic year. Targeting those aged 16 years+ whose rating is not under the 6.2 threshold required to gain entry onto the AASE programme, this scheme allows students to study full-time on a Btec programme at North Herts College, combined with an intensive part-time Tennis training programme, including squad sessions, coach mentoring and physical conditioning. The scheme is ideal for promising players between the ratings of 6.2 - 9.2; players with a natural ability who want to fulfil their potential in Tennis; or players who used to perform at an elite level but dropped out of the game and want to return. For more information, please contact christine.hildreth@goslingsports.co.uk

Tennis for all reaches new heights with NEW Disability Tennis Programme

This new and expansive Disability Tennis programme at Gosling is flourishing, generating much interest, participation and enjoyment. The two Learning Difficulties sessions have run at well over 90% occupancy since the beginning and the Visually Impaired course – unique to the region – has fast attracted a healthy number of eager, regular participants with the assistance and partnership of Hertfordshire Children, Schools and Families VI unit. Stronger link with Knightsfield School for the Deaf have now been established with their students attending Gosling for taster sessions to promote the Deaf Tennis course. There are still places left on all courses and on the Wheelchair Tennis programme. If interested in having a free trial, please contact James Edgerley on 01707 384339 or via email: jedgerley@goslingsports.co.uk



Sports Village Athlete Helps Secure Win Over France

Sports Village athlete and first year UH Student Hannah Gallagher helped the England Women U20s Rugby overcome a fierce French team to earn an impressive 12-5 triumph at Worcester's Sixways Stadium. U20 flanker Gallagher helped the team secure victory following a 5-0 deficit at half-time. England Women U20 Coach Amanda Bennett said: "It was Gallagher who put England out of reach with a 79 minute try. With England taking a quick penalty the powerhouse flanker, who enjoyed a storming game, barged her way over the try line to score the decisive touchdown." First year Sports Studies student and former athlete on the Herts Talented Athlete Programme (HTAP) at Hertfordshire Sports Village, Gallagher has now progressed onto Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS). For further information please contact Sarah Grybowicz, Scholarships Co-ordinator on 1183 or email s.grybowicz@herts.ac.uk



Sports Village Athlete Plays Amongst His Heroes

Hertfordshire Sports Village golfer Tom Lewis was amongst a star studded field in the Dubai Desert Classic at the Emirates Golf Club. Receiving a sponsor's invitation, Lewis is one of two amateurs taking on the might of Lee Westwood and Tiger Woods. Tom has been on top form over the winter, losing a play-off on the Australian Tour in the New South Wales Open. He also took the silver medal as leading amateur in the Australian opening where he finished fifteenth. Tom has been on the 'Herts Talented Athlete Programme' for four years and receives his strength and conditioning coaching through Performance Hertfordshire based in the Sports Performance and Development Centre on the de Havilland campus.

Individual Updates

Jenny Wilson represented the University of Hertfordshire in the BUCS Karate Championships in Sheffield in March. For a third consecutive year she won a bronze medal in the +U68 senior Kumite after losing out in the semi finals. In the BUCS trampolining finals, James page came 1st and Leah Robson 5th in the BUCS 2 category. Finally, Emily Stevens competed in the BUCS Indoor Athletic Championships in Sheffield. She came 6th in the 60m hurdles final whilst achieving a personal best of 7.73 seconds. The final included many talented athletes from Hertfordshire

Herts vs Beds 2011 University Varsity

Wednesday 6th April saw two local universities undertake sporting battle at the University of Bedfordshire to try and win the 2011 Varsity trophy. Varsity is traditionally a sporting event between two rival universities. It is a fun competitive day for students competing and students spectating. The University of Hertfordshire were hoping to retain their title from 2010 where they won their first victory on their home turf at Hertfordshire Sports Village.

The day started well for Herts as they breezed to a 3-2 lead overall after they demolished Bedfordshire in men's and women's badminton, winning 7-1 and 8-0. Herts Netball team were victorious in a close 56-41 match. However Herts lost women's football 1-0 after the Bedfordshire goalie made an outstanding finger tip save. The first men's football match also resulted in a 4-2 win to Bedfordshire.

Bedfordshire began to fight back winning both the women's and men's rugby matches making it 4-3 to Beds. Hertfordshire then equalled 4-4 as Hertfordshire's men's basketball team continued their impressive league form and thrashed Bedfordshire 89-59.

With three matches left to go, Bedfordshire then took the lead 5-4 after their mixed hockey team won 4-0.



Just men's football and women's basketball matches remained. Tom Peverall and Zak Knight scored outstanding goals in a spectacular match which saw Hertfordshire win the men's football 3-1. However the women's basketball were unable to pull off a victory and overall Bedfordshire won the 2011 Varsity 6-5.

Bryn Clark, Head of Sports Development at the University of Hertfordshire commented on the day "It was a brilliant day of sporting battle between two

great sporting universities and of course Hertfordshire are disappointed with the overall result but we will come back fighting next year. Our students represented us incredibly well".

finesse
LEISURE PARTNERSHIP

Caring for leisure

Swim Centre Success for Gym, & Swim Day



Hatfield Swim Centre hosted this year's Activate Forum Festival with over 60 users attending the day, taking part in a variety of activities including fun swim, circuits classes, water polo and Zumba!! The festival is designed specifically to offer those with physical and mental disabilities the opportunity to try their hand at new activities. This gives the carers and clients an insight into a range of various activities that can be participated in and enjoyed. Overall feedback for the day from both the carers and clients suggested the event was a great success!!

Stanborough Lakes to Host new Scheme

In association with London Recumbrants. Stanborough Park hosted a successful special needs cycle trial with Lakeside School and Hornbeams Day Centre. A variety of cycles aimed at special needs young people and adults were trialled during the day. The day was a huge success and is all part of the new Easy Riders project first indentified by the Activate Forum

Activate Forum have secured funding to provide a cycling facility for special needs groups and the trial could lead the way to a cycling project being set up at Stanborough Park and Cuffley Camp.

Chair Based Exercise Classes

After being successful in gaining funding for OTAGO – chair based exercise programme Finesse can continue to develop is fitness programme. The sessions will run every Monday at Hatfield Swim Centre at a cost of £2.00 per session. These classes are suitable for a range of people and will benefit people who have suffered a stroke or who have difficulty in co-ordination.



Active Universities

HSP and Herts Uni were successful in attracting £359,579 to support their bid for their programme which is set over the next three academic years, starting in September 2011.

The project will target students at the University of Hertfordshire and Royal Veterinary College, as well as engaging local FE colleges. The project will enhance the student experience through the provision of campus and community based programme. It will enable the University to develop new coaches and recruit student volunteers to the project and link up with community sport programmes when their studies come to an end. An important aspect of the bid is to improve integration of students in the local community. WHSPAA will receive funding to enhance university-club links and increase volunteering opportunities. The CSNs provide a unique opportunity to increase the access to local sports clubs and break down barriers to student participation in community sport. For more information make sure you are at the AGM.

Coach Education Week and Conference 2011

February half term played host to the Herts Coach Education Week and 4th Annual Coaching Conference with key note speech from NBA legend John Amaechi. Coaches flocked to the week-long programme of courses, practical workshops and lectures to further their knowledge and skills. The key theme of this year's Coach Education Week was disability sport, made possible through the support of Herts County Council's Aiming High for Disabled Children fund, Amwell View School and St Albans City Youth FC. Throughout the week almost 1,400 participants (an increase of 26% on the previous year) attended over 90 different workshops, lectures, and formal coaching courses, making the event the biggest of its kind in the UK. Over 170 of those attending the courses were from Welwyn Hatfield clubs.



CoachMark

Herts County Council now makes a requirement that all coaches delivering in schools have CoachMark. CoachMark is administered by the Herts Sports Partnership and applies to any coach wishing to work in schools, whether on a paid or voluntary basis. That means that coaches may find they are unable to work in Herts schools if they are not CoachMark coaches.

HSP strongly recommend that individual coaches and organisations start the CoachMark process as soon as possible. The new CoachMark scheme ensures that coaches working in schools have attained a minimum operating standard - known nationally as Minimum Standards for Deployment and safeguards young people who take part in sport.

For CoachMark clearance, coaches must individually register on the Coaching Herts database and provide evidence that they meet minimum standards for deployment. The standards cover coaching qualifications, CRB disclosure, insurance, Safeguarding & Protecting Children education, references and commitment to a code of conduct.

For further information, contact Rob Hardwick, Coaching Development Manager with the Herts Sports Partnership, on 01707 281204 or via email at r.d.hardwick@herts.ac.uk

Chairman's Update

National Scene

The reduced funding to sport and physical activity is having more adverse impacts in some other districts than ours, (some local authority sports centres, for example, have closed at weekends) but the impact of the cuts are just beginning. The partial reprieve of School Sports Partnerships is yet to pan out as there is much confusion. The 46 national governing bodies of sport that have Whole Sport Plans and Sport England funding are having cuts but of varying amounts around 20%.

County Scene

The reorganisation of the NHS putting Public Health themes (like obesity, lack of exercise) into the control of a countywide organisation under Herts County Council is still to be clarified. School Sports Partnership Competition Managers, including SCM, Tony Marmo, were made redundant, 31st March (except where a few special arrangements exist). Our Regional Physical Activity Alliance, has lost Dr Roz Fitches, Regional Physical Activity Coordinator, and this has become a part-time role for her successor, Nick Clarke. Roz has left a number of documents on the website to enable people to understand the impact of the lack of physical activity and potentially use this to justify projects.

Herts other Community Sports Networks continue to thrive in varying degrees and the HSP-lead, 'CSN Leads' meetings are useful for sharing and comparing practices and ideas.

Local Scene

The Active People Survey results for 2010-11 released 17th March show, at just 17.5%, there is no statistically significant change in 3 times 30 minute participation for Welwyn Hatfield. It certainly feels like there has been an increase but that's probably just because WHSPAA people seem to be so busy and effective at delivering sport and physical activity.

WH School Sports Partnership



Following our Campaign Group's meeting our MP, Grant Shapps, in January (pictured above), to press for retention of SSPs or similar structures, Grant forwarded our concerns to, and we have had replies from, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt, Minister for DCMS, 31st January, and Rt Hon Michael Gove, MP, Education Minister, 10th March. Copies of their letters are on our website.

In my opinion the intention in the letter from Jeremy Hunt which states, 'For the first time schools now have the freedom to choose how they deliver sport in schools' is marred by the removal of the ring-fenced funding so that some schools will be very likely to be delivering considerably less sport because of their more urgent targets.

Michael Gove's letter shows that basic management principles in rolling out their proposals have not been adhered to, giving rise to confusion for teachers and poorer outcomes than necessary. Unfortunately, in spite of the Government's expressed intentions to the contrary, how and to what extent sport will be supported next academic year will not be known in many Herts schools until after 23rd May when schools will decide whether or not they can afford to spend the non-ring-fenced funding to (as MG states) 'ensure the good work of school sports partnerships can be properly embedded'.

Club Forum, 24th January, School Sport and Volunteers'

Attendees heard how to obtain volunteers from: Steve Savva, Partnership Development Manager, WH SSSP, who also provided information on school PE contacts (now on our website), Carmen Dillon, CVS and Sana Meerza's colleagues from the University of Hertfordshire. Isobel Hatfield also from the CVS explained the opportunities for helping clubs with development.

Volunteer Recruitment at CVS, Hatfield, 7th March
I was hoping to find a new WHSPAA secretary from among the 20 volunteers who attended. One interested person replied but unfortunately I have had no further contact.

Whitehills (Welwyn) Opening Ceremony, 8th April
WHSPAA organised activities, mainly for juniors and provided information on available clubs and activities at the re-launch of this refurbished facility. Hundreds of children attended – mainly outdoors as the weather was so good!

WHSPAA Sport and Physical Alliance Brochure

The publishers have confirmed another edition to be published in June. We are in a much better position this year owing to more clubs and improved accuracy from their updating their information on the website. The deadline is the end of this month.

WHSPAA Website

The website is continually updated by Matt and myself but clubs need to keep adding their information and keeping their details updated. You can also find us on facebook as well.

WHSPAA would like to thank the ongoing support of our Sports Champion Cllr Darren Bennett for his continued support and advocacy work he undertakes for sport across the borough.



Could you help?

We are looking for a few more people with an interest in helping co-ordinate the direction of sport in WH. Interested contact Dave@Bartlett1.Plus.com

WHSPAA



WHSPAA is an inclusive democratic organisation comprising all sports interests in the Borough that meets quarterly. The current members include: Over 30 clubs, Welwyn Hatfield School Sport Partnership, Activate Forum, Finesse Leisure Partnership, Gosling Sports Park, University of Hertfordshire, Herts Primary Care Trust, Welwyn Hatfield Community Safety Partnership, Herts Sport Partnership, Oaklands College, Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council, Welwyn Hatfield Council, Hatfield Town Council.

Chairman: Dave Bartlett

dave@bartlett1.plus.com

Contacts Secretary: Claire Smith

claire.smith@goslingsports.co.uk

Treasurer: Lynne Pestle

lynne_pestle@hotmail.com

Minutes Secretary: Not Filled

Welwyn Hatfield Council Sports Champion:

Councillor Darren Bennett

darren.bennett@welhat.gov.uk

March 2011
Issue 6

Welwyn Hatfield SSP

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Playground 2 Podium ID Day

Young People Leading the way
Conference



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Teacher
Net



E-NEWSLETTER

Playground 2 Podium ID Day



On Friday 18th February, the Welwyn Hatfield SSP joined with St Albans and Harpenden SSPs to host our annual talent identification day for those young people with physical and / or sensory impairments. The day was held at Herts Sports Village and had coaches from the local football and wheelchair basketball clubs leading the sessions. The day was used to introduce the students to activities they may not have come across before as well as identifying those students with potential to go to a County Identification Day.

Congratulations must go to Katie Hutley from Chancellors school who has made it through this county day to be held at Lea Valley Sports Centre. We wish her every success!



Young People Leading the Way Conference 24th & 25th March at the University of Hertfordshire Sports Village

One Year 7 student, one Year 8 student and two Year 9 students from every secondary school in the county were invited to attend this one day conference on Thursday or Friday.

The morning sessions included team building exercises, an opening ceremony, what makes a good leader, designing a competition, problem solving and an opportunity to question an athlete role model.

In the afternoon all the students were given the chance to focus on the YOUR Sport resource cards and deliver an activity to another group.

At the end of the day they reported back to their accompanying staff and discussed what and how they were going to plan, organize and deliver once they were back at school.

They all came up with some wonderful ideas which they will now have great fun putting into practice in the summer term.

Here are some of the thoughts from the students.

“It was nice working with different year groups and students from different schools”

“It was great to have the opportunity to learn how to lead sports events”

“Overall it was a very exciting experience for us all.”

“It was a positive day from which I have gained lots of skills and knowledge.”

“It was a great day, getting to work with different schools and different ages.” Becca Oliver (y9)

“A fantastic day. Anybody can be a leader with the right qualities.” Ryan Hamer (y9)

“A great opportunity to improve our leadership skills whilst working with other schools.” Megan Frost (y8)

“It was a great day with plenty of opportunities to become a great leader, working with a variety of people.” Aaron Forman (y7)





Welwyn Hatfield
sport & physical
activity alliance

WHSPAA AGM & Olympic and Paralympic Clubs Forum *WITH GUEST SPEAKER MARK RICHARDSON*

Gosling Sports Park, Collingwood Suite, WGC
Monday, 23rd May 2011 @ 6:30pm

6:30pm - 7pm Refreshments and Networking

7pm - 7:30pm AGM

7:30pm Presentation from Herts Sports Partnership –
The future of Coaching in Hertfordshire for Clubs

7:45pm Presentation from Herts Ready for Winners –
The Games, its impact and opportunity for Welwyn Hatfield residents and clubs

8pm Keynote Talk from Mark Richardson –
The Olympics – what it takes!



Mark is a former world class athlete who enjoyed success at an Olympic level. Mark's pinnacle achievement was winning a Silver Medal at the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games in the 4 x 400m relay. Uniquely Mark is the only European athlete to have beaten the World Record holder Michael Johnson. Mark has also won medals at World, European & Commonwealth level. Mark retired from competitive athletics in 2003

Register for this unique experience by e-mailing your attendance with Laura Johnson
l.6.johnson@herts.ac.uk

Places are given on a solely first come first served basis

Any queries, contact Chairman Dave Bartlett (see WHSPAA).