



In this Newsletter:

- Chairman's Message
- Ben's Nurse
- Wicketkeeping Development Programmes
- Fundraising Events

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Chairman's message from Phil Williams

The last year has seen our chosen causes go from strength to strength. Catherine Renwick has been in post as Ben's Nurse for over 18 months, and in that time has helped transform the service that the Royal Brompton Hospital is able to offer to children suffering from arrhythmias and to their families. The Surrey wicket-keeping excellence programme continues, and we are funding a new initiative with the Hampshire Cricket Board. During a year that has been financially challenging for many, we are delighted that our total funds raised have reached £250,000, this landmark being achieved during Seventies Night Fever. On behalf of all the Trustees, I would like to thank you for your continued financial and moral support.

Ben's Nurse

In her role as Ben's Nurse, Catherine supports a caseload of over 200 children and their families from the time of initial diagnosis, through the management and treatment until discharge or transfer to adult services. Catherine has established a weekly clinic alongside the consultant clinic, which has much improved the hospital experience for children and their families. She also attends the monthly inherited disease clinic at St George's Hospital. Children with undiscovered congenital heart disease have been identified through this clinic and referred to the Royal Brompton.



Catherine has also established a nurse specialist helpline, and the large and increasing number of calls that she receives from parents is a testament to the benefit that they gain from it. She is also continuing her visits to schools. Catherine advocates as normal a life as possible for the child during such visits, so that the child is not seen as any different from their peers. Her interventions have stopped children from being excluded from school purely because of their condition. In another new development, Catherine is undertaking a nurse prescribing course to allow her to change dosage of medication in clinic. This will avoid the need to wait for a doctor to prescribe, improving the patient experience and clinical efficiency. At present there are only four nurse prescribers within the RBH Trust and none within paediatrics. Catherine has brought incredible energy, dedication and enthusiasm to her role, and we are delighted with the progress that she has made.

**Wicket Keeping
Development Initiatives**

Jane Cable writes...

The Trust has made a donation to the Hampshire Cricket Board to fund the training of young wicketkeepers. The money will be spent on a programme designed to standardise their development throughout the County's youth system and so to make the path through age group cricket smoother.

The programme is being delivered by Hampshire's wicketkeeping coach, former Hampshire and Kent keeper Bobby Parks. The first phase, which is now complete, delivered nine hours of coaching to all the keepers in the various Hampshire age group squads, and was the first time many of them had received formal instruction in this specialist skill.

The second phase, which has just begun, cascades wicketkeeping development skills into district cricket in the County through their head coaches. Bobby will first deliver hands on training to the coaches for the 10s to 17s age groups, before running three sessions for the district keepers themselves. By the beginning of 2010 he will have had a hand in the coaching of around 40 youngsters.



Photo: Jamie McLean.

Hampshire's programme involves children across a broad range of age groups and the coaching of coaches is a particularly good way to make the most of our financial support.

Meanwhile, the elite programme at Surrey continues into its third year - see overleaf for more details.



Seventies Night Fever!



Kate Orr and her band of helpers transformed Grayswood Village Hall into glittering Studio Grayswood for the evening on Saturday 17 October. 100 guests arrived in a wide range of costumes spanning the decade, from hippy to punk, and after Paul Robinson's traditional 70s three-course meal of prawn cocktail, chicken chasseur and black forest gateau danced the night away to the sounds of the Ian James Band and the RG Roadshow Disco.

The evening was particularly special for the Trust, as the proceeds of £2,700 pushed the overall funds raised by the charity to over a quarter of a million pounds.



Our thanks go to the Haslemere Wardrobe, Paul and his team of volunteers and everyone who helped make the night so enjoyable, and to Sue Griffiths Jewellery, the Inn on the Hill and Mandy and John Simpson for the raffle prizes.

Concert for Ben

On Tuesday 5 May, 5 May 2009, Luke Shoham and Timian Brierley organised "Concert for Ben" at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, which raised over £500. The band was under the baton (for the most difficult bits at least) of Barney Lowe, and included members of the Surrey County Youth Jazz Orchestra. The audience was treated to a wonderful selection of jazz numbers, with enchanting vocals provided by Laura McDonald. Thanks to all who contributed to such an enjoyable and successful evening.

Christmas Sale

Christmas wouldn't be quite the same without Clare Taylor's beautiful wreaths. They were a sell out again and helped us to raise over £1,600.



Many thanks to Clare, her team and all who contributed to making the Christmas sale and coffee morning on Saturday 6 December such a success, whether through providing Christmas gifts or cakes, or for supporting us on the day.

Book Swap

Lucy Prosser's book swap on Saturday 21 March was a great success, raising over £320 for the Trust. Many thanks to Lucy and everyone who supported the event.

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Memorial Cricket Match



Spectators at the fourth Ben Williams Memorial cricket match on Sunday 5 July were treated to an epic contest between two equally matched opponents at the peak of their athletic prowess. Away from the live broadcast tennis, captains Phil Jackson and Simon Nobes also pitted their wits in a match almost equal in its intensity and level of skill, the result being in doubt until Sam Carne-Roberts sent the second ball of the last over steeppling towards the church. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the cricket match such fun and raise over £1,000.

Surrey Elite Programme

The recipients of the Surrey elite wicketkeeping development programme have had a good season. Rory Burns has been playing for the Surrey second XI, while Michael Burgess was awarded the Graham Kersey prize for the best 'keeper in the 2009 Bunbury Festival at Charterhouse. He was also awarded one of the four David English scholarships, which will see him spending a week with the full England squad at Loughborough in 2010. He has also been selected for the England U15 squad.

And Finally...

Thanks to Haslemere Prep School and the Royal Grammar School to their continued support of the Trust.

If you would like to help us in any way, undertake a personal challenge or hold an event for the Trust, we would be delighted to hear from you.