

The Boyzee

A Newsletter from the heart of the Blaby & Whetstone Community

February 2010



Blaby & Whetstone Boys Club represents three main areas that cover Youth, Football and Social activities.

In next months Newsletter...

...read how Chairman, John Metcalfe steered Blaby & Whetstone Boys Club through the unsettled waters of economic downturn

NEXT ISSUE...

Next time I will investigate why our Club was named, The Boys Club in the first place...

...did it mean that no girls were allowed in?

OPENING TIMES

- Mondays** 6pm - 10pm
- Tuesdays** 6pm - 10pm
- Wednesdays** 6pm - 10pm
- Thursdays** 6pm - 10pm
(Senior Youth Club - Over 13's ONLY!)
- Fridays** 6.30pm - 9.30pm
(Junior Youth Club - Under 13's ONLY!)
- Saturdays** Outdoor Pursuits Only
- Sundays** Junior Football Matches Only

"The people at this Club have some wonderful ideas and aspirations to improve their facilities for our community, and it is great to be part of that planning"

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to produce a series of Newsletters on behalf of the Blaby & Whetstone Boys Club. Earlier last year I was asked to sit on the Management Committee and the newly formed Steering Group, and this has given me great insight into an organisation that I feel most villagers know only something about. Therefore it this gives me the chance to help raise the profile of the Club that has served our community amazingly well for many years.

So who am I and what credentials do I have that allow me to put pen to paper? Well, I am a local businessman who has no notable credentials related to my service to this Club other than the fact that I chose to give a little time using some of my experience to help in what ever way I can. My son played for the junior football teams for many years and my company has helped out in kit sponsorship. Other than that my input pales into insignificance compared to the people I have the privilege of writing about.

There is one aspect that really excites me, the people at this Club have some wonderful ideas and aspirations to improve their facilities for our community, and it is great to be part of that planning.

I am hoping that I can bring into the spotlight some great stories featuring those unsung heroes who volunteer a lot of their time on improving other people's lives.



This first ever Newsletter focuses on Youth activities, and I particularly urge you to read the Profile of Youth Leader, Dave Palmer found on page 3 – This story epitomises the true spirit of our proud Club

Graham Harris

How it all began...

Boys Club idea was conceived in the mid 50's during lads "kick about" at Local Park.

In 1955, after leaving Blaby C of E school, Geoff Farnell and Alan Churchard, who used to play for the school football team, met up with some other pals at the local park for a kick about.

Alan suggested that they might form a team and approached Blaby Imps to ask if they could use their pitch. They were given the green light, as long as they were able to obtain their own goal posts. Spurred on by this, the lads then went and told their parents.

Geoff's mum, Rose, who was the proprietor of the newsagents D.J. Smith on the corner of John Street, gave them a large box of chocolates and three books of raffle tickets to take around the village to start to raise funds.

Geoff doesn't know exactly what happened from there other than having memories of his and Alan's parents getting involved, and they eventually ended up with a Boys Club being run by a chap called Derek Hunt.

Geoff's father Irvine (Irv) along with his mother, Alan's parents and some others, organised and ran the Blaby Boys Club Tote to raise more funds. The Tote was drawn and checked each week in an upstairs room in the Bulls Head on the Lutterworth Road.

Resulting years saw the now present club being built. It was opened by Frankie Vaughn who was presented with, as Geoff remembers, a Fly Fishing basket by his mother.

If you have any information relating to this story I would love to hear from you, email:
graham@technifold.co.uk

What's in a name?

In coming up with a name for this Newsletter, Youth leader, Dave Palmer made such a profound and unarguable statement, "lets name it after what the kids know our Club as, The Boyzee" And in thinking that Dave probably has the phrase ringing in his ears from hearing it dozens of times a night, how could we disagree with his choice?

After all, the name is a term of endearment used by the youngsters, and whether adults like the name or not, doesn't really come into it, does it?



The Management Committee

Top row, left to right, Dave Palmer, Brian Cleaver, Mark Jenkins, Alison Jolley, Councillor Karl Coles

Bottom row, left to right, Graham Harris, Tony Galway, Councillor John Kenney, Chairman John Metcalf



BOYS CLUB PROFILE

Youth Club Leader; Dave Palmer

“Dave is great with young people, he takes them canoeing, paint balling and on adventure trips to Scotland, and a lot of his time is given for free.”

Trying to get Youth Leader, Dave Palmer to talk about some of the incredible work he does at the Boys Club is virtually impossible. Thankfully there are plenty of his colleagues who are more than willing to heap praise on the man who helped turn the fortunes of the Boys Club around back in 1983. Dave had previously enjoyed his time as Youth Leader at Fleckney FC where he described the Club House as no more than a shed, and although he loved every minute of his time there, it was time to take on a bigger challenge.

Football Chairman, Tony Galway explained “Dave came in, rolled up his sleeves and got on with things. His experience in running a Youth Club proved to be invaluable and just what the Club needed in order to avoid financial disaster following the recession of the early eighties.”

Treasurer, Linda Jones is just as forthcoming in her admiration for the man she says “works so tirelessly and has such an impact on so many people’s lives.” Linda explained “Dave is great with young people; he takes them canoeing, paint balling and on adventure trips to Scotland, and a lot of his time is given for free.” Linda goes on to explain how Dave helps and inspires his team, both professionally and on a personal basis. Her voice is tinged with a little sadness as she confesses that she and other colleagues often worry that Dave’s contribution to the local community hasn’t received the recognition it fully deserves.

All of the people I speak to who volunteer their time to the Club tell their own individual stories of a special person they clearly respect and show genuine fondness for. They talk of Dave’s willingness to move the Club forward, and his passion and vision to see a better facilitated Club House and sports complex come to fruition, and also about his undying commitment to help improve the lives of young people.

So as I try desperately to give Dave that platform to reciprocate those wonderful stories and consolidate himself as the Legend people would have him as, he simply turns away to attend to something he deems as much more important, a visiting team manager asks for a Club memento. Dave grabs a Club flag and darts to the half way line, and then for good measure he checks out the latest scores of the other two matches being played. He finds time to chat to a visiting away supporter before filling the tea urn in his kitchen, all this is done with yours truly in mad pursuit.

Ask any of the people associated with the Boys Club and they will tell you of the times they follow Dave around like a puppy while he changes beer barrels in the Social Club, mows the pitches, cooks breakfast for Sunday football visitors, or simply takes his turn in a pool game against one of the kids during Youth Club nights.

Finally, Dave turns to me, almost surprised that I am still there, and I just know that I don’t need to add anything to what I already have learned about him.

Dave does what comes naturally to him, he rolls up his sleeves and gets on with it.



Youth Club Activities

On average 180 young people attend the Youth Club every week, a further 60 children under the age of 9 take part in Monday nights football training sessions.



The club has a healthy membership of local children between the ages of 7 and 18. The Youth Club offers a range of activities which include, 3 Pool Tables, Indoor 2-a-side Football, Indoor Hockey, 2 Table Tennis tables, Internet Cafe, TV Games, Arts & Crafts, Music, Badminton, Junior Disco's plus all kinds of competitions.

The Club organises two trips to Glenborrodale Outdoor Pursuits centre in Scotland annually. Children take part in all activities and disciplines such as canoeing, cycling, climbing, cooking and cleaning. The trips have taken place at Easter for under 13's and August or October for the over 13's. The Club hopes to continue these popular trips during 2010

"I really enjoyed working with the Boys Club and feel it was the start of a very good relationship between our organisations."



For 12 weeks earlier last year, Whetstone Baptist Church Youth and Youth leaders joined up with the Boys Club to run a group called Youth Alpha where young people had the opportunity to learn about the Christian faith, to meet young people who put their faith into action and ask any questions.

The course included pizza, film clips, ice cream, talks, games, questions and loads more. It was a great opportunity for the young people from the church and the village to meet together

for common purpose. As one of the course leaders I really enjoyed working with the Boys Club and feel it was the start of a very good relationship between our organisations. I am excited about what may happen in the future.

Charlotte Carpenter

Reality Youth Project Worker
at Whetstone Baptist Church



We would like your feedback

If you have any thoughts or comments relating to any aspect of this newsletter, good or bad, or if you can offer any ideas regarding the Whetstone Community in general I would love to hear from you, please email graham@technifold.co.uk

Libbie won top voluntary award in 2009



Last July, Boys Club youth Worker, Libbie Cooper was awarded the honour of young volunteer of the year by Leicestershire Clubs for young people; Libbie received the award from Baroness Byford at their AGM at Aylestone Park FC.

Youth leader of the Boys Club, Dave Palmer was delighted for Libbie, who he describes as a young person that is a shining example to the young people in the area and also an inspiration to others for her fund raising activities for the Youth Club and other organisations. Dave comments, "Libbie is heavily involved in numerous projects and always carries out her work with a smile, she deserves this award and the recognition that goes with it."

If any over 13's wish to join in the activities that are provided on Thursdays and Fridays by the Boys Club (boys & girls) please contact Dave Palmer or Libbie Cooper at the club on **0116 286 4852**

FUNCTION ROOMS AVAILABLE TO HIRE

We can accommodate from 20 to 250 people for functions, meetings and parties etc.

Call **0116 286 4852**
for more details.