

SE View

WINTER 2011 Issue 19

Official magazine for HASSRA South East





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This and that

Goodbye...

Last issue Dan Griffin asked for help with the magazine and I put my hand up. Well, I thought, I could help out a little, couldn't I? I wrote and said that I was part of the old London HQ editorial team that published *Leisure* and that we'd won a few awards. I suspect that I oversold myself a trifle because before I knew it Dan turned the whole job lot over to me and disappeared over the horizon. Hmmmm....

... and Hello

So, I suppose I ought to introduce myself: Barbara Carthew, ex-DH. I was retired last Christmas by Mr Cameron, who decided to save his pennies by getting rid of all contractors, so me and the Inspector of Microbiology packed our respective bags and went our separate ways. I've been married for over 40 years, I have three children (and several that have adopted me) which means I have umpteen grandchildren - and two dogs. And that's enough of that.

This issue

I had a good response to my begging emails. Maggie Smith has sent a poignant report on the closure of Broadstairs office and their party. And, lo and behold, our ex-Editor has written a piece about the veterans football... We have our usual spiffing cartoon from Simon on page 15, and a rather

fetching picture of one of his colleagues on page 16.

Next issue

Nothing! I have nothing at all. So anything will be welcome. Any letters? Anyone read anything and wants to write a review? Anyone been to the cinema and feels the urge to put pen to paper? Books/films don't have to be new. Just something you've read or seen and enjoyed; or if you have read/seen something that should have been better than it was. I fancy TinTin - anyone seen it yet? And did you fundraise for Children in Need? Let me have your pictures and total monies raised please. Copy date end of February 2012.

And what about that front cover...

If it hasn't registered go and have a look. Isn't it the goods? My personal thanks to Simon Mackie - brilliant. I can't wait to see where my beach hut will turn up next. And thanks to Dan and his good lady for leaving it so clean and tidy. Bit small what with only one bedroom but it has a nice bathroom. I have set up my computer on the dining room table which means that I'll be eating off my lap. Nice kitchen though. Although the 60 watt lamp, that seems endemic to all HASSRA editorial offices, gets on my nerves a bit but I daresay I'll adjust - again... Merry Christmas!

Christmassy things

Di Foster from the Ramsgate office that comprises of a BIC centre and a Jobcentre (and now HASSRA) have the following arranged for the Christmas period

Daily prize draw for all members

Daily advent calendar for all members

Guess the weight of the cake for a local charity (Riding school for the disabled)

Christmas Raffle all proceeds to local charities open to the whole office

HASSRA gift of mince pies and Pringles to all the sections

Office Christmas party 16 December

Christmas Party

We have heard from Di Neale, who says...

Just to let you know we are having Chatham office HASSRA xmas party on Friday 2nd December. Live music from Marylebone Jelly (base player is a HASSRA member!) and a festive spread will be provided!! With guest singer... our very own O'Neil Daley.... Not to be missed!!

Replacement Christmas Cards

Gwen Bolton writes saying that...

A couple of us here at Milton Keynes are also fund raisers for the CSBF. I have sent out an email to staff the last couple of years to ask if anyone would be interested in giving a donation to the CSBF in place of sending Christmas cards.

This has helped raise in excess of £100 the last couple of years. Help from the CSBF has increased due to the economic climate, staff are struggling due to increased bills and no salary increases and many have partners and family who looking for work. We publish the list of those who have made donations in place of cards.

Every little amount of financial support helps and is much appreciated.

Note from Ed: We used to something similar on our floor in Wellington House. Great idea and no effort involved at all!

President's Christmas Message

(To be sung to the tune of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

God bless ye HASSRA members
Let nothing ye dismay,
Your friendship, fun and kindness
Helps brighten every day,
Austerity may come and go
Good fellowship remains,
Bringing tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy,
Bringing tidings of comfort and joy.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.



Paul Williams

HASSRA SE TEAM

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Veterans Football

Dan Griffin writes....

The Daily Mail may have been snooping around the CSSC Games, but fortunately there was nobody from Trades Descriptions present; surely calling our veterans knockabout 'Masters Football' must have contravened some such legislation. The SE squad travelled in hope rather than expectation, as horrified by the prospect of 10 matches in 2 days, as they were comforted by the fact that a 10-strong squad left plenty of opportunity for bench-time in the 6-a-side format.

As is often the case at these events, the sensible plan that suggested itself was to under-perform on day 1, in order to qualify for the duffers tournament and guarantee an easy ride on day 2. But an inexplicable habit of snatching last-ditch winning goals blew this idea out of the water almost immediately – it happened in each of the first 3 games, every time after heroics from 58 year-old keeper Trevor Philpott kept us in the tie. So he was to blame. Griffin's curler saw off the Land Registry, Malyn's cool finish dispatched HASSRA West Midlands, and Winch's controversial volley floored DSRA (whatever that is). A bunch of fit and suspiciously youthful looking Geordies predictably wiped the floor with us in game 4, but even another defeat at the hands of the South-West in the final match wasn't enough to prevent SE from

finishing 2nd in the group, and qualifying for the premier tournament the following morning. Oh bugger. Consolation was sought in the fact that the days endeavours were done by lunchtime, leaving time to explore what Loughborough had to offer....

Despite all that, SE flew out of the blocks on day 2, Sol Aja bagging a classy hat-trick in between emitting loud shrieks each time he was tackled, as the Land Registry's other team was sent packing. Edinburgh CSSC could neither beat us nor pick a fight with us, though they were clearly keen to do both, and that game ended 2-2. But as had happened the previous day, fatigue began overcome enthusiasm. The last 3 matches saw only one goal at the right end, while 11 whizzed past the increasingly statuesque Philpott at the other. The last match saw us cruelly pitted against unbeaten overall champs Yorkshire. A win could have sneaked us into Runner-Up spot. As it was we ended up 6th, on goal difference, so I'll leave you to guess how that one went.

Even so, 6th out of 18 was a worthy effort, grudgingly acknowledged by player-manager and stern taskmaster Blythman. Hats off also to CSSC for an event that ran like clockwork, and to the referees, all of whom were Welsh, and jolly nice chaps.

HASSRA SE Masters (back row, left to right); Dan Griffin (Worthing), Trevor Philpott (Hove), Clint Williams (Worthing), Mike Blythman (Lewes), Solomon Aja (Staines), Alex Buckwell (Brighton); (front row) Mark Taylor (Brighton), Danny W



active and healthy workplace

get active with **freedomleisure**

freedomleisure the not for profit organisation who operate 27 leisure centres across the South East are supporting the active and healthy workplace initiative by offering free membership at their centres this winter.

freedomleisure provides a wide range of activities and opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity across the South East to get your heart racing

6 weeks free membership

HASSRA members can enjoy 6 weeks free membership from the 15 November to the 31 December at any of the 27 centres. This is a great opportunity to give the gym, pool and studio classes a try. Simply cut out the attached voucher and take it into any freedomleisure centre after the 15 November. Places are limited and will be given out on a first come first served basis.

Notes and conditions apply. For more information please contact your local freedomleisure centre.

Make a Splash! Our swimming pools are registered with the Big Splash campaign aimed at encouraging more people to take the plunge and reap the benefits of regular swimming. With a 30 minute weekly swim helping to reduce your biological age by up to 20 years! Download the splash push app to your smart phone to get up to date timetable information for your local freedom pool.

back 2 - a series of coach led sessions to re-acquaint yourself with your old sport, we are currently running courses in netball and badminton so why not give them a try!

no strings badminton - No Strings - is the easy way to play social badminton, with a friendly coordinator on hand to organise the games and provide tips and tips, so all you need to do is turn up and play.

We have a whole host of other opportunities available to you from Athletics to Street Dance, Squash to Ice Skating, Ten Pin Bowling to Soft Play there is something to get everyone active!

To find out more about the centres we operate and activities available please visit www.freedom-leisure.co.uk

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includes all the benefits of a corporate membership!
includes gym, leisure, classes and swimming at 6 freedomleisure centres across the South East. See contact details on the reverse or visit www.freedom-leisure.co.uk

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CSSC Games Mixed Rounders 2011

Dave Philp, Rounders Organiser, writes...

After a disappointing showing at the National Mixed Rounders Competition a new squad of players made the long journey from the South East to Loughborough for the 2011 CSSC Games.

The squad gelled early in the bar and by the first day of competition looked like a team ready to compete for one another. On the first day we played another HASSRA team, North West 2, who we beat convincingly.

Two more games were left for us on day one and they were against You're in trouble who again we beat well and HASSRAY&H who fielded their strongest side but could only beat us by 3 rounders.

This was a massive improvement on our part over the last few years when we haven't been so close!!

After we all had early nights and avoided having our pictures splashed over the tabloids we

started day 2 feeling very refreshed and up for the competition ahead.

We then played Jura who were from the justice department and we again won by a large margin leaving us second in the group and qualifying for the quarter finals.

We drew North West 1 in this and despite putting in a fantastic performance we lost the game by 1½ rounders.

I would like to thank all who attended for putting in the effort to make it an enjoyable competition on and off the pitch.

The team were: Carlo 'Dobbie' Barbieri, Steve 'Ce Lo Ginge' Parsons, Nathan 'Rhazzo' Welch, James 'Tuna Chops' Fishlock, Baljit 'Backward' Jutte, Debbie 'Dumbledore' Potter, Jane 'Cannibal' Savage, Debbie '*£\$&!' Harding and Marie 'Donny' McCormick.

Civil Service Games Table Tennis team



Left to right: Ade Akinboyewa, Dick Deacon, Armando Borges and Clive Banham.

And Clive won the Plate Competition!

New improved lottery

Have you read that HASSRA are improving their lottery with more prizes and more chances of winning? They are increasing the number of prizes from 47 to 65 each month and are introducing a new star prize. So from January the prizes should be:

- 1 star prize of £10,000
- 4 prizes of £2,500
- 20 prizes of £1,000
- 40 prizes of £500

But remember that you have to be in it to win it and with lottery shares at £1 each you'd have to be mad not to join in. Find out by visiting www.hassra.org or ask Ray Allen

Cupcake Sale and Competition

Caroline Faller, HASSRA Secretary, Worthing Benefit Centre, writes...

Worthing HASSRA recently held a cupcake sale in aid of three local charities. After seeking volunteers to bake the goodies we ended up with two tables laden with a variety of cupcakes – vanilla and strawberry, chocolate and hazelnut, strawberry cheesecake, lemon, carrot and chocolate delights! The cakes got entered into a competition and our club sponsor and office manager Janet Hughes had the lucky task of judging the

cakes on offer and after much deliberation, gave the award to Paula Collins for her Strawberry Cheesecake Cupcake. The judges also decided to award a second prize to Rita Harris for her beautifully decorated cupcakes. After the judging the doors opened for staff to make their purchases and within 20 minutes we had sold out and raised £74.72.





Judging the event



Netball

Jo Slegg reports on this year's activities...

We have had two tournaments this year, the first one we travelled up to Glasgow and the second a trip to Loughborough University for the CSSC games, both with a depleted squad due to other commitments and injury. South East netball has struggled for the last few years and we are desperate for some new young blood! Those young girls out there that plays regular netball at a good competitive standard please get in touch! However, as with all the South East teams, what we lacked in skill we made up for in enthusiasm and a good team spirit!

We travelled up to Glasgow on the train and were put up in a very nice hotel in the City Centre. The indoor courts were around half an hour away on a coach and the games lasted all day. SE unfortunately didn't win a game all day and it was a very disappointing tournament. However in all our trips away we

always manage to have an evening out, and this proved more successful than our day time activities. We never seem to have a poor performance in the evening!!

The CSSC Games, as all Sunday Mail readers saw, was a fantastic few days where we all took part in competitive sport, built up good liaisons with colleagues from all around the country and had a thoroughly good time. The evening entertainment was great fun as usual and all of us that took part were proud to represent HASSRA and look forward to doing so again in the not too distant future.

I'd like to thank all my netballers for continuing to take part and try their best for HASSRA SE, I wish them all a very merry Christmas and hope that our injured players are able to join us next year on the court!

Anyone that is interested in playing for the regional side, please contact myself at Jo.Slegg@thepensionservice.gsi.gov.uk

Squad

Jo Slegg (Organiser & Captain), Linda 'Lynx' Hartley (Vice Captain), Sarah Rea, Gail Fuller, Lorraine Clewlow, Janet Peart, Suzanne Holliday, Kay Reynolds, Karen Griffiths, Tracy Polling

Golf Society

Richard Mole, Chair, of the HASSRA SE Golfing Society writes...

The second half of the golfing season for 2011 comprised of three events.

The first being held at Eastbourne Downs Golf Club in August, a venue that is very popular with all our members and has been used for a number of years now. Not a course to play should the weather be windy or wet but fortunately it was kind to us this year. The day comprised of 36 holes with the usual individual stableford competition in the morning followed by a team Texas Scramble in the afternoon. The morning event was fairly high scoring with Brian Skilton (Brighton JCP) coming out on top with 44 points and Richard Mole (retired) in second spot on 38 points. There were also prizes for nearest the pin, won by Guy Bailey (Government Office for SE) and longest drive, won by Carlo Barbieri (Home Office). The team event followed after lunch with this being won by John Tranter (CSA Hastings), Guy Bailey and Paul Smith (Hastings JCP). We will be going back to Eastbourne again next year.

The penultimate event of the year was held at Croham Hurst Golf

Club, Croydon in September and attracted a good entry for a course that we have only played on for the first time the previous year. This event was just an 18 hole individual competition which was won by Wayne Catlin (SE Regional Office) with a very creditable 40 points. In second place was Danny Matome (Broadmoor) with 38 points and a further 2 competitors on 36 points in what was a high scoring day.

The final event of the year was our Captains Day held at Clandon Regis Golf Club, Guildford in October. We again got a good entry for the day, which included for the first time for a long while two lady entrants and was an 18 hole individual competition combined with a fun team event. We were again blessed with a lovely day weather wise particularly for late October. The individual event was won by Chris Adamson (retired) on 43 points with Richard Mole on 42 points. The winning team was Chris Adamson, Paul Youens (High Wycombe JCP) and Tony Checkley (Ashford JCP). Prizes were presented after the meal by our Captain Sam Armadass to all the winners.

The Society will be holding a full programme of competitions in 2012 with the first being at North Foreland Golf Club, Broadstairs, Kent in April. We welcome players of any standard to join the Society and if you are interested in further information or schedule of events then please look at the HASSRA SE Website or contact Steve Stockham, Secretary on 02392 573311, email steve.stockham@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk

Goodbye Broadstairs



When the DWP was first formed and it was seen that Broadstairs was not included in the plans for its 'glittering' future, we knew the office was doomed.

Incapacity Benefit went down the road to Ramsgate and DisBen (IIDB) went up North to Barrow-in-Furness - the office was slowly emptied of its staff.

There was a short reprieve in 2009 when we had a full office comprising: Fixed Term Contracts, casuals, staff on Detached Duty, 'lodgers' and, of course, the final handful of actual Broadstairs-based staff. This was Broadstairs HASSRA's 'Phoenix Year' and we won the 'Most improved' shield in that year's Annual Regional HASSRA awards.



The following year, with the FTC's gone, the DD's recalled and the casuals dismissed we had our 'Dying swan' year. When the inevitable Closure date was eventually announced, time had worked its grinding worse and we had come to accept what we believed was, by then, the unavoidable. There would be no chaining ourselves to the office railings, either metaphorically or in reality.



So, when it was finally over, a few people got together to raise a glass to the old place. It was an enjoyable evening and the photos from the past that were on show were avidly studied for signs of faces we might remember from 'way back'. In fact, some of those faces from the distant past were there in person!

As you can see here, all events held in Broadstairs were celebrated to the hilt!

Maggie





With apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan for stealing the Lord High Executioners song from 'The Mikado': Here is the Broadstairs version.



As some day it may happen that a victim must be found,
I've got a little list - I've got a little list
Of Dee-partment offenders who might well be underground,
And who never would be missed - who never would be missed!
There's the Mandarins of Whitehall who have shut our office down -
All Managers who try to say 'careers' are still around -
All journalists who write that we, earn fortunes annually...
...and sit around and do no work, but drink a lot of tea -
The 'H' who treats emergencies with fervor will insist
They'd none of 'em be missed - they'd none of 'em be missed!

Chorus

He's got 'em on the list - He's got 'em on the list;
And they'll none of them be missed - And they'll none of them be missed.

There's the man from 'Men in Black' whose dire painting takes an age,
And his colleagues who assist - We've got them on the list!
There's surveyors and their clipboards in a cherry pickers cage,
They never would be missed - they never would be missed!
The 'big boss' thinks we're happy, and it's true she does believe!
Another greets each crisis by a spot of annual leave,
The 'space' man who has found us, two small rooms to now call 'home',
The union rep. who gives support, then won't pick up his phone,
The MP thinks we're JCP, her help we can't enlist
I don't think she'll be missed - I'm sure she'll not be missed!

Chorus

He's got her on the list - He's got her on the list;
And I don't think she'll be missed - I'm sure she'll not be missed.

There's the man who said we're "Brilliant!"
And then sent our work up North,
I really must insist - he **will** go on the list
Miss Hopeful says "It's challenging, a brand new start - go forth!"
She never would be missed - she never would be missed!
And the soul who's only pleased that "THEY" decided not to fire,
The one who says "Who cares? Come February I'll retire!"
The faceless ghosts from HR who, our working futures pick,
With 'Secret Squirrel' tactics and assumptions that we're thick
The fast-path who got points from saying that we'll not be missed,
They'd none of 'em be missed - they'd none of 'em be missed!

Chorus

You may put 'em on the list - you may put 'em on the list;
And they'll none of them be missed - And they'll none of them be missed!



A Christmas Rota

THE ROTA AT MARLEY AND SCROOGE HAD SERVED THE EMPLOYEES WELL UNTIL ONE DAY JACOB MARLEY DECIDED OTHERWISE...



WE WILL ALL COME IN AT THE SAME TIME AND WE WILL ALL LEAVE AT THE SAME TIME - IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

HIS BUSINESS PARTNER, EBENEZER SCROOGE, TRIED TO MAKE HIM SEE SENSE. JACOB,

DO YOU NOT THINK IT MIGHT MAKE GOOD BUSINESS SENSE TO KEEP THE ROTA SO THAT THE OFFICE CAN STAY OPEN LONGER AND MORE PEOPLE MAY COME IN AND BORROW MONEY



SUBORDINATES SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN FLEXIBILITY

MARLEY AND SCROOGE'S THREE CLERKS (BILTON, TIDMARSH AND CRATCHIT) CARRIED ON DUTIFULLY CHECKING THE ACCOUNTS AND BALANCING THE BOOKS



...UNTIL TWO WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS DAY, 1836 MR. MARLEY, THAT'S NOT FAIR, I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD HAVE CHRISTMAS DAY OFF THIS YEAR?



YOU BOTH KNOW FULL WELL THAT IT'S MY TURN. IF WE HAD THE ROTA STILL IN PLACE THERE WOULD BE NO DISPUTE

THERE IS TO BE NO ROTA, TWO OF YOU CAN HAVE THE DAY OFF BUT ONE OF YOU MUST COVER ON CHRISTMAS DAY. DECIDE AMONGST YOURSELVES WHO THAT WILL BE



THEY DECIDED TO SORT THE MATTER OUT IN THE ONLY WAY THEY KNEW HOW. THEY HAD A FIGHT ROUND THE BACK OF THE OFFICE



SCROOGE AND MARLEY DID NOTHING TO STOP THE FIGHT, AFTER ALL THIS WAS FREE ENTERTAINMENT. THEY LOOKED ON THROUGH THE BACK WINDOW.



IT WAS YOUNG CRATCHIT WHO FARED THE WORST HAVING BEEN DEALT SOME SAVAGE BLOWS DELIVERED BY HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUES



AS CRATCHIT LAY BLEEDING ON THE GROUND BILTON AND TIDMARSH WERE APPREHENDED BY A PRESS GANG

AND THE VERY NEXT DAY THEY WERE PUT TO SAIL ON THE HIGH SEAS WITH THE ROYAL NAVY



OF COURSE NO ONE ELSE WANTED TO REPLACE THE TWO DEPARTED CLERKS BUT LOYAL CRATCHIT CARRIED ON



JACOB MARLEY DIED OF INFLUENZA ON CHRISTMAS EVE, 1836



...AND HIS SOUL DID NOT ASCEND INTO HEAVEN

MARLEY WAS DAMNED TO WALK THE EARTH FOR ALL ETERNITY BUT GOD HAD BEEN MERCIFUL...



HE ONLY HAD TO SPEND A THIRD OF HIS TIME HAUNTING AS HE SHARED HIS TIME ON A ROTA WITH THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST AND THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME

Simon MacKie

And finally...

Here is Rupert Town-Jones (Guildford) dressed as his namesake...

Guildford Jobcentre Plus raised £212.00 for Children in Need!!



Did you fundraise for Pudsey and Children in Need? Please let me have your photos and totals for our next issue. Copy date end of February.

Wishing everyone an incredibly happy
Christmas from all your HASSRA team.
And an even better New Year



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