

# M&TRO

Metropolitan Sports & Social Club for the Visually Impaired Registered Charity No. 268076

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## METRO NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2005

**In this issue:** Disappearing Committee-Cancelled Pool Tournament-Cricket News-Gone but not forgotten-Ski Fit?-Alert Athletes-Challenge 32-Art for the Blind-Attention BT Users-Change in Service for Articles for the Blind-ICE Alert-Baby Boom!

**DISAPPEARING COMMITTEE.** Well we haven't quite disappeared yet but we are down to 5. We cannot all stay on indefinitely so if we don't get members or their partners, sisters, brothers, colleagues or anyone at all interested in helping out, the Committee may well dissolve and where would that leave Metro? If you cannot help us out yourself, please, please try a bit of tactful persuasion (or even perhaps some very gentle blackmail) on a trusted family member or friend whose talents would help Metro. Help us to run Metro for you.

**CANCELLED POOL TOURNAMENT.** I am sorry to inform you that the Metro Pool Tournament planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> October will not now happen due to an oversight on my part for which I do sincerely apologise. I shall be writing to individual players about the future of this Tournament and indeed that of BBS. I shall report the outcome in the next newsletter.

**CRICKET UPDATE** By Bryn Reynolds – thanks Bryn

### DOMESTIC NEWS

Metro enjoyed another healthy season of cricket. They won the Knock Out Trophy at Lords on the 6th August, beating Welsh Dragons by 3 Wkts. See Adam's article below for full details. In the League competition they Played 6, Won 2, Drew 3 and lost 1 which resulted in a runners up position to our rivals from over the Severn Bridge.

## **CAPTAINCY**

Metro's, inspirational Vaughesque type captain for the past 2 seasons Bryn (Freddy) Reynolds has decided to stand down from the position for the 2006 season. Bryn has represented Metro for over 20 seasons and is a regular for the International team. Unfortunately there is no real scandal surrounding Bryn's departure, he merely wishes to spend more time with his family and is undertaking a set of accountancy exams this coming summer. Bryn will however continue to play for the club next season.

## **INTERNATIONAL CRICKET**

On the International front The England Blind Cricket Team will be touring Pakistan between the 18th and 26th November. They are due to play 4 matches in Islamabad and Faisalabad. Metro have 4 players in the squad those are Heindrich Swanepoel (captain), Matthew (he's a machine) Dean, David Townley and Bryn Reynolds.

## **FULL REPORT ON CRICKET FINAL** In the words of Adam Benjamin – thanks Adam

What a final! Metro have played in lots of finals over the years and this has to go down as one of the best. It was refreshing that the this year's two best teams met in the final – no one likes one-sided affairs.

Metro won the toss and put the Dragons in, putting the onus on the likes of Damian, Woody and Howard to decide what a good score might be.

Maybe it was the pressure of Lords or maybe the pressure of a tight fielding display, but the Dragons never flew. Some tight bowling from Swanepoel (6 overs for 6 runs?) and Field (6 overs, 3-23), together with some crap dross from me that picked up a few lucky wickets (6 overs, 3-33), saw the Dragons' top order back to the pavilion without too much damage being done. Matt 'the hair products' Dean's catching was also worth a mention - although not too big a mention as it was only Matt!

The Dragon's head didn't breathe fire, but their tail wagged a bit with big Chris and Dave Ellingham hitting a few lusty blows, resulting in Metro feeling a little frustrated that the Dragons had got 30 odd runs more than they should have done. But restricting the Dragons to 123-9 from 30 overs was not a bad effort overall.

The Dragons took heart too from their tail-enders' performance, and came out firing after tea, dismissing Metro's most talented opener (sorry Rory, author's privilege!) for a golden duck – Damian being the destroyer at the start of what was an exceptional bowling spell. In fact, the former England captain, the current England captain and the current Metro captain were all dismissed without troubling the scorers.

Metro's innings was steadied by eventual man of the match Rory (39 – score not age) and Dave 'ice-man' Townley, who put on 70 together. But wickets began to fall, and in came Jeremy Browne. The pressure mounted as Metro's scoring rate didn't rise. Jeremy couldn't hit a barn door and it was left to Matt 'the Machine' Dean to maintain some momentum by hitting an enormous 6 over the wall of Welsh sandbags.

When Matt was brilliantly caught, Metro needed 7 to win with 2 overs remaining. A few wides and a single from cool as a cucumber Brad Fisher reduced Metro's deficit to 3 – but with Jeremy on strike. Jeremy, despite batting for longer than it took to build the new media centre at Lords, was still to get off the mark. The pressure on him was growing, partly due to anguished Afrikaans shouts from the boundary. But we should have had faith – Jeremy square cut the ball for 4 and Metro are Lords (and Lady) of Lords again.

What a final, played in a good spirit by two competitive teams. On the day when our esteemed Chairman was also presented with the old cup trophy to keep, may the future bring many more finals like this one. And may this season be remembered as much for this final as for the shades shambles.

## **PETER YOUNG REMEMBERED**

Metro are always grateful for donations but we are particularly touched when they come from individuals and events held specifically for Metro. We have received cheques from two people who had close associations with Peter. Our heartfelt thanks go to M Mohan who organised a fund raising event in memory of Peter and to P Ponting who belonged to the Lodge Brothers whose members donated money for Metro. This was in memory of Mr Ponting's brother, who was tragically killed in an accident.

Pete has also been remembered by those in Norway as Metro received a walkie talkie in his memory, which is very much appreciated. For those interested in the loan of this whilst out in Norway, or wherever, contact Ken Bodden who was presented the gift on Metro's behalf..

Thinking of Peter, this brings me onto **SKI-ING**. Cross Country ski-ing that is. We should have details for Norway in the next newsletter but we now have details on the 2006 Ski for Light International Week as follows:

Are you a visually impaired adult who cross-country skis or is interested in learning the sport? If your answer is yes, then join 300+ active adults from across the U.S. and around the world for our 31st annual Ski for Light International Week!

While primarily a recreational event, Ski for Light attracts cross-country skiers from beginners to advanced competitors. Skiers and guides come from every adult age group and occupation. You will be paired with a sighted instructor/guide who will assist with skills, technique, endurance or simply enjoying the outdoors. After a day of skiing, join in any number of organized activities or simply relax, and enjoy the facilities and the company of fellow participants.

The event will take place in Granby, Colorado from January 29 to February 5, 2006. We will stay at the Inn at Silver Creek and ski each day at Snow Mountain Ranch, the "YMCA of the Rockies."

The total cost for the week, which includes all meals and ground transfers is: \$850USD single-occupancy, \$725USD per person double-occupancy, and \$600USD per person triple-occupancy. Skis, boots and poles will be provided to first-time participants free of charge. The cost of transportation from home to and from Denver is your responsibility.

Interested? Visit <http://www.sfl.org> for information on the program and an online application form. If you have any questions, contact Lynda Boose, Visually Impaired Applications Coordinator, by e-mail at [lynda@sfl.org](mailto:lynda@sfl.org) or by phone 1-906-370-7541.

**Deadline for applications is November 1st.**

**ALERT ALL ATHLETES!** In need of training? Then read on:

British Blind Sport Junior/Development Athletics Training Day  
Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2005  
Venue: Norman Green Athletics Stadium,  
Blossomfield Road, Solihull, Warwickshire

Contact Sheila Carey at BBS Please return form to arrive by 1st October to Sheila Carey at 1 Bramcote Close. Bulkington, Bedworth, Warks CV12 9LA or e-mail [heila@bramcoteclose.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:heila@bramcoteclose.freeserve.co.uk)

**CHALLENGE 32.** An appeal by one of our Irish counterparts as follows:

I'm involved in a bit of a mad-cap venture and I would really value your assistance and support. Basically, together with Caroline Casey, I'm running around Ireland, doing a mile in each of the 32 counties in 32 consecutive hours. In order to find out all the details click on <http://www.challenge32.com>  
<<http://www.challenge32.com/>> I would be really grateful if you could do any (or all of the following):

1. If you want to take part, go to the relevant page and sign up by contacting the Rotary Club contact in your local county;
2. If you can't take part perhaps you might consider making a donation on-line
3. In any case, could you circulate the link to others within your organisation - they might be interested in taking part or making a donation. I would really appreciate your support with this. Once again the link is <http://www.challenge32.com> <<http://www.challenge32.com/>>

Thanks and best regards Tony. Tony Ward Chartered Accountant 50 Blessington Street Phibsboro Dublin 7 Telephone +353 1 8300202

**ART FOR THE BLIND:** Large print and Braille description books of selected paintings with raised images are available for those interested.

Admission: free. For further information call Barry Ginley on 020 7942 2766 or long onto [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk) This item was taken from Vocaleyes Newsletter. If you are not one of their members but are interested in accessing the arts, then contact Vocaleyes at: First Floor, 54 Commercial Street, London, E1 6LT or Telephone: 020 7375 1043 Fax: 020 7247 5622 or Email: [enquiries@vocaleyes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@vocaleyes.co.uk)

**BT AND THE CALL BACK FACILITY.** David Mann, R N I B Campaigns Officer, writes: About a year ago B T introduced charges for the call back facility on its 1471 service. This meant that B T customers were charged if they dialled 1471 to see who their last call was from and then elected to call them back by pressing 3.

At the time, a number of people objected on the grounds that this disadvantaged people who had difficulty reading numbers, writing them down or remembering them. Initially B T said it would be too difficult to exempt certain categories of customer, and the regulator (O F C O M) felt that this was not an issue in which it could intervene.

Despite this, I am now pleased to be able to report that B T has in fact, since April 2005, been waiving this charge for those of its customers who receive alternative format bills and also eligible customers registered with the 195 free directory enquiry service.

B T is to be commended, in my view, for responding to our concerns and finding a solution to this issue.

Naturally, this applies only to B T's own customers. Suppliers of mobile phones and other fixed lines have their own tariffs, which may or may not include charges for this sort of service.

If any B T customer feels they are still being charged when they should not be, they should contact B T direct

**ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND** Large print items can now be sent using Articles for the Blind Service. Royal Mail has extended the scope of the Articles for Blind Scheme to include large print materials (minimum 16 pt font).

Royal Mail will allow people to make prior arrangement to send heavy or fragile items in sealed envelopes. Details of the changes to the scheme can be obtained

from Royal Mail Customer Services on 0845 607 6140, from the R N I B website on [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk) and from R N I B's help line on 0845 766 9999.

## **METRO AGM/QUIZ PROVISIONAL DATE DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> 2005 DETAILS TO BE SENT OUT IN OCTOBER**

**ICE ALERT!** Following up from our last newsletter, I have since been advised that the ICE CAMPAIGN is NOT what it seems. It seemed like a good idea but it now appears that this is phase one of a phone based virus that is laying a path for propagating very quickly - passing it on is part of the virus such is the deviousness of the people who write these things. We have already seen the "second phase" where a program is sent as part of a ring-tone download that goes into your address book and looks for something it recognises - you've guessed it, an address book entry marked "ICE or I.C.E." or whatever. It then sends itself to the "ICE list", charging you for the privilege!

**BABY BOOM** I wish to finish off on a pleasant note so it is my pleasure, on behalf of Metro, to congratulate Bryn & Debs as well as Henry and his partner on the news of forthcoming additions to their families. We wish you all well.

**As regards Metro Newsletter, Contact** Dawn Anderson if you have news/views etc Email [dawney\\_a@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dawney_a@yahoo.co.uk) or tel: 0207-973-3632

**For other sporting news for visually impaired, from our partner in crime, LSF, contact:**

Alan Whetherley, LSF (London Sports Forum) email: [alan@londonsportsforum.org.uk](mailto:alan@londonsportsforum.org.uk) or tel: 020-7354-8666 or check out [www.londonsportsforum.org.uk](http://www.londonsportsforum.org.uk)

Don't forget you can check out Metro's website too!