



**The Tom Shortland legacy**



# The Chronicle

of the Society of Old Brentwoods

October 2010



## MEMO TO NEW LEAVERS

Do you fancy India,  
Kilimanjaro, Iraq and the  
Pyrenees?

# Ashwells financial improvement is off to a good start

**D**espite the difficult financial environment, the Hon. Treasurer's report and accounts for 2009/10 show a noteworthy improvement in the Society's finances. There was a profit for the year of £25,000, compared with cumulative losses for the previous two years of £55,000. The principal source of those losses has been the Ashwells Road clubhouse and grounds whose future has provided a demanding remit for the Financial Sub-Committee especially set up by the Society's General Committee.

This welcome turnaround has been achieved partly by securing an 80 per cent rates relief rebate of £13,500, following acknowledgment by Brentwood Borough Council of the extent of use of the playing fields and clubhouse by community organisations and local sports clubs. However, we will have to apply annually for future relief.

The remainder of the projected budget surplus of £11,500 for 2010/11 should come mainly from two areas: the sterling support and financial approach of the affiliated sports clubs and the clubhouse and ground management team of Tim Faiers, Stephen Gorrod and Tony Witney. Their efforts in generating increased income from the bar and controlling costs have been considerable.

The increased income from the use of the grounds by Essex County RFU, local soccer and cricket clubs, virtually all year round, has resulted in other problems. An agronomist's report has revealed that, in recent years, increased playing pressure due to external lettings is causing a decline in the quality and standard of surfaces. There is now an urgent need to increase spiking, verti-draining, sub soiling, annual sand top dressing, seasonal seeding and fertilising. Moreover, the present compliment of machinery and equipment is considered inadequate to maintain the grounds as required.

The costs of implementing any playing surface improvement programme and replacing machinery and equipment will rely on further increases in subscriptions and letting fees from user clubs. We also need to enhance significantly income from clubhouse facilities, primarily from catering and the bar.

The Financial Sub-Committee will continue to wrestle with the dilemma of trying to retain the present scale of operations at Ashwells while making it self supporting, achieving the five-year plan of rebuilding reserves in the Joe Hodgson Fund to £100,000. (The late Joe Hodgson and his wife Freddie bequeathed their estate to the Society. The fund has been heavily depleted to maintain Ashwells Road).

What's been done so far represents a good start but, obviously, there's a long way to go.

*Colin Finch, Chairman, Financial Sub-Committee*

## Olympic pentathletes to train at Courage Hall and on School playing fields

**B**rentwood School has been selected as one of the 18 official nationwide training venues for the London 2012 Games announced in October by Lord Coe and the London Organising Committee.

The School will host the time training venue for the Modern Pentathlon athletes, providing facilities from July 16th to August 13th for four of the five sports: epee fencing, pistol shooting, 200 metres freestyle swimming and the 3 kilometres cross country run.

Brentwood School was chosen after an extensive review of potential venues by the Organising Committee because of the high international standard of its sporting facilities and ease of access from the athletes' village in Stratford. Lord Coe said Brentwood School would be among "first-rate venues that will provide excellent training facilities for athletes getting ready for the biggest sporting competition in their careers."

The athletes will have exclusive use of an enclave comprising the Courage Hall Sports Centre and car park, cricket pavilion and playing fields on the school side of Middleton Hall Lane. There will be special arrangements

for Sports Centre members and to the School Shop.

The School has a fine sporting tradition. It is a centre of excellence for fencing, producing a stream of national and international competitors who have dominated public schools fencing since 1962; and has produced international standard footballers, rugby players, cricketers, squash and netball players.



*Chairman of Governors Colin Finch agrees with Debbie Jevans, LOCOG Director of Sport, to make the School's facilities available*

Brentwood School Headmaster Ian Davies was particularly pleased that the School would provide training facilities for Modern Pentathlon, an event invented by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games. The Baron believed Modern Pentathlon 'tested a man's moral qualities as much as his physical resources and skills, producing thereby the ideal complete athlete'.

"This mirrors our approach to the education we provide at Brentwood School. The wide variety of opportunities available to pupils help us to develop the all rounder, combining academic success with sporting achievement and an active appreciation of the arts. I hope the School's close involvement in the London 2012 Games will inspire our pupils to take on new challenges and seek to be the best they can."

# GENERAL COMMITTEE & OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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## MEMBERS:

<b>Athletics &amp; Cross country:</b>	<b>Rugby:</b> M. Staines	<b>Tennis:</b> S.J. Doran
T. Pailthorpe	<b>Football:</b> P. Loader	<b>School House OBs:</b> D.W. Tee
<b>Cricket:</b> N.J. Wood	<b>Masonic Lodge:</b> T. Faiers	<b>Hough House OBs:</b> M. Michael
<b>Golf:</b> G. Kingston	<b>Squash:</b> J.E. Stratford	

Michele Feneley • Mark Goodinge • Sarbjeet Singh • Ian Hannaway • Emma Jones • John Hubbard  
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## AFFILIATED CLUBS

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<b>Rugby</b>	Tim Faiers (as above) www.obrfc.org
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<b>200 Club</b>	Tim Faiers (as above)

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