

Chair's Report

AGM – 22nd November 2011

1. This Annual General Meeting marks our 10th anniversary since the Friends Group was founded! We have much to celebrate since that time and I can do no better than record our many achievements over the last 10 years in this, my 8th, report as Chair (with apologies if I have missed anything!):

- **Formation of FARRG** - September 2001
- **Improvements to the Children's Play Area** including the addition of a new multi-coloured climbing frame and the installation of new riding equipment - September 2001
- **Launch of Haringey Tennis** - Summer of 2002
- **Opening of the Pavilion Cafe'** in the Albert Rec - 17th February 2003
- **Award of more than £6,000** from Haringey Council's '*Making the Difference' Area Assemblies*' Programme for enhanced facilities in the Children's Play Area - June 2005
- **Investment of £140,000** in the infrastructure and facilities of the Albert Rec, including the Children's Play Area, by Haringey Council – 2006
- **Award of Green Flag** - August 2006
- **Extensive improvements** and additions to the Children's Play Area at a cost of about **£25,000** – Spring 2007
- Award of **Green Flag** – August 2007
- **Oliver Tambo Memorial** - October 2007
- Albert Road Recreational Ground named **National Tennis Park of the Year** by the **Lawn Tennis Association** – June 2008
- Award of **Green Flag**- August 2008
- **Planning Application** for complete refurbishment of Tennis & Basket Ball Courts allowed by Haringey Council – December 2008
- **Albert Rec selected by Tennis Foundation** as a beacon site for Tennis, helping to attract huge investment - July 2008
- Award of **Green Flag** 2009
- **The widening and resurfacing of the footpaths** from the Pavilion to the entrance to Alexandra Park School – 2009

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- **The addition of new play equipment and a trim trail for the benefit of older children** following the award of around £15,000 by Haringey Council – 2009
 - **First ever 24 hour “Relay for Life” event held in Haringey at the Albert Rec**, organised by Cancer Research UK, FARRG and the Pavilion – raised more than £20,000; FARRG declared team award winner for “Most Money Raised” - July 2009
 - **Award of Sports Development Officer of the Year** by the Institute of Sport, Parks and Leisure to Robby Sukhdeo, FARRG Event Co-ordinator and Manager of Haringey Pavilion Tennis and Cafe' - November 2009
 - **Award of £300,000** from the Tennis Foundation for the complete renovation of tennis and basket ball courts in the Albert Rec - January 2010
 - **Works for renovation** for tennis and basket ball courts begins - February 2010
 - **Award of Green Flag 2010**
 - **Completely refurbished tennis and basket ball courts, including floodlights, delivered** – Summer 2010
 - **Haringey Council’s Football Plan launch combined with the Haringey World Cup Festival Finals** held at Albert Road Rec on World Cup Final day in South Africa – 11 July 2010
 - **Silver Gilt award by ‘London in Bloom’** in recognition of the first class community and partnership work seen at Albert Road Rec – 2010
 - **Award of Green Flag 2011 – 6th year in succession**
 - **Mayor of London Safer Parks Gold Award to FARRG** – May 2011
 - **European MEPs and LTA visit and showcase Albert Road Rec** and the facilities on offer – September 2011
2. As in previous years, FARRG has organised or contributed to a series of events and activities in the park throughout 2011, including the ever popular Jazz fest, an Easter Egg Hunt, Quiz nights at the Pavilion, FARRG family fun day in partnership with local community groups, Dinner at the Pavilion etc. The Rec is a hipe of sporting activity especially at week-ends when it caters for people of all age groups.
3. The provision of excellent tennis facilities and coaching under Robby’s outstanding leadership has established Albert Road Rec as a site of excellence in this field and Pavilion Tennis as a partner of choice for local schools and sporting people and groups. The Pavilion’s many sporting initiatives in the park and the continuing use of its many recreational facilities by a variety of diverse groups are a testament to the vitality of the place.



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4. I would like to mark our 10th anniversary by paying tribute to Robby Sukhdeo for his extraordinary contribution to this wonderful park and the local community in the field of tennis and sport generally, to all members of the FARRC Committee, the majority of whom have served without interruption since 2001: Joanna Christophides, Eddie Webb, Louis Webster, Gianluca Lo Iacono, Lucas BurrIDGE; also to our partners, Alexandra Park School and Rhodes Avenue Primary and their representatives on our committee St. John Starkie and Shane Claridge. My special thanks also on behalf of FARRG to Tony Healey, our long-standing Haringey Council representative and, of course, Neil Armstrong, our resident park keeper, whose contribution has been above and beyond the call of duty and who has made such a huge impact on the ground literally and metaphorically!

Peter Droussiotis – 22nd November 2011