



BOWDON

Newsletter

Welcome to the first addition of the newly revived Bowdon Newsletter.

We hope you will find the new format interesting and informative and we look forward to your feedback which can influence future content.

It is our intention that the newsletter will avoid lists of results and items only of sectional interest, but will concentrate on items of interest to a broad cross-section of members.

There will therefore be “people profiles”, explanations of club policy and development plans. In addition if you have questions for “The Club” we will publish them if we feel they are of general interest

In this issue we cover our partnership with TCLT; profiles of our full time professional coaching staff and Peter Marron our Groundsman; plus details of our current development plans.

Trafford Community Leisure Trust (TCLT) Partnership

To those most involved it had become clear that the increasing administrative burden and cost associated with running our club required radical change.

Our Development Committee therefore entered into discussions during 2008 to explore the possibility of working with TCLT (who operate sports facilities on behalf of Trafford Borough Council).

These discussions resulted in a one year trial partnership agreement with Trafford Community Leisure Trust which it was hoped would lead to a longer term agreement if it was successful.

The benefits to the club are:

- Increased income from hire of facilities
- A reduction in unpaid volunteer involvement
- Improved grant aid opportunities by Increasing community involvement

The benefits to TCLT are:

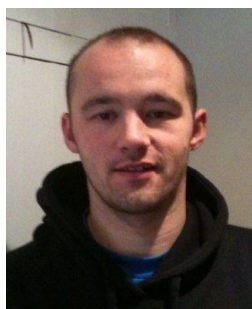
- Community access to high quality facilities
- Access to top level coaches
- A pathway to sporting excellence for Trafford residents

The past year has been very much a learning process and the full benefits of the partnership are yet to be achieved. However it is clear that the partnership is the way forward and we have thus jointly agreed to extend the agreement for a further 4 years. There is no doubt that some of you are concerned that we may lose control of our club but this will not happen!

Our Club Coaches

We are fortunate in having numerous volunteer coaches involved in all 3 of our sports. In addition we now have 2 full-time professional coaches who provide coaching to members and to the local community. Many of you will already know these coaches but for those of you who have not met them we have asked them to introduce themselves to you.

Alex Stait



I started my squash career as a junior in Gloucestershire where I attended Wycliffe College a school specializing in squash. I reached the top 5 in the country in each age group with a highest ranking of number 2 in the country in the under 16 category. During my junior career I became Gloucestershire senior champion five times and won 15 junior titles. I also captained Wycliffe to two successive national schools titles and was a member of the England Squad at each age group.

I left school and then went to Capetown to spend 6 months playing the South African circuit and coaching at a school. During that time I captured the South African Open under 21 title and reached the semi finals of the Zimbabwe Open senior tournament.

I returned from South Africa and moved to London where my coach was based to become a full time professional on the world tour. Within four years I had climbed the world rankings to reach No. 52 in the world and during that time I won the South of Germany Open and was a runner up in events in New York, Calgary, Qatar and Kuwait. I then became a member of the senior national squad and moved to Manchester to train with the England team. Unfortunately a persistent knee injury meant that I missed over a year on tour and struggled to regain my ranking after operations to my knee.

I then began my coaching career and started working with national junior squads of both Sweden and Czech Republic as well as working for England Squash as North West Head Coach.

In June 2008 I joined Bowdon full time as Head Squash Professional and am really enjoying the social aspect of helping players from all levels and overseeing a thriving program. I am particularly excited at some of the young talent that is making its way through the club at the moment and what the future may hold at Bowdon.

Jimmy McKenna



The internet is a wonderful thing!

I arrived in the UK in 2001 and promptly found my way to Bowdon thanks to an advert that I placed on a popular hockey website. Thanks to Nick Clarke (former men's 1st team coach) I have now spent 8 years travelling to various clubs around the country and I can't help but feel that I was lucky with where I ended up.

Sport and Hockey has always been my passion. I would happily describe myself as sports obsessed and I enjoy all sorts of sports. My current role at the club allows me to work and be involved in all of the clubs three sports and the day to day delivery of the sports our club offers especially from a junior development perspective.

Sport has always been a big part of my life. I spent the majority of my youth living in or around Launceston Tasmania. With out the bright lights of a place like Manchester to distract me I tended to find that the majority of my free time was spent on sport and outdoor pursuits. I started playing hockey when I went to high school and it quickly became the priority sport of my choice. I went on to represent Tasmania in all age groups right through to senior level.

I joined Bowdon just as the club was starting on their upwards climb through the ranks to becoming one the top clubs in the United Kingdom. In My first two years at the club we had an amazing run of form which involved promotion into the National league followed by a second promotion the year after. We lost one league game in two years, losing our last game of the second season away, a real shame as we were so close to completing two undefeated seasons.

Today I am found more often than not coaching on all levels and working within the day to day running of the club. For any new members the club is a wonderful place to play hard but to also relax and unwind. The best bit about the club for me is the people and the numerous friends I have made since I first set foot in the place.

Sporting hero's – Gary Ablett (AFL); Michael Jordan (Basketball); Russell Garcia (hockey) and Mark Occhilupo (Surfing)

Favourite sporting moment – John Sieben winning gold in the 200m Butterfly at the 1994 Los Angeles Olympics. Pure Aussie battler at best, coming from behind in the last 50 metres to win on the final stroke in a world record time which was four seconds better than his own person best whilst beating the current world record holder and dominant male swimmer of that era Michael Gross.

Favourite Book - The Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett

Favourite movie – Karate kid / Shaw Shank Redemption I have watched both way too many times.

Best Thing about Tasmania - Some of the best beaches in the world, unspoilt and you can get them all to yourself.

Best Thing about the UK - Never in drought and great base to travel from.

Favourite food – Chocolate and ice cream (together what a combination!)

Our Groundsman

Peter Marron



My name is Peter Marron. I joined Bowdon Cricket Club as Grounds Consultant on 1st January 2009. You may have seen me pottering around the ground. Prior to this I was the Head Groundsman at Lancashire County Cricket Club. I started at Old Trafford in the 1970`s and learned my trade under the watchful eye of the legendary (to those of us who knew him) Bert Flack. I left Old Trafford for a short period of time, returning in 1979. The Head Groundsman then was Chris Hawkins. When Chris left in 1983 I was given the opportunity to take over the reigns as Head Groundsman at one of the most prestigious grounds in cricket. I was only 28 and deliberated long and hard as to whether to take on the challenge. What have I got to lose I thought and took the job. In my first year the Cricket World Cup was in England and I prepared the pitches for the semi final. I subsequently prepared pitches for a second World Cup and have lost count of how many Test and One Day Internationals I have been involved in. The rest, as they say, is history and the only thing I lost was my hair!

During the summer of 2008 I received a call out of the blue from Keith Teasdale advising me that Bowdon's Groundsman, David Walker was due to retire and did I fancy taking on the job. Fate has a funny way of turning up just when you need it for I had been pondering for some time over my future in the game. At that time I had been with Lancashire for 25 years as Head Groundsman. I had worked with the best names in cricket past and present and I had met many famous people from all walks of life. I was literally at the top of my game, what more could I want? However, my passion for the game was dwindling and I found that frustrating.

Taking on the job at Bowdon meant that I would have to become self employed and this would mean leaving Lancs. Also at this time I was in discussion with Altrincham Grammar School regarding taking on the role as their Groundsman. Combining the two would give me the fresh challenges I was looking for. I telephoned my wife who was on holiday with her family – “don't do anything until I get back” she instructed. However, it was too late for by then I was excited at the prospect of starting up on my own and getting back to the hands on work of preparing and maintaining pitches. In my mind it certainly was time for another challenge.

I formed my own Company, Pete Marron Limited on 1st October 2008 and have been with Bowdon and Altrincham Grammar School for almost a year now and I have to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. The work involved at both venues is challenging and interesting.

The one big change between Club and County cricket is that Club cricketers will play on anything! County cricketers would not have even attempted a game on some of the surfaces but Club cricketers are happy to get on with the game. One thing that hasn't changed, however, is my banter with the lads – they give me stick and I give it them back. I've always

done that and it is good to have built up this type of relationship with the players at Bowdon. I even enjoy watching a game of cricket now! Looking back, I made the right decision. When I began my work, my aim was to improve the playing facilities at both Bowdon and the Grammar School and I hope that in my first year my efforts have been evident and this will continue to be my aim for the future.

Development Plans

Your development committee are constantly assessing the future needs of the club as well as supporting section initiatives.

Following their initiative with TCLT they have been involved with Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council in producing a 20 year vision for sport in the borough.

The result is that the vision includes our proposals for a major redevelopment of our squash facilities, car parking on the "North" field including a walking route to school and increased use of the "South" or "Convent" field.

We have also submitted planning applications for new cricket nets and are preparing to submit a planning application for an extension to the Aquaturf lights to 9pm.

We recently held a positive meeting with the Bowdon councillors at which we presented our plans and at their suggestion are currently arranging similar meetings with local interest groups,

Updates on all these plans will be included in future news letters