



Welcome to the second E newsletter of 2012. In this edition you'll find reports about the Olympic Torch, Dragon Boat Racing, Rounders, Great Manchester 10k, Eggheads and more. Thanks for your contributions, keep them coming...

June 2012: [Send feedback or contributions to:](#)

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## JANE CROSLAND - OLYMPIC TORCH BEARER



Jane, from Holborn House, was nominated by her friend: 'Despite Jane's recent difficulties including her dad's devastating illness, she has remained a true and caring friend to many, always there to lend a hand and offer wise advice. She is the one person you can depend on to always be there for you, make you smile, and solve whatever situation you feel is unbearable. Whenever I have a problem, I know she is the one who will be able to help me the most. Jane is passionate about all sports.'

Jane's dad was also passionate about sport, playing rugby for Fylde and running for Lancashire. He's now in a nursing home and

needs 24 hour care. Jane: 'If he had still been well I would have nominated him to carry the torch as it's something that he deserves but I'm proud to do it in his place.'

I still can't believe that I have been chosen. I love the Olympics and I'm still on the short list to be a games maker for the actual games themselves but to carry the Olympic torch is beyond anything I could ever have imagined. I'm just hoping I don't fall over or let it go out!!

I'm due to carry the torch on the Blackpool leg on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. We haven't been told our exact stretch yet but I understand we'll all do about 300m each. The Blackpool

leg is at the end of the day so there is also due to be a party at the Tower headland that night which will be great.'

Jane's been asked by several schools in St Anne's to go in to talk to the children about being a torchbearer which she's really looking forward to as well. She thinks it's great that in all the excitement and build up to the Olympics she gets to go and show the children a torch and chat to them about why she was nominated and she feels that that is a really important message to pass on.

### SPECIAL EVENT 2012 – and the Olympic Torch...

Jane said: 'I'm also really looking forward to donning my outfit again in September for the HASSRA special event in Lancaster. It's great that it's being hosted by HASSRA North West and being on an Olympic theme I think that being there will again just add just a little extra to the proceedings. I've been in HASSRA since I joined the civil service 20 years ago – I'm sure it's going to be a great event!' Picture, right: Jane with her daughter



## REGIONAL ROUNDERS

In glorious sunshine, the 2012 North West regional mixed rounders competition was held at Lancaster University on 20/05/12. Only three teams entered this year but this did not deter the teams who brought a competitive yet lighthearted spirit and fun attitude to the

event. Blackburn, Bootle and Burnley played each other twice on a round robin basis and last year's finalists Burnley and Bootle opened the competition

with Burnley running out 7 – 2 ½ winners. Blackburn took to the field for their first game and lost to Bootle 13 ½ - 3 ½, putting that result behind them, Blackburn's fielding improved in

their 2nd game but eventually lost to Burnley 3 – 9 ½. In the 2nd round of games the scores were Bootle 3 v Burnley 8,

Blackburn 2 v Bootle 6 ½ and

Burnley 8 v Blackburn 1 ½.

The final results table was:

Burnley 8 points, Bootle 4

points Blackburn 0 points

Congratulations to both Bootle and Burnley will now compete in the CSSC Barbados challenge

2013 in Oxford on 04/08/12.

(Steve Nearv)



## Great Manchester 10k

On 20<sup>th</sup> May I along with my husband and friends (pictured above) ran The Great Manchester 10k for Dravet Syndrome. Dravet Syndrome is a very rare form of epilepsy that my close friend's twin daughters Darcie and Evie suffer from.

There are 300 diagnosed cases in the UK and Darcie and Evie (bottom right) are the only known twins in this country to be diagnosed.

### Race day

The race day stirred up a mixture of feelings for us, nerves for the run combined with the emotions of running for charity that is so close to our hearts proved to be as draining mentally as the run was physically. This aside, we all completed the run with

times ranging from 50mins to 1 hour. With help and generosity from Makerfield contact centre staff, local businesses, family & friends I have managed to raise in excess of £1500 and hope to raise further funds.

A blood pressure monitor that can detect early seizure symptoms cost £1000 and I would love to be able to raise enough for two of these. (Nicola Reid, Makerfield)

You can donate at [justgiving.com/Nicola-Reid2](http://justgiving.com/Nicola-Reid2) until 20<sup>th</sup> August



## HOLBORN HOUSE SPORT RELIEF 2012

Holborn House, Preston raised over £100 for **Sport Relief**, on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. There was a dressing up occasion when many staff took part by dressing up in their favourite sports gear – see picture below for those who entered the competition: (L-R) Lorraine, Traci, Paula, Graham, Donna, Fizz.

There was also a call to **all bakers....to stock up on the jam!** Holborn House also hosted a cake sale on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, and as usual staff were very generous with their contributions and creativity to ensure the day was a success. Everyone dug deep to raise fantastic funds for charity in exchange for tasty morsels!



## REGIONAL BOWLS

NW Regional Crown Green Bowls 2012 was held at the Grange Bowling Club Warrington on 15<sup>th</sup> May. This year's event was held on a day of all four seasons; rain, hail, wind and a little bit of sun. Good traditional British summer weather! The event was well attended by 21 members and both singles and pairs were played in a great spirit.

The singles event produced shocks from a start, with many of the fancied players exiting in the first few rounds. The final was between Alan Turner (retired) and Heather Walsh (Assoc). Alan looked to have early dominance taking an 6-0 lead but Heather produced an excellent run to take the initiative at 14-9, and held on to her lead to win 21-14. This is a new name on the trophy and a very popular winner who has been a great supporter of HASSRA NW in many different sports over more years than she would care to remember. Well done Heather.

The pairs event also had some enthralling battles with again some shocks along the way with the final being between Ian Burgess/Colin Parry and Steve Peters/Dave Duane. It looked to be going one way, with Burgess/Parry opening up a 8-0, then 12-2 lead.

However, the match was far from over with a spirited comeback closing the gap to 13-10, before two more shots sealed the win for Burgess/Parry. (Ian Burgess)

## NORCROSS TENNIS CLUB

Anyone for tennis - the HASSRA Norcross Tennis Club in Blackpool provides the perfect opportunity for you to play tennis, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and they are always eager to welcome new members with membership starting at £10 for juniors and £40 for HASSRA members. For more details contact:

**Brian Sykes 07960166428, Mark Patterson 07960 464865**

**Tracy Heyworth 07825428570**

## DRAGON BOAT RACING

Torrential rain, wind and cold failed to dampen the spirits of the teams who braved the elements on Sunday 29th April 2012 at Waterside Lodge Southport for the annual CSSC/HASSRA Dragon Boat event.

At some point, each and every one of us doubted our sanity when confronted with the very real prospect of a dip in the icy water, due to the choppy conditions on the lake on what turned out to be the wettest day of the year (so far).

After a very welcome bacon butty and hot drink, team captains attended the safety brief given by our hosts and the decision was made to use the smaller unsinkable bell boats due to the adverse weather.

Waterside Lodge and our CSSC/HASSRA organisers did what they do best and had us all ship shape in no time at all. 9 teams became 12 and the races began in high spirits. Three teams at a time, racing against the clock. A special mention has to be made to 'Pride of Bolton' who, on their maiden voyage, sank faster than the Titanic, thanks to a freak wave, sending all on board into the lake without an iceberg in sight. Thankfully, the safety boats hauled them out in seconds to the sound of 'Another one bites the dust' (not so) tactfully belted out of the speakers by the resident DJ!

As the weather deteriorated the boat crews battled on regardless, much to the quiet admiration of the marina staff who now realise that CSSC and HASSRA members are made of 'Tough stuff'.

As the afternoon drew to a close, we all eagerly awaited our individual race times that determined who had made it through to the finals of the Cup and Plate competitions. MANY THANKS to the organisers!!! (Irene Sharman, Burnley)



### Dragon Boat Racing – Results:

**CUP:** 1<sup>st</sup> - Central & East Lancs (1:13:23), 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ashworth 2 (1:21:10), 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ashworth 1 (1:22:57)

**PLATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> - CSSC Allstars (1:25:68), 2<sup>nd</sup> - Baywatch Salford (1:27:18), 3<sup>rd</sup> - Stroke The Dragon 1 (1:28:68)

**WOODEN SPOON:** Pride of Bolton 1 (1:53:12)

## HASSRA MEMBERS DEFEAT EGGHEADS

On 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 a team including current and former members of HASSRA appeared on the BBC quiz show, Eggheads where they took on and defeated possibly “Britain’s finest quiz team”.

Captain of the “Brocketeers” team was Paul McAteer, who is based at St Helens Benefit Centre. He was joined by John Fitzgerald, currently at Makerfield Contact Centre, and two retired DWP employees, Alan Angell and Robin Fane. All four first combined their quizzing talents in HASSRA events when they all worked for the Benefits Agency at Whelmar House, Skelmersdale.

Joined by their fifth team member, Dave Phythian, the Brocketeers were up against regular Eggheads Barry Simmons, C.J. De Mooi, Daphne Fowler, Chris Hughes and Pat Gibson. To give the match a little more of an edge the team regularly quiz against Pat in the Orrell and District Quiz League.

The team applied to appear on Eggheads at the end of

January 2011, auditioned for the show in Manchester on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and a few days later were told they had been successful. They were invited to the BBC studios in Glasgow and the show was recorded on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The host of the show was Jeremy Vine.

In their individual rounds John and Paul overcame C.J. and Chris respectively on the subjects of Music and Sport. Both Alan and Robin narrowly lost to their opponents, Barry and Pat, in sudden death tie breaks on Science and Politics.

The final, General Knowledge round saw Paul, John and Dave up against Daphne, Pat and Barry. After two questions to each team the Brocketeers were 2 – 1 ahead. To win the day’s prize of £4,000 the Brocketeers were asked to name the Shakespeare play from which the quote “It’s Greek to me” is taken.

The options were:

1. Timon of Athens
2. Anthony and Cleopatra
3. Julius Caesar

After much discussion and debate the team eventually gave the answer, Julius Caesar. To their surprise and delight they were correct and had become the 79<sup>th</sup> team to beat the Eggheads. (Paul McAteer)



*Challengers and Eggheads*



*The Challengers including HASSRA members  
Paul McAteer and John Fitzgerald*

## NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS

Steve Graham, Julie St Louis both from Huyton and I represented HASSRA North West at the National Table Tennis finals hosted by HASSRA Scotland and held in Dumfries in March. The venue, the DG1 Sports Centre, so we took the opportunity to have a look around. Gordon Duff, the local Scotland player, showed us The Dumfries Table Tennis Club which, although purpose built and looked fantastic, was too small to hold our event. The next day after holding back on a mammoth buffet breakfast we engaged in a lengthy warm up on the tables.

The competition started badly for me as I lost my opener to London's Mike Yankey in a very close five set match. Steve did much better though and battled through to reach the quarter finals only to succumb to the formidable Phil Cawser from Yorks and Humber. In the doubles we played well in patches but were pipped in another five set match by the London pair of Rizwan Umarjee and that man Mike Yankey again. In the mixed doubles Steve and Julie won their opener before going out to the useful South East pair of Caroline Sweet and Chris Glover.

The overall winner was, the virtually unbeatable, Phil Cawser. Not for the first time Phil cleaned up in the singles and both the mens and mixed doubles. Alison McKim from the North East won the ladies singles.

Most unusually the Plate events consisted of all the losing players except those contesting the main semi finals! I was in the doubles with Steve and we really got going as a partnership cruising through the early rounds and soon found ourselves in the final. After winning the first two sets against the strongly fancied Chris Glover and Les Cole from the South West we were pegged back to two each but held on to win the deciding fifth set in an epic match. In the singles I defeated players from Wales and the North East before meeting my old adversary Mike from London. This time it was in the semi final and I gained sweet revenge winning in three straight sets. This moral boosting victory ensured I faced Ade Akinboyewa from the South East with confidence. Having edged the first set mixing both defence with attack I gained the upper hand and I managed to keep ahead and win in four sets completing a strong Plate double success.

So on the Saturday, with not having to hold back for breakfast, the return journey home seemed a bit more satisfying than usual. (Alan Turner)