

# WHAT'S BEST – West Heaton Advertises Tennis Squash Bowling & Even Social Trivia

Welcome to the ninth edition of the new bi-monthly newsletter which will keep you up-to-date on what has been happening at West Heaton and publicise forthcoming events

August 2014 – Edition 9

## NEW LOOK FOR THE BAR LOUNGE

Over the next few months, the Club is going to carry out refurbishments to the bar-lounge. The area will be updated and will be lighter, brighter and more spacious. The sliding doors to the pavilion will be replaced by more modern folding doors. The dark wood will become lighter. The trophy cabinet will be taken out to create more space and the trophies moved to a new display area above the bar. We plan to reupholster the fixed seating and buy chairs/sofas.

The money will come from club funds, the 100 Plus club and a loan from the brewery. Barbara Dunne (Chair of the House and Grounds Committee) is leading a sub-group which has been working on the proposals over the last year. We are fortunate to have help from Tim Hopkinson, a club member and architect, who works for Core Design on Shaw Road. Tim has a lot of experience of carrying out club and pub refurbishments. Thanks also to the others who are on the group – Eddie Tasker, Pete Goulding, Julie Woosey, Sue Mansfield and Liz Jordan.

The sub-group will be meeting to fine-tune the proposals and ensure that they fit the budget. We still have to discuss colour schemes, choices of furniture etc. Of course, we would like to start as soon as possible. But firstly we must agree the specification, liaise with contractors and suppliers and look at dates in the Club diary to minimise the disruption. We will, of course, keep members informed of all the plans.

## NEW LOOK FOR THE MEMBERS

West Heaton is working with Monkhouses to provide a new range of sportswear. The designs have been agreed by General Committee and feature a choice of logos – tennis, bowls, squash or just the Club name. There will be a range of garments, either white with a blue & gold logo, or dark blue with a white & gold logo.

Matt Jackson is our link person at Monkhouses. They will produce a webpage for us, showing the garments available and allowing on-line ordering. We can organise a session at the Club (now that we have Wi-Fi) and do on-line orders for people who do not have internet access. We hope that the webpage will go live in early September and we will also have some paper copies of order forms and a 'posting box' at the Club

What's Best August 2014

## HOUDINI ACT BY TENNIS TEAMS

The annual adult team tennis season has finally come to an end. And several of the teams staged dramatic late revivals to avoid relegation. An unusually high number of injuries and unavailabilities have led to challenges for many of the teams but ultimately only one team was relegated. However only one team finished in the top half of their division – well done to Andy Rayner and the Men's 4ths! The full results can be found on the league website <http://www.nectl.org/results.cfm>. There were some positive signs however as several juniors were given an early taste of adult league tennis – Helen Taylor & Rachel Sharman for the ladies 3rds, and Alex Meadowcroft, Cameron Paris, Will Armitage & Charlie Lake for various Mens teams.

In summary the L1 came 10<sup>th</sup> out of 11 teams in div3, L2 6/11 in div6, L3 12/12 in div8, M1 8/11 in div3, M2 10/12 in div6, M3 9/12 in div7, M4 5/11 in div9, M5 7/12 in div10.

## TENNIS OPEN DOUBLES

Each year 3 open doubles events are held when unlike most social tournaments members can choose their partners and there is no handicapping system. As such this makes these 3 tournaments the premier events in Mens, Ladies & Mixed Doubles. In 2014 it was very much the year for defending champions as Steve Woosey & Jeff Hurst won the Mens Open Doubles for the 4<sup>th</sup> year running, Martin & Alison Sharman won the Mixed Doubles for the 3rd year running and Alison Sharman won the Ladies Open Doubles for the 3rd year running, albeit with different partners, Emily Richards replacing Liz Jordan this year (see photo).



## YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU!

There was a good response to the request last time for volunteers for the gardening working party. Owing to holidays this has been delayed from August to Sunday Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at 10.00. Just turn up at that time or contact Martin Sharman (martin.sharman@thalesgroup.com). Enthusiasm is much more important than any horticultural expertise, so come along on the day and put something back into your club!

## WEST HEATON & WORLD WAR ONE

As you know, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One. The President, Chrissie Gibson, has done some research into West Heaton's involvement in WW1 and published her findings on the club website. They give an insight into the impact of the war on the Club – the young men going away, many members worrying about relatives and friends who were serving. West Heaton did its bit for the War Effort by inviting soldiers from local military hospitals to use the bowling green.

There are also links to the stories of the eight members who lost their lives in the war and who are commemorated on the plaque in the club pavilion. You can find all this information on a new page on the website under the "History" tab.

And if you can help to solve the mystery about why the plaque went missing to be found in a warehouse in Manchester in the 1970s please let us know.

## COMING UP.....

**Saturday Sept 20th from 8pm** – Tennis tournament Finals & Presentation dance.

**Friday Sept 26th at 8pm** – Fashion & Beauty show.

**Saturday Oct 11th from 8pm** – First quiz night of the new season.

**Sunday Nov 2nd at 1pm** – Family Soup & Sandwiches – Halloween theme.

**Saturday Nov 8th from 6pm** – Bonfire night

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....

**Each newsletter will end with a light-hearted article to help you get to know some of the key people at West Heaton.**



This month we focus on **Dave Porter, Club Treasurer**

### How long have you been a member of West Heaton?

I joined West Heaton in the mid 1960s. My sister Carole and her husband Graham had been social members for a few years and were very enthusiastic about the varied social activities and the busy and friendly bar. So, I along with some mates, decided to join. We were all keen on sport, so we quickly became active tennis members, if not particularly good ones. I have to admit that it was the social side of the Club, which was most attractive to me and my first official role was Social Committee Treasurer and representative on General Committee. It was a very busy time in the Club's history with tickets for every monthly function selling out. Dramatic Section plays, the Penguin Club and the Annual Dinner and Dance were also memorable regular events. Chairman of the Bar Committee was my next role, which I thoroughly enjoyed for 5 years. I took over as Honorary Treasurer in 1978 - a position I occupied until I was elected President in 1982.

### Tell us a bit about yourself and your family

I am a Cumbrian by birth, but soon moved away and spent the early part of my life in Belfast. We moved to Manchester in 1959, when my father was appointed as an HM Inspector of Schools. The family house was 1a Gibsons Rd, and I have very fond memories of our time there.

I met Anne at West Heaton, in the early days of my membership, and we married in 1973. The wedding took place in Anne's parents' new home in Mid Wales, and it was a massive West Heaton away day (or should I say "days")

We have three children, Ian, Nicky and Jenny, all grown up now and leading their own lives away from home. All 3 of them, over a period of about 10 years, served behind the bar at the Club.

### **Are you in employment and, if so, what do you do?**

After leaving school, I trained as an accountant, through the old system of "Articles", but it was in 1987, that my career took a major turn, when I was appointed Chief Executive of the Shepherd's Friendly Society. It was a very challenging and demanding role but rewarding, nevertheless.

### **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

I took early retirement in 2001 and since then have thoroughly enjoyed a very different life style, involving gardening, golf, holidays and until Anne's retirement as a full time Hospital Matron in 2006, a lot of housework and shopping. We are fortunate to be able to spend a lot of time at our second home in Portugal, which gives us enormous pleasure, particularly playing golf in proper weather!

### **What is your favourite TV programme?**

I enjoy watching most sports, particularly rugby union, cricket and football, but I have to say, in recent times, I have not quite the same enthusiasm for football, due to the way the game has changed, Some may argue that it is because I am a Manchester United fan! My favourite programme has to be anything associated with rugby. I must say that I do like tuning into "Mrs Brown's Boys". It must be the Irish in me!

### **What is the best thing about West Heaton?**

The fact that West Heaton has not only survived but flourished for 140 years, says it all. From a personal point of view, the Club has played a huge role in my life over the last 50 years. It is where Anne and I met and it has been the focal point of our leisure time throughout our marriage of 41 years. We have many friends, who also met and married through the West Heaton "Dating Agency". Sadly, some are no longer with us, but the vast majority are still happily married. It is this family nature of the Club, which I think makes it so special. It has also provided me with a very enjoyable hobby on 4 separate occasions, during those 50 years. That being, keeping a watch on the Club's finances, as Treasurer. It is a position I thoroughly enjoy and it does keep the old brain cells ticking over!!!

### **If you could pick someone from the past or present to have dinner with, who would you pick?**

It would have to be the British and Irish rugby legend Willie John McBride. He led the 1974 Lions to an unprecedented whitewash victory over South Africa, in such a modest and unassuming manner, but with amazing leadership skills. He was a truly great captain and a real "Lion" in every sense of the word.

### **Tell me one unusual fact about yourself**

Our kids will phone me from anywhere they happen to be in the UK and ask for directions, having taken a wrong turn, or just because of hopeless awareness of the geography and the road network within the country. I generally am able to help, without reference to navigational aids, such as **Tomtom**. They now call me **Davedave!!**