

Metro Newsletter Spring March 2005

www.metroblindsport.org

In this issue we have; An apology! She wins again! Thanks! Pay up or lose out! Lady Luck! Dublin Calling: Dates for Athletes! Cricket News (including Lords Banquet)! InTandem! Feedback & Report including more on Mike Brace OBE! Extras for your information!

APOLOGY: Before anything else, let me make an apology to Deborah Downton. It was Debs who won the ladies final at the Metro Pool Tournament and not myself as reported in the last newsletter. All I can offer by way of an excuse is that I was so chuffed at beating Debs on a prior occasion that I completely failed to recollect this episode properly! Yes, I am waiting for the men in white coats to come and take me away.....! So swiftly moving on.....

SHE WINS AGAIN: I am delighted to report that Deborah Downton having won Metro Womens Pool Tournament, has now also won the BBS Womens Pool Tournament. Yes! Yes! That does mean Gail Hepworths long reign (as featured in our last newslettet) has finally come to an end. Well Done Debs. Though Gail lost her title, she did very well in the overall Tournament against the men but generously gave up her place to enable the women's tournament to take place. It would have meant the ladies and officials staying late otherwise. Thanks Gail. Dermot Bishop returned to winning form after some years in the wilderness as he won the overall Tournament. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Snowey (David LePoidevin) of BBS for organising all the BBS Tournaments over the years. We (the players) have had much enjoyment over the years. He has now handed over responsibility of future tournaments to....myself! I still don't quite know how that happened but there you have it. If you want to know about Metro or BBS Pool Tournaments, it is I, Dawn Anderson that you contact. Details of next Metro Tournament to follow in the next newsletter.

YOUR CLUB: The Committee would like to express how nice it is to have received letters of thanks from David Mears & Ron Flanders for subsidies received towards the costs of attending the World Bowls Tournament in South Africa. It's good encouragement for Committee members to go to meetings in all weather conditions (snow on the last occasion) and when we're tired and hungry Well it's not all bad, we go to the pub afterwards. We're down to 5 Committee members however and we desperately need at least one more pair of hands on board. We don't bite, honest!

Still on the subject of **your club**, It's also that time of year again when you need to **renew your membership. See attaché for details and forms which should be sent to Mo with your cheque enclosed.** It's still £5.00 for men and £4.00 for women. **Remember you will not receive subsidies unless you are a fully paid up member.** If you have any queries about your membership, call Maureen on: 01708-456832.

FANCY YOUR LUCK AT WIMBLEDON DOG TRACK: Yes we are organising another night of dog racing in the Broadway Restaurant. Friday 13th May 2005. Opens at 6.00 pm and first race at 7.20 pm (total of 13 races) Metro subsidised price for members only is £20.00 which includes a 3 course meal. (non-members £27.50) Book your place with Bill Reynolds on 8740-1254. We need a deposit of £10 by 31st March so send your cheques to Bill at: 33 Pocklington Lodge, Rylett Road, London, W12 9PQ

SPORTING WEEKEND IN DUBLIN: Irish Blindsports are holding their 25th Annual May Games. Costs £100 per person sharing. This includes two nights B&B accommodation, refreshments, entry to all competitions, transport to the Games and also entrance to the dinner dance on Saturday night. Being an Anniversary event this year, it would be nice to have a good turnout from Metro members. To find out more contact Susan Lennon on (353-1) 2891263. or email: dslennon@indigo.ie

ATHLETICS

- **METRO / LSF GAMES JUNIOR / SENIOR** to be held on 25th June 2005, closing date for entries 1st June 2005 (entry forms from Roy Smith)
- **BBS COMBINED EVENTS (INCLUDES ATHLETICS)** Saturday 23rd April, starting at 11.00am at Pingles Stadium, Avenue Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. For more information or an entry form, call Sheila Carey at BBS on 024 7631 4836. - entry forms by 20th March 2005
- **METRO/LSF ATHLETICS TRAINING:** 15th May, Sunday morning come along and train. All juniors/seniors are welcome in the London area book your place by contacting Alan Wetherely at LSF ON 020 7354 8666 by 7th May 2005.
- **BBS NATIONAL JUNIOR / SENIOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP:** 21st May at Nuneaton, closing date 14th April 2005.. Book your place by contacting Sheila Carey at BBS on 024 7631 4836.
- **BAXTER'S LOCH NESS MARATHON & FESTIVAL OF RUNNING:** Sunday 2nd October 2005. There will also be a 10k and 5k fun run. For details and entry forms, call the 24 hour hotline: 0870-127-8000. Alternatively checkout the website: www.lochnessmarathon.com.

TANDEM RACES AT SPALDING: This very challenging event takes place this year on 23rd April 2005. To find out more or to enter, call BBS on 01926 424247.

CRICKET NEWS

Primary Club 50th anniversary dinner on 18th July 2005 at Lords (cost about £55.00 more details to follow – or ask your cricket officials)

CRICKET FIXTURES: see attached list

BLIND CRICKET DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS 2005

For those who do not know me, a brief introduction. My name is David Townley, I play cricket for Metro, and was elected to be Development Officer at the AGM in November 2004.

There appears to be no clear brief for the role of Development Officer, but as I see it, there are two objectives that I would like to work towards: 1. A grass-root development programme; 2. A general development program for established players.

1. Regional grass-root development days. Several annual, countrywide events, specifically designed to introduce blind cricket to a new audience. This would, hopefully, ensure a steady flow of new players to our established teams and possibly the formation of new clubs. These events would use professional cricket coaches and be funded with the support of the BBS. (I have applied to BBS for funding for 3 such events for 2006, which has been provisionally awarded. Unfortunately, no applications were made to BBS for funding for grass-root development for 2005. It is hoped that funding for 2005 may be obtained elsewhere.)
2. Development coaching clinics for established players. Ideally, I would like to see each individual club have events using professional coaches throughout each season. I understand that this is being over-optimistic, but may be possible in the future. In the meantime, I would like to suggest regional development days where established players from local clubs can come together with professional coaches in order to maintain and improve the standards of our game. Again, I hope to fund such events centrally and will endeavour to raise said funds.

To succeed with these objectives I need the support from each of the clubs and their players. In order to gauge such support, I would ask you to consider and respond to, a few basic questions.

1. Do you think 'grass-root development days' are an effective way of introducing new players to the game?
2. Would established players at your club be willing to take part in such events?
3. Do you have any alternative suggestions for grass-root development?
4. Are coaching sessions with professional coaches for established players desirable for you and your fellow players?
5. Do you think these proposals would be of benefit to the game?
6. What else would you like to see in place from a development point of view?

I look forward to your responses, positive or otherwise.

David Townley,

10, Cromwell Avenue, London, W6 9LA.
Tel 0208 563 7126 Mobile; 07960 428 619.
E-Mail; david.townley@getreal.co.uk

FEEDBACK/REPORTS ETC

Metro are again sponsoring two youngsters to try out Cross Country skiing in Norway from 3rd April in Beitostolen. This is of course from the P Fund set up in memory of Peter Young. Article in next newsletter.

The Karoke night was disappointing in terms of the few members who turned up but a **GREAT NIGHT** was had by those who came. Star of the night has to be our secretary, Henry.

Further to our report about Mike Brace being honoured with an OBE, our Chairman tells us more.....

A BRACE OF QUEENS

On Thursday the 17th February Mike T Brace with his mother and wife Maureen went to Buckingham Palace to collect the OBE from the queen. As some of you know Mike was a founder member of Metro and its first Chairman. He went on to chair British Blind Sport at a very turbulent time. He put into place many admin rules, especially financial, to secure and steady the association. For many years he has been the chairman of the British Paralympic Association. On Friday the 18th he finds himself back at the Palace dining with the Queen as part of the 2012 GB bid team along with the representatives from the IOC.

I am very proud and privileged to be a friend of Mike and have always enjoyed his company away from voluntary work we both love. I have worked and respected his expertise over the past 30 years both as a committee member and as chairman on various committees. Many people will know Mike for his prolific fundraising ability especially his after dinner speeches. He has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds which has been targeted at grassroot level as well as national and international competitions. He has a large appetite for all forms of sport as well as being a Tottenham supporter. He has represented GB at cross country skiing and still plays cricket and cards. Congratulations to you from all the members of Metro.

Roy F Smith MBE

BITS n PIECES

- **SEEK-A-SUBSCRIBER:** This is a crusade/campaign to try to get more awareness of Talking Books and Magazines for visually impaired.
- **USEFUL WEBSITES:** WWW.A-SITES.ORG Created by the National Library for the Blind. Contains Accessible websites for visually impaired. Good for all sorts of things but sports fan should note you can book tickets for sporting events including football! Also have a look at www.blindkiss.com which is a humorous look at blindness and run by blind people. Also check out special offers (and help out BBS at the same time) www.buy.at/BritishBlindSport
- **DATES OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** 4th April 2005.

Committee contact details.

Dawn Anderson P (Comm)	40 Barrowfield Close, London, N9 0HA	H. 0208 803 9728 W. 0207 973 3632	Dawney_a@yahoo.co.uk
Jane Benjamin P (Comm/Treas)	20 Cambourne Road, Lower Morden, Surrey, SM4 4JJ	H. 0208 542 0492	jane.benjamin@scope.org.uk
Maureen Brace (HM/Comm)	80 Elms Farm Road, Hornchurch, RM12 5RD	H. 01708 456832 W. 01708 433472	maureen.brace@havering.gov.uk
Henry Bufford E/P (Comm/Sec)	23 Clarendon Road, Colliers Wood, SW19 2DX	W 020 8921 3079 H 020 8395 3620	henry.bufford@greenwich.gov.uk
Bill Reynolds P (Comm)	Flat 33 Pocklington Lodge, Rylett Rd, W12 9PQ	H. 0208 740 1254 M. 07814 208020	
Roy Smith M.B.E. P/T (LM/Chair)	23 Archdale Place, Kingston Road, New Maldon, Surrey, KT3 3RW	H. 0208 2557788 W. 0208 633 7105 M. 07803 288083	rsmith@mdaconsulting.co.uk

Metro Cricket Fixtures 2005
(detach & stick on your fridge door!)

April

23/4		Practice	Highgate
30/4	(L)	Sussex Sharks	Away

May

7/5	(L)	Birmingham Sp	Highgate
15sun/5	(L)	London Sports	Away
21/5		No Fixture	Highgate (Eng Training Weekend)
28-29/5		Euxton Festival	Away (Preston)

June

4/6		Chairman's XI	Highgate
11/6	(C)	Warwickshire	Highgate
25/6		Metro Games	

July

2/7	(C)	KO Semi Final	Highgate
10sun/7	(L)	Birmingham Sp	Away
16/7	(L)	Welsh Dragons	Highgate
24sun/7	(L)	Welsh Dragon	Away
30/7		No Fixture	Highgate (England Training)

August

6/8	(C)	KO Final Lords	Lords
13/8	(L)	Sussex Sharks	Highgate
27/8	(L)	London Sports	Highgate

METRO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2005 / 2006 JUNIOR/SENIOR

Juniors under 16	Free of charge
Male	£5.00
Female	£4.00
Students	£1.00

First Year:-

Male	£2.50
Female	£2.00

Life Membership:-

Annual Subscription x 10

Please note that membership expires on 31st March, and must be renewed promptly. Travel and other subsidies can only be granted to fully paid-up members. All cheques etc. made payable to METRO.

Please return this form to:-

Maureen Brace
80 Elms Farm Road
Hornchurch
Essex, RM12 5RD (Tele:- 01708 456832)
Email: m.brace@vision2020uk.org.uk

NAME

D.O.B.

ADDRESS

POST CODE

See overleaf for next page.

TELEPHONE:-

HOME

WORK

MOBILE

FAX

E-MAIL

SIGHT CATEGORY:- Please tick

B1 (Totally Blind)

B2 (Partially Blind)

B3 (Partially Sighted)

B4 (Partially Sighted)

How would you like to receive the Metro Newsletter? Please tick

Email

Print

Tape

Braille

The following is a list of the main activities undertaken by Metro members; please tick those you are interested in, and add any others you would like to do:-

10 Pin Bowling

Ice Skating

Activity Holidays

Judo

Athletics

Pool

Bowls

Skiing (Water)

Cricket

Social Activities

Football

Swimming

Goal Ball

Table Tennis

Golf

Tandeming

Others: Please state

DATE:
