

**Friends of Albert Road Recreation Ground (“Albert Rec”)
& Children’s Play Area (“FARRG”)**

Chair’s Report

AGM – 20th November 2012

1. This Annual General Meeting marks our 11th anniversary since the Friends Group was founded. The last twelve months have been characterised by new successes and achievements which have further enhanced the standing of our Group and the reputation of our park and of our key partner which is the Pavilion Sports & Cafe.
2. The main highlights of the year are as follows:
 - **Award of Green Flag 2012 – 7th year in succession**
 - **Mayor of London Safer Parks Gold Award to FARRG – 2012 – 2nd year in succession**
 - **Sainsbury’s Sport Relief Mile organised in partnership with Pavilion Sports & Cafe, England Athletics and Haringey Council - raised close to £6,000**
 - **Queen Elizabeth II Status Award to the Albert Rec - followed QE II Fields Challenge national vote with the Rec receiving the second highest number of votes in the country; this accolade provides enhanced protection and funding opportunities for our park**
 - **Selected as a Finalist by Fields in Trust for the ‘Getting Active on a QEII Field’ Award for our work to increase participation and activities at Albert Road**
 - **Selected as a Finalist by Fields in Trust for the ‘QEII Love Your Field Award’ for our work promoting Albert Road and the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge**
 - **Granted £1,500 by Haringey Council to support our annual ‘Jazz-fest’ and our QE II Award and 10th anniversary celebrations**
 - **Secured grants from ‘Freesport’ which have enabled Free Beginners Tennis sessions to be organised at the Rec over a period of several months**
 - **Set up an online Paypal Platform which enables members of the community to secure annual membership of FARRG**
3. As in previous years, FARRG has organised or contributed to a series of events and activities in the park throughout 2012, including the ever popular Jazz fest, the very successful Quiz nights, a 10th anniversary and QE II Award celebratory cocktail reception, charitable and other community events organised in partnership with other bodies such as Alexandra Park and Beyond, Marie Curie.

4. It is gratifying to see that the level of recreational activity at the Rec is at an all time high and that this includes groups of all ages and all abilities taking part in everything from tennis and basket ball, to football, Aussie Rules, Rounders and much more.
5. Key items on the agenda for the coming months and next year include the possible upgrading of the Pavilion Changing Rooms and securing funds to enable improvements to be made to these, and negotiations relating to the future use of the Bowls Club in respect of which FARRG has submitted a strategic proposal to Haringey Council.
6. Our achievements would not have been possible had it not been for the collective efforts of the Committee of FARRG but also of a number of other dedicated friends and volunteers who have made a particular contribution to different aspects of the Rec's life. It is my duty to thank Robby Sukhdeo for his continued commitment and leadership of Pavilion Sports & Cafe and all members of our Committee for their input, in particular Cllr Joanna Christophides for her very professional service as Secretary, as well as our partners for their interest and co-operation. I would like to pay tribute to Gianluca for his time-consuming work in delivering the Paypal platform, as well as to Emma and Lucas Burrige for their help in securing Freesport funding and to Emma, in particular, around her promotional work involving the tennis facilities in the park – the Friday Tennis and Social group which she co-ordinates has involved a significant number of new people in the Rec and has been an excellent addition to the range of activities on offer. My thanks go to Tony Healey and Neil Armstrong of Haringey Council who have sought to maintain the level of Council services despite budgetary constraints. Thanks also to Maria and Matt Beaumont for their excellent performances as our resident Quiz masters in the last couple of years.
7. Our success story is down to the collective effort of a large number of devoted volunteers and, crucially, to the unique partnership which we have been able to build with Robby and the whole of Pavilion Sports & Cafe, the Council and local schools. Above all, our achievements have been made possible by the way in which the local community has embraced and has championed this wonderful little park so that it is now recognised as a beacon site not only in London but also nationally. We must remain vigilant and alert to all future challenges in order to ensure that our many gains are consolidated and that these are never lost!

Peter Droussiotis – 20th November 2011