

Darts/Dominoes/Pool Champions

Report by: Chris Puxley

It doesn't seem that long ago, that I was reporting to you of the brilliant sporting prowess of Silloth Rotary Club's "Darts/Dominoes/Pool" team. It was in May last year, when down in the bowels of the Golf Hotel at Silloth, they clinched the Rotary District 1190 NW Area Winter League Trophy.

On 24th October 2006, they've been and gone and done it again! This year, having been newly selected as the Team Sports Coach and having taken over the mantle from my well known fellow athlete and fitness guru, Charlie Harrison, I am very proud to report that our 12 man team of 'super-heroes' beat West Lakeland Rotary Club on their own turf.

It was yet another nail-biting final, this time played in the rarefied atmosphere of Moresby Parks Social Club. Some of you may know that this forbidding arena is located just a couple of miles inland, but at an altitude normally reached only by mule or sherpa. On this occasion, local mountain guide Margaret Carr transported us all in a specially adapted Markley charabanc with slipping fan-belt and studded tyres, that carried us towards

our opposition, and an uglier looking bunch you couldn't hope to meet! They obviously intended to teach us a thing or two on the finer points of darts, to knock the spots off our domino players and to seriously bruise the balls of our pool players.

However, we were not bowed or downhearted, having successfully undertaken several practice sessions at home and against weaker Rotary Clubs. Plus a secret training schedule that had also included special high altitude respiratory training. Team members had been encouraged to breathe using a vacuum mask designed by the wacky but ingenious engineer Rotarian Jack Nutall. Sessions had involved attempting to inhale the air from a reverse action Goblin carpet cleaner, which in the early experimental days had almost sucked the eyeballs out of Rotarian Jimmy Watson's face!

All the pain and separation from loved ones during training finally paid off. Silloth gradually set about demolishing the opposition. This was despite the worryingly weak performance of our ageing domino squad, who either felt mathematically challenged or were still suffering from altitude

sickness. One or two had been sat still for so long I was becoming concerned about the possible effects of deep vein thrombosis.

Having eventually won by the narrow margin of 13 points to 11, both sides then set about demolishing the magnificent buffet that had been laid on. A very successful sporting evening (for Silloth), was drawn to a close with the Award Ceremony. The delightful wooden fruit bowl, intricately fashioned from what, to some, would appear to be a selection of orange boxes and discarded pallets, was presented to Silloth by the NW Area Sports Officer Nick Jeffrey, from the Rotary Club of Workington Derwent. This was followed by a long and rambling thank-you speech by Charlie Harrison, (eh), enabling many Silloth players to catch a quick power nap.

Having again set the standard, Silloth must continue to work hard this year to retain the trophy for a third year. As Sports Officer, I will not rest in my endeavours to hone this team of armchair athletes into a force that will go down in the records as men of courage and determination, who shook the league to its core. And, as it happens, they're also all pretty good at fellowship!

Poems

The Blacksmith
by Whiskers

*In Beckfoot, there is a blacksmith called Sadie,
Who bends steel bars just for fun?*

*When she popped in the pub for a quick one,
The men in the vault, would all run.*

*The landlord announced, he's not frightened;
In fact he feared her no more.*

*Then as quick as a wink, she finished her drink,
And nailed his foot to the floor.*

Pirates
By Jemma Doughty
Age 10, Silloth Primary School

*We are pirates sailing the seven seas
Though salty water makes us sneeze
Drinking from our bottles of rum
Getting to treasure island before the days done*

*One of the crew's up in the crows' nest
I bet the cold air will get to 'is chest
Always searching for Davie Jones locker
Though some people say, "is off 'is rocker"*

*Sailing in a wooden ship
Letting prisoners have a dip
Looking at the treasure map
While me stupid parrot plays with me cap*

*"A hoy! me hearties Tim 'ere"
We're all dying for a drink of beer
Just hoping that the ship won't sink
But the captain won't let us have a drink*

*Suddenly the rain starts falling
From the crows nest calling
Storms a brewing!
I spies a ruin
Most men worry
And run around in a hurry
While the waves emerge from the depths*

*Dodging the ruins we do all the way
To our destination
It's a happy day*

RNLI Appeal

Silloth Lifeboat Station - Train One Save Many - Appeal Update

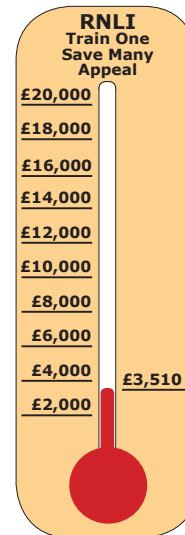
Since the launch of the Appeal in September, the current figure stands at £3,510.

Donations have been received from many individuals, groups and companies as well as some fundraising events that have got the Appeal off to a fantastic start.

The crew and fund-raisers are still actively raising funds and looking for offers of help. Your help may be as simple as giving a donation, or you may prefer to undertake some form of fundraising, such as running a raffle in your local pub, running an event or taking part in a sponsored event. We can provide support material, such as posters, sporting trophies etc.

If you would like more information or help with a fundraising event please call Eddie Studholme on 016973 61019.

The crew are delighted that Annette Gibbons, food writer and presenter, has agreed to be the patron of the Appeal.



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by
Matthew Middleton
aged 8 from
Holm Cultram Abbey School

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To help the volunteer crew of the Silloth Lifeboat by contributing to their Appeal, please send your donation made payable to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution to: Silloth Lifeboat Station Appeal, PO Box 12, CARLISLE, CA7 4WA.

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