



Essex Boys and Girls Clubs

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2010-2011 Online News Archive

The following news articles were posted on the Essex Boys and Girls Clubs website in 2010-2011.

Eastern Rhinos take on Club Weekend in Lake District

The Eastern Rhinos are a Rugby League team based in Colchester with teams from juniors up to seniors.

The boys set off on their trip on a Friday for a weekend full of fun, exercise and building cohesion between the team. After a late arrival on Friday everyone spent a little bit of time relaxing down and getting settled in before getting some rest to prepare for the busy weekend ahead!

Saturday morning started early with a delicious breakfast at High Row, before the team headed off to the Whitehaven Rugby League ground. Whitehaven are a championship team and were very hospitable and allowed the Eastern Rhinos to train on the first team pitch in the main stadium (Recreation Ground), something the boys absolutely loved. Their awe-inspiring setting encouraged them to have a great training session that will not be forgotten any time soon.

We returned to the centre (which during the daylight we could see was set in the most beautiful setting surrounded by mountains in the Lake District) for sandwiches before setting off outside to get involved in some rock climbing and abseiling – anyone who said they were not a bit scared must have been fibbing! The boys worked really well together to give each other the encouragement and support needed to get the job done and to conquer the fear! A fantastic activity that in the fresh Lake District air helped build up an appetite for the feast that awaited us on our return to the centre!

Later in the evening on Saturday everyone gathered in the living room to play games and to partake in Elliott's 'Pub Quiz' which was pretty tough in places, but the team were not concerned as they scored extremely well – especially in the sports sections!

Another early start on Sunday led to a mountain bike ride through the woods in the lake district which turned out to be quite testing – a few punctures later and the boys made it back with a smile on their faces. After lunch some more outdoor activities brought the boys to the top of a mountain after an incredibly challenging 2 hour walk that pushed everyone's fitness and stamina but proved to be such a rewarding challenge, and something that many of the boys were extremely proud to have achieved. Again, an experience they would never forget – the views from the top of the surrounding mountains and countryside was breathtaking even for a teenagers!

Unfortunately Sunday was our last day and we had to make the homeward bound journey – one that was made in silence as everybody slept the whole way!

Elliott Levy

Great Sampford's take 1st and 2nd at Night Ex!

Below are the results for this years Night Exercise which took place at Spaynes Hall Farm in Great Yeldham. Despite the fog and mud everyone finished taking part in various challenges on their way around the course! Congratulations to Great Sampford's Bravo 3 who were super quick and deservedly crowned champions. As always a massive thanks to the volunteers and club leaders for getting the young people there. The fog made photos a bit tricky on the evening but there will be some photos added to the facebook page, so check them out by clicking the logo on the homepage.

Here is the final result table.....

Team	Club	Time	Position
Bravo 3	Gt Sampfords	107	1
Bravo 4	Gt Sampfords	139	2
Bravo 7	Boreham YC	141	3
Bravo 6	Boreham YC	167	4
Delta 5	Last Resort	170	5
Bravo 5	Chelmsford	183	6
Bravo 2	Gt Bardfield	206	7
Bravo 8	East Tilbury YC	213	8
Delta 8	East Tilbury YC	221	9
Delta 6	Chelmsford	223	10
Bravo 1	Wickham St Paul	234	11
Delta 7	Boreham YC	244	12
Delta 2	Gt Bardfield	256	13
Delta 4	Gt Sampfords	267	14
Delta 1	Wickham St Paul	269	15
Delta 3	Gt Bardfield	293	16



U16 Rep Squad Fixtures and Results.....

The Representative Football Tour to the North of England started on Monday 18th of April. Fifteen players from *Canvey Island Boys Club*, *Brentwood Athletic FC* and *Woodham Radars FC* took part in the tour which included the Inter County Tournament; the NBC Cup.

A friendly against Carlisle Academy on the way up to High Row gave the boys a chance to brush up their skills ahead of the NBC Cup games which were played against Northumberland and Durham. After staying the night at the EBGC High Row residential centre on Monday, a day of outward bound activities followed with the team scaling a number of peaks in a grueling walk led by Mountain Leader Susan Hughes and Gerry Smith, who kindly agreed to drive the minibus.

On Wednesday we travelled across to Sunderland where Grindon Youth Club kindly hosted us. A 6pm kick-off that day saw us play against Durham in the NBC Cup. The boys fought well against a technically and physically strong Durham side. Two goals from set-pieces meant the score ended 3-0 to Durham. The next day was a similar experience against Northumberland, although the lads will feel aggrieved at the 4-1 score-line which did not reflect the closeness of the tie.

The season culminated with the chance to play Tottenham Hotspur academy at their Chigwell Training Ground. Despite losing 7-0 in the end, the boys put on a fantastic display, eventually being undone by the superior fitness of Tottenham.

At the end of the game Luke Taylor (*Brentwood Athletic FC*) was awarded the Graham Dady Trophy for player of the season. The trophy is awarded for performance both on and off the pitch and Luke Taylor's exemplary attitude, as well as his consistency throughout the season made him a more than worthy winner of the accolade.

Previously....

Christmas and New Year brought with it a glut of rain, snow and general misery for amateur football clubs. Whether carpeted with cold white stuff or a foot under water, most grass pitches in Essex have been more suited to fishing and snow-holing than playing football.

Unfortunately this meant that the EBGC Rep. side did not have a chance to play their second trial friendly against Rowhedge FC before going into the big games against Southend Utd. U15s and Ipswich Town U15s. Subsequently the final squad had yet to be determined so it was necessary to experiment with a number of different players in the games against the two professional clubs.

The first of these games was played under floodlights against Southend Utd. on Thursday 27th January at the impressive Basildon Bowl pitch in Gloucester Park, Basildon. In the first half the lack of football played over the previous two months was evident as EBGC conceded in the first 5 minutes to a soft goal resulting from confusion amongst the defence as they attempted to spring the offside trap.

However after the initial shock of conceding so early the boys soon settled down and began to string some passes together. Despite a period of exceptional play from EBGC they still could not find the back of the net and were guilty of a couple of glaring misses. Southend however were slightly more ruthless in front of goal and a penalty as well as a goal that looked suspiciously offside meant they went in at the break 3-0 up.

In the second half EBGC came back strongly; although they still could not open their account. However signs of intelligent play and exceptional work rate were encouraging. EBGC conceded just one goal in the second half as fitness began to tell in the latter stages and a poor clearance left the Southend winger with a free shot from the edge of the box.

Next up was the Ipswich Town match played at their state of the art training facilities on Playford Rd. With a lot of new faces in the team EBGC started very well, defending stoutly and keeping the ball well in midfield. Ipswich took the lead after about 15 minutes with a superbly struck free-kick from the edge of the box. EBGC worked incredibly hard to break down the Ipswich team but it was difficult not to marvel at the regimental discipline displayed by the home side as they broke down play and counter-attacked quickly and effectively.

At half-time the score was 3-0 to Ipswich. However EBGC continued to give them a run for their money, closing down in all areas of the pitch and defending stubbornly. As the game wore on players began to tire and the quality of the Ipswich side became more telling. Despite this EBGC were incredibly unlucky not to score on a couple of occasions on the break.

At the final whistle the score was 6-0 to Ipswich. Despite the score, the players can be extremely proud of their efforts and it was heartening to see that all of the lads were still upbeat after the game. Opportunities to play against sides like Ipswich Town and Southend Utd. are unique and it was evident from their performance that all the players appreciated this. The most important thing for them to take from the day was the experience, not the result, and judging by the reactions and sportsmanship shown by all the players both on and off the pitch, this was most certainly the case.

CDH



Rochford Young People Take Up Boxing Challenge

For the past eight weeks young people between 16 and 19 that are not in employment, education or training (NEET) have been attending boxing sessions at St Marks Hall, Rochford for an hour and a half on Wednesday evenings.

The sessions focussed on footwork, movement, straight shots to the head and body and defence work but just as importantly on how to conduct themselves in a boxing environment. The young people have a risk of becoming offenders, re-offenders, unemployed or single teenage parents. In the first week the NEET young people were asked to fill out questionnaires, which ultimately showed that their self esteem and aspirations were not as high as they could be.

Over the 8 weeks some 40 different young NEET people from Rochford attended and took part in boxing activities with the aim of getting two NEET young people onto a boxing leaders/tutors course. After the eighth week participants completed follow up questionnaires and it was evident that as well as improving their boxing skills and fitness that they also grew in confidence, motivation, discipline and punctuality.

Jackie Pope St Marks Parish Hall Manager and Rochford Citizen of the year said "It is brilliant to see my angels with dirty faces to be so motivated towards something and enjoy this project so much, they really have all grown in confidence."

The Rochford NEET programme will run for another 8 weeks with 2 NEETs attending the next leader/tutor course and continuing the boxing sessions as an ongoing activity delivering it themselves.

We are now trying to get role models from the boxing world to come down and talk to the young people to inspire them even further. Such projects are now being planned for Basildon, Thurrock, Southend and Castlepoint.

AP



Easter Cup..... the results are in!

Its Easter again which of course means time for the one and only EBGC Easter Challenge Cup! It was held at the infamous High Row where the four teams from five different clubs, Out There Club, RYLA, Colchester Senior Members Club, Carousel After School Club and St Stephens Youth Club came together to form 4 teams to contend furiously to win the cup!

Starting on the Tuesday the four teams had to injured an eventful journey to the Lake District in a minibus. Once finally arriving at High Row the teams underwent an introduction to the staff and each other while the traditional first night meal, spaghetti bolognaise, was cooked. After dinner and team building the teams took part in the first of 11 challenges, the Stretcher Race. Teams had to use maps to find different pieces of equipment to build a stretcher for carrying one of their team mates from a first aid scenario; this was all done in the dark. The second challenge of the week was also started with teams being tied together and taken in a dark boggy field and told to get back to the High Row Youth Centre with being caught by the other three teams this was known as the escape and evade challenge. Two teams completed the challenge with the other two teams not being stealthy enough. With one of the teams, OGC, thinking they'd won the challenge by getting back in a record time of eight minutes there time was then smashed by the West German Sheep Farmers who unbelievably ran behind all of the searching teams and back to High Row in a blink of an eye arriving back in just three minutes 20 seconds.

The teams were scored between one and four with the team with the highest score at the end of the week being the winning team. After each activity and challenge the teams were judges on their team work, ability, skill and motivation. All of the teams worked well together and had a healthy amount of competition towards the other groups. Each team also had their own personal skills such as the Out There Club members very efficient with the climbing and ropework activities while the RYLA team were better at the navigation challenges were as Colchester Senior Members team was better at the physical challenges such as mountain biking.

Over the week the Challenges the teams completed were; Stretcher Challenge, Escape and Evade Challenge, Hill of Man (Mountain Biking), Mountain Biking Relay, Thompson Challenge (Climbing Prep/ Knots), The Big Quiz, Canoe Race, The Canoe Trial, Abseiling, Rocking Climbing, Night Navigation, Hiking , Cooking.

Under Supervision of staff and taking it in turns each day the teams prepared and cooked their own meals. This built on team work and gave them self achievement as everyone ate the meals and enjoyed them. Of course where there's meals there's washing up this was also done by the teams with help from staff.

At the end of the week the young people all helped to clean and keep High Row in a spick and span condition for others to use. It was all done quickly without any fuss which made the teams even more impressive than they already were. Once it was all completed the Presentation of the Easter Challenge Cup was unveiled the scores and places are as follows;

1st With 42 points - West German Sheep Farmers (OUT THERE)
2nd with 31 points - OGC (Colchester Senior Members/ Carousel/ St Stephens)
Joint 3rd with 22 points TLC (OUT THERE) & Undecided (RYLA)

All the teams worked hard during the week and made it enjoyable for everyone involved including the staff.



Brentwood Looks Back at Champion Season!

If you go to Fairfield Road in Brentwood you will probably think there is just an old run down tyre depot, but if you walk into the small door at the front you will see some of the hardest working volunteers and young people in the boxing world. As the boxing season draws to a close Brentwood Youth ABA can look back at what has been a very successful year and all still in the clubs infancy.

The club on the inside has great facilities and a big area for training which is now open 6 days a week and with 3 sessions an evening. The club have held three boxing shows this year and has boxers competing every weekend with a number of Essex Junior and Senior champions as well as their newly crowned National Senior ABA Champion John Dignum.

Brentwood Youth ABC also give the young people more opportunities than just boxing as they entered events hosted by Essex Boys and Girls Clubs which included winning the CYP Cross-country event beating 60 other runners in the event. Their champion's trophy was presented to them by the Mayor of Chelmsford whilst showcasing their skills to the public in the High Chelmer shopping centre earlier this year. This also saw Brentwood ABC enter the Brentwood half marathon as a team, which was great for the boxers fitness tests, increasing the clubs profile and their team work. They also ended up winning the Brentwood half marathon and again proving that boxers are the fittest and toughest people out there.

Brentwood ABC are currently in the process of achieving Clubmark which is an ABA accreditation to show that a club is working efficiently and is a safe environment for young people. They have a strong committee and volunteers have specific job roles in the club to make sure all bases are covered. Joe Taylor club leader said "we are pleased with the squads performance over the season and obviously Johnnys win in the elite championships but there is still a lot more to come from Brentwood Youth ABC."

To finish off a successful season Eddie Hearn the managing director of Matchroom sport who produces events such as Prizefighter and the Premier league darts visited the club. Eddie said "people that run clubs like this need a medal, if it wasn't for these people the sport would be dead on its heels. I would like to support clubs more at grass roots level in the future with anything I can help with. People like MP's and politicians need to come and see the sport first hand and see the discipline and camaraderie that these clubs give young people" Eddie stayed for well over an hour talking with boxers, volunteers and parents. Hearn's promotion of boxing is increasing with the signing of high profile boxers such as Carl Froch, Kell Brook and Darren Barker.

European champion Darren Barker attended with Hearn and gave the boxers at Brentwood Youth ABC an opportunity to ask questions about his amateur days and advice to becoming a champion as well as the chance to wear Barkers European and Commonwealth belts. Barker being an Essex boxer it was his first visit to the gym and when asked what he thought about it he said "It's a fantastic club and it's great to see an amateur club so busy which really shows you the sport is full steam ahead. This really is the grass-roots of the sport. You hear people talk about grass-roots football all of the time and this is the grass-roots of boxing and we want more European champions from these clubs with them bringing more blue belts back to Essex."

Barker was signing gloves, posing for photos and talking with the boxers about advice and future fights. Brentwood Youth ABC now looks to attend Barkers next fight where he defends his European middleweight belt on July 23rd at the Brentwood Leisure centre. This will be a warm up fight for Barker before he challenges Sergio Martinez for the WBC World middleweight belt on October 1st in America.

It has not all been about champions and winning at Brentwood Youth ABC this season as they look to find a permanent facility to move to. Their private landlord was recently turned down for planning permission on the building and it is only a matter of time before the landlord applies again or increases the rent. If this is granted then this will leave Brentwood Youth ABC without a home and in an unsustainable place for the future so the search for a new facility is now in process.

AP



Up the Creek with some Paddlers!

Over the May Bank Holiday Weekend a group of 12 paddlers and 2 support crew embarked on the 49th Annual 100m Canoe Test on the River Wye.

The challenge takes place over 4 days and is a stern test of both mental and physical endurance. Fortunately this year the paddlers were kept fueled by the culinary expertise of Charlie from the office; providing a range of meals of unsurpassed quality!

The challenge was extremely successful for EBGC as all but 2 of the team (thanks to injury and illness respectively) managed to complete the 100miles.

Special praise should go to Mike Fisher, for retaining his record of being the first to capsize every time he gets in a kayak! Also to Alex Bottoms (*Upminster CC*), who discovered that trying to stand up in your canoe during the first 3 miles of a 30 mile day is not conducive to staying dry and warm! Finally to all of the young lads from *2nd Upminster Scouts*, *Upminster CC* and *Linford Wanderers FC* who finally managed to get Dave Hassard (who had by that time earned the nickname 'Mein Fuhrer' for his ruthless efficiency in ensuring the team did not lag behind the pace) in the water on the final day!



Shooting Championships 2011

Once again we were blessed with fine weather for our annual inter club competition held at The Herts. & Essex Shooting Association, Little Leighs, in the countryside north of Chelmsford.

The competition was between teams of four shooting in an indoor range over 10 metres using our 0.177 air rifles. The range was supervised by Simon Reinhold of the BASC, ably assisted by Jamie Drummond, EBGC.

Volunteers from HESA set up their Field Target range and the competitors enjoyed testing their skills using our guns in the open air. The motorised stag target proving to be very popular.

The boys also tried Clay shooting expertly supervised by gun club members.

Welcome refreshments were provided by Jan and Dave from Chelmsford Boys' Club and a very enjoyable day was had by all.

In addition to our regular participating clubs we were pleased to welcome boys from the Massive Project, Hockley and Felsted Youth Club.

Trophies were awarded to the team Winners and Runners-up and the 'Top Guns' were awarded a trophy and HESA medals.

Teams

U14's

1st	Massive Project	230
2nd	Chelmsford/Linford	227
3rd	Sampfords	220
4th	4 Youth	175
5th	Felsted	115

U16's

1st	4Youth	311
2nd	Sampfords	247
3rd	Chelmsford	226

Top Guns

U14's

1st	Bobby King	Linford	83
2nd	James Potton	Massive Project	81
3rd	Aaron Farthing	Sampfords	74

U16's

1st	Ciarren Lewis	4 Youth	85
2nd	Russel Monk	4 Youth	79
3rd	Sam Day	4 Youth	76



All the Latest Rep Cricket Squad News

Both the U12 and the U14 Representative Cricket Teams have been busy in the early part of the season with prestigious friendlies being played against some of the country's top public schools.

The season started with 2 games against Uppingham School at both U12 and U14 level. The U12s won their game comfortably with Mohsin Zamir (*Frenford Clubs*) taking 4 wickets for no runs off 2.4 overs as well as scoring 13 not out. The U14s were subjected to a somewhat sterner test against the Uppingham U14 A team, eventually drawing the game with Trashant Patel playing a careful 23 not out to see EBGC through to the finish.

Next followed a game at Eton School for the U14s, playing against Uppingham U15 D team. Despite a good performance in the field from EBGC Eton ended up scoring a massive 223 from their 30 overs thanks to some big hitting from the Eton no. 6. In reply a magnificent innings of 91 from George Pritchard (*Halstead Colts CC*) proved to be not enough to reach the total and EBGC finished on 162-7 from 30 overs.

Both the U14s and U12s enjoyed victories over Kimbolton School. Mohsin Zamir (*Frenford Clubs*) and Connor Boreham (*Orsett CC*) were the star performers in an extremely close match for the U12s. With the bat the scored 21 and 12 respectively and with the ball Connor recorded figures of 2-11 off 5 overs and Mohsin 15-4 from 4.5 overs, including 2 wickets in his final over to win the match by one run. In the U14s a superb bowling spell of 5-6 off 3.2 overs by Max Bryant helped EBGC to dismiss Kimbolton U14A team for just 59. Jamal Ahmed (*Frenford Clubs*) then took the initiative with the bat helping to win the game by 8 wickets with his 36 not out.



National Citizen Service (NCS) 2011 - the first Summer of Fun

When most people might expect teenagers to be relaxing in the summer holiday sun after their GCSE's, sixty young people from across Essex instead volunteered to join the National Citizen Service programme. Delivered by youth charity Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, in partnership with Catch22, the project was part of a government pilot which saw 7,000 young people across the UK do something positive in their communities this summer.

"An adventurous baptism of fire"



Touted by the government as 'The Summer of a Lifetime', this turned out to be more than just fun. Starting with a week away in the Lake District for groups of young people who didn't know each other, this was a whole set of new experiences. From hiking up mountains and abseiling down cliffs, to climbing waterfalls and sleeping in 'bivvy bags' amongst swarms of highland midges, this was no walk in the park. Those first few evenings of setting up camp got the four teams talking, giggling and bonding ready for the long days ahead, where they helped each other up mountains and across rivers. Working with experienced mountain leaders, youth workers and volunteers from Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, the group learned more about themselves and each other than they ever expected.

"A week at Stubbers"

Where the first week was an adventurous baptism of fire, the second week was full of more activity. Camping at Stubbers, the 130-acre adventure centre in Upminster, Essex, the groups overcame fears of water, heights and the dark as they built rafts, scaled the climbing wall and high ropes, and tunnelled underground. They attended training sessions too, on first aid and drug awareness, as well as discovering the work done by Guide Dogs for the Blind and the opportunity to work towards a trek to Nepal with Essex Boys & Girls Clubs. Over the course of the week they planned how they would make a difference...



"Teams of Teens Spruce Up their Communities"

The Volunteer Projects and Social Action plans were what these teams had been working towards. Having planned, researched and organised how they wanted to make a difference in their communities, each of the groups spent week three making it happen. One group were concerned about the environment and headed down to Grays Beach to clean it up, as well as bringing new life to a community walled garden by tidying it up and planting fruit trees, making them both safer and more attractive places to visit. The other two teams were both interested in helping people in the community. One gave Cardfields Environmental Centre in Hatfield Peverel a garden makeover and refurbished the BMX track, while the other group met and chatted with the elderly residents of Collins House Care Home and spruced up the staff room at Heatherbrook Care Home in Romford for the hardworking staff.



"Honoured by the Queen's representative"

So, last night, Monday 3rd October, the groups of young people and their proud families came together with project staff, volunteers and partner agencies to celebrate their achievement at Thurrock Civic Chambers. Three of the teenagers - Jessica Douglas, Cissy Chhoi and Elizabeth Babalola - spoke about their experiences, enthusiastically and with confidence, to a packed room full of buzz and positivity. The High Sheriff of Essex – Lady Ruggles-Brise DL – presented everyone with certificates of achievement, and thanked them on behalf of the Queen for volunteering their time to do such good work in their communities.



This was a fantastic example of young people getting involved in their community and making a difference. All who took part in this 'summer of a lifetime' have developed new skills and created great memories that will help them on their journey through life.

Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, delivering in partnership with Catch22, is proud to be part of this journey and we look forward to [next year's National Citizen Service Programme](#).

