



*Friends of Albert Road Recreational Ground & Play Area*

**Chair's Report  
AGM – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

1. This AGM completes five years since my first election to the position of Chair of the Friends and seven years since the formation of FARRG. It has been a privilege to serve the local community and to work with all members of the Committee and our partners during this period. I believe that we should all be proud of our achievements in the Albert Road Recreation Ground over the last seven years. These have been the result of joint working, a partnership approach and, above all, the sense of community which now permeates literally everything that happens in the park.
2. Like last year, 2008 has been a year of continuous progress and further consolidation. It has also been the third successive year for which the Albert Rec has been awarded a Green Flag, an accolade which has this year been supplemented by another important recognition – the fact that the Rec has been named “National Tennis Park of the Year” by the Lawn Tennis Association: an accomplishment that would not have been possible had it not been for Robby Sukhdeo’s commitment and dedication.
3. FARRG has remained at the forefront of community activity in the park working closely with Haringey Council, the Pavilion and Haringey Tennis, local schools and other relevant agencies. As in previous years, community focused events have continued to be organised regularly with an increasing emphasis given to social activities including now popular Quiz Nights and a Christmas Party. The highlight of the year was a hugely successful Summer Jazz Day which gave the opportunity to local musical talent, including pupils from Alexandra Park School, to shine during unforgettable jazz performances which attracted large crowds of local residents and families. It is envisaged that this will become an annual highlight.
4. FARRG has also been active in establishing new alliances the most recent example of which is with Cancer Research UK in relation to a community based promotional event centred on the work of the charity which will be organised in the park next summer.
5. We have continued to monitor aspects of anti social behaviour and to act as a lobby group in relation to safety, security and other improvements required in the Rec. We shall continue to press for additional lighting.
6. A vitally important development this year relates to the submission of a planning application by Pavilion Tennis for the complete refurbishment of the tennis and basket balls courts which would include floodlights. This has been submitted on the back of The Tennis Foundation’s decision to invest more than £500,000 into Haringey with Pavilion and Albert Rec as their borough flagship. This is a strategic requirement for the sustainable development of the Ground’s core recreational facilities and has had our vocal and unequivocal support.



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7. As in previous years, the Pavilion has been at the centre of activity in the park. Our community work and virtually all of the recreational activities which take place in the park, whether it be football, cricket, basketball, Aussie Rules, community functions, mentoring, school sports, work experience related tasks, family sports days, BBQs, community centres and more, would not have been possible had it not been for the existence of the Pavilion infrastructure and resources.
  
8. I want to pay tribute to all of the people associated with delivery of improvements and enhanced activity in the last year: all of the voluntary members of our committee, in particular Joanna Christophides and Gianluca Lo Iacono, Haringey Council staff, in particular Tony Healey and Neil Armstrong, Robby and all of the Pavilion's staff and, of course, the many unsung community heroes who drum up support for our and the Pavilion's many events and functions throughout the year. This is a success story thanks to a combination of entrepreneurial spirit, voluntary community service and local people coming together in support of their local environment. Long may it continue!

Peter Droussiotis – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008