

MERTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

BULLETIN

October 2020

http://www.mssc.org.uk/

Merton Sports and Social Club for VI People

(Charity No. 283843)

The Guardian Centre

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

I do hope this message finds all MSSC members and friends safe and well.

As I write this, we have just been placed in Tier Two, meaning that those of us living in Greater London are subject to even more rigorous restrictions, and it is impossible to predict when it will once again be considered appropriate to resume anything like the full range of club activities.

As ever, the MSSC Committee will continue to keep abreast of the guidelines and will of course listen to the views and feelings of MSSC members. However, protecting the health and safety of our members and activity leaders has to remain a firm priority.

Nevertheless, regardless of the uncertainty, the Committee is determined to look ahead with optimism and continues to explore funding opportunities. We have recently taken possession of the last two of four new tandems, funded by a Places to Ride grant from British Cycling, to add to the first of three tandems, funded by Groundwork London. We still have some of the grant left from Vision Foundation which will be used to subsidise pool hire and coaching when we can safely resume our Thursday evening swimming sessions, and a generous grant from the Wimbledon Foundation will hopefully support those sessions long into the future. Furthermore, the Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society has kindly awarded us a grant for first aid training which will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

With regard to MSSC’s AGM which had to be postponed due to the Covid crisis, the plan is somehow to combine this year’s AGM with next year’s. As the crisis goes on, it is looking increasingly unlikely that it will be a live event, but we are exploring options with the Charity Commission and will confirm details as soon as we have a firm plan.

For now, take care, stay well and keep safe.

Richard James

MSSC Chairman

**Email:** chair@mssc.org.uk

**MSSC VIRTUAL QUIZ**

The next MSSC Zoom quiz will take place between 7.00pm and 8.00pm on Tuesday 27th October.

The winning team and runners up at the last quiz had guide dogs in the house, so clearly had an unfair advantage. After all, it is well known that guide dogs are exceptionally intelligent and have great general knowledge!

Places on the next quiz will be limited and so will b allocated on a first come first served basis. Support is available if you would like help to set up Zoom on your phone, tablet or computer in advance. A link to join on the evening will be sent to you by email.

To book your place, email membership@mssc.org.uk

**MSSC FACEBOOK GROUP**

In the absence of MSSC’s usual activities, a great way of keeping in touch with fellow MSSC members is via the Facebook group, set up last year by Jules.

Even if you are not currently on Facebook, all you need to do is log on to the platform, click on groups, search for MSSC, and then request to join the group once you have found it. It really is very straightforward.

Please note, if you wish to communicate with the MSSC Committee, it is best to send them an email, rather than posting a message for them on the MSSC Facebook group, which is more of a forum for members to exchange thoughts and items of interest. They can be reached at committee@mssc.org.uk.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING CARDS AND BADGES**

If you would like to make others aware that you have an impairment which makes it difficult for you to social distance, you can download a printable card or badge via the following link:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/please-give-me-space-social-distancing-cards-or-badges>

You might also find wearing a Sunflower Lanyard helpful. It indicates the wearer has a hidden disability and is available via the below link:-

<https://hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/>

**THE NATIONAL THEATRE REOPENS**

Exciting news! While most theatre performances are only available online these days, the National Theatre has re-opened after seven long months, with a new play by Clint Dyer and Roy Williams, Death of England Delroy.

London 2020, Delroy is arrested on his way to the hospital. Filled with anger and grief, he recalls the moments and relationships that gave him hope before his life was irrevocably changed. Written in response to their play, Death of England, Michael Balogun plays Delroy in this new standalone work by Clint Dyer and Roy Williams, which explores a Black working class man searching for truth and confronting his relationship with Great Britain.

The audio-described performance is on Saturday 14th November at 2pm (with COVID safe touch tour at 12pm). Duration is 90 minutes with no interval. Access rate tickets (for VI patron and companion) are £20.

To book tickets, email boxoffice@nationaltheatre.org.uk or phone 020 7452 3000.

**ACCESSIBLE ARTS AND CULTURE ONLINE**

VocalEyes continues to bring arts and culture to life through audio description, from theatre stages, museums, galleries and heritage sites.

The Interval is a weekly bulletin, produced by VocalEyes, which lists upcoming accessible arts and culture events (predominantly online these days). To receive The Interval, email enquiries@VocalEyes.co.uk or to see what’s on, visit their website at www.vocaleyes.co.uk.

**A BIT OF A GIGGLE**

**An elderly man in Queensland, Australia, had owned a large property for several years. He had a dam in one of the lower paddocks where he had planted mango and avocado trees. The dam had been fixed up for swimming when it was built and he also had some picnic tables placed there in the shade of the fruit trees.**

**One evening, the old farmer decided to go down to the dam to look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a ten-litre bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the dam, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer, he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his dam. He made the women aware of his presence and they all retreated to the deep end.**

**One of the women shouted to him, 'We're not coming out until you leave!'**

**The old man frowned and replied, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the water naked.'**

**Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the crocodile.'**

**BLIND WRESTLER STEPS INTO THE RING**

A professional wrestler has spoken of the moment he lost his sight in a car accident at the age of nine. James Chilvers, aged 22, from

Norfolk, featured in a BBC Three documentary called Step into the Ring, which follows a group of young wrestlers.

James said: "The last thing that I saw were bright headlights and then there was this intense ringing in my ears. Instantly, everything that I did before, I could no longer do because my dad was drink-driving."

Trainer Zak Knight said: "The guy’s just got so much positive energy and so much determination that every session is a test for me. It's like, what am I going to do with this guy next week?"

Why not catch the documentary on BBC TV iplayer?

**MERTON VISION TECH HEROES**

MertonVision are looking for enthusiastic tech-savvy volunteers to help their blind and partially sighted members with a range of tasks including accessing the internet, online shopping, video calling and troubleshooting.

Merton Vision are also looking for volunteers with sight loss to help others learn how to use accessible technology, by providing support either over the phone or in person (following social distancing guidelines).

You will need to be patient and have good verbal communication skills. Experience of using accessible technology is desirable, but not essential as full training will be provided.

If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please do get in touch. Please send an email, detailing your experience, to Carmel.sammons@mertonvision.org.uk.

End of bulletin (edited by Terry James, MSSC Links Officer)