

Introduction

Here we are with our second newsletter. Somewhat very late, but for very good reasons. We have all undergone various surgeries!! However we still managed to keep everything going, so here is a brief report on our activities.

Cherie, Lucinda & Ida.

ACTIVITIES

WWT London Wetland Centre: The Wetland Centre is described as “An escape in the city - the countryside in the heart of the town”. It is full of lakes, water birds, gardens and has a wonderful adventure playground. Being suitable for all ages, we were able to include all the C4K children of different ages. They walked around the nature reserve ending up in the adventure playground, after a delicious picnic lunch. They also had an education in wild life and enjoyed the lakes and huge green spaces. No time to get bored - everyone enjoyed the day tremendously!



Water games



Suspension Bridge



The zipwire



Group photo



Looking at nature

IN-HOUSE: Our ‘In House Event’ included the usual outdoor games such as football, badminton & swing tennis, etc. Indoors the children did arts and crafts, as the central photo below shows them making Mother’s Day cards. The plus about ‘In House Events’ is that the volunteers are able to spend quality time with the children and give them the attention they need. We actually have more male volunteers than female, which is amazing! We also arranged for a dance teacher to come in to give a breakdancing class (bottom right picture).



Outdoors



Making Mother's Day cards



Breakdancing

'CHEER'S GOT TALENT' 😊 - OUR RISING TENNIS STAR, SABIEN. A REPORT ON FROM ONE OF HER TENNIS COACHES:-

Sabien started playing tennis at the age of 6 years with coach Sebastian. The tennis coaching started in 2017 with Cheer Trust informally approaching me about offering Cheer children after school tennis. They offered to fund this venture and it has been running ever since.

In the early days there were challenges with behavioural issues with some of the children, but this soon improved, not only on the tennis court but also in the classrooms as we received positive feedback from the parents.

Over the years Sabien improved dramatically and G tennis offered her (and some of the other Cheer children) free extra classes so she could really get up to speed with her skills.

Last August Chris and Catherine from G Tennis took Sabien to the Surrey County Fun Day, where the LTA coaches chose children for their County training squad, and Sabien was selected! Since then she has been



Sabien and Chris Marshall from G Tennis

going every two weeks to the All England Club Training Centre in Raynes Park to practise with 12 or so other girls her age.

Last week a team of five girls was selected to represent Surrey against other local counties, and Sabien was again one of the chosen girls! This is an incredible achievement on her part as most of the girls in the squad have had a lot of private coaching.

We are all hugely proud of Sabien's achievements because tennis very rarely finds local kids from hard-to-reach backgrounds excelling like this! The relationship between Cheer Trust and G Tennis is something very special, and a lot of the older children like Sabien's older sister are volunteering as coaches. They will get a chance to receive their coaching badges in years to come. This will hopefully lead to employment opportunities and great inspiration for the next generation of local kids in our community.

Chris Marshall
Grassroots Tennis



INTERVIEW WITH SABIEN

This is a Q&A between Cherie and Sabien & her mother Helen. Sabien lives with both her mother and older sister in London. Her mother originally came from Ethiopia and she has been bringing both daughters to tennis these last 3 years. Sabien recently celebrated her 9th birthday. She is a very quiet and shy little girl. The tennis coaching was started by Cherie and is now run by Ida:

Q1. Sabien, was there any particular reason why you decided you wanted to play tennis?

I was doing gymnastics but Ida spoke with my Mum and said there were free tennis lessons and would me and my sister like to join. We watched people playing in the park and my Mum said, 'you could be good like them'. So I said, 'yes I'd like to'. So we joined the Cheer tennis group.



Q2. Did you like tennis when you first started playing?

Yes, I really did. I liked it because it makes me feel calm and happy inside.

Q3. How has tennis changed your life?

It hasn't really changed life at the moment except I play more tennis and a lot of friends are really happy for me.



Q4. Have you got any goals for your future in tennis?

Yes, I would like to win a grand slam.

Q5. Were you surprised when you got into County Tennis?

Me and my Mum were excited and I was very happy to be chosen.

Q6. Do you watch Wimbledon on TV, because I know Ida encourages everyone to watch it each year?

Yes, I do. I follow it all the time. Ida quizzes us about Wimbledon every time we meet at the tennis classes. And Chris gives me video clips of Wimbledon tennis players to watch their style.

Q7. Who is your favourite tennis player?

My favourite tennis player is Ons Jabeur from Tunisia. She is ranked No.2 with WTA. I like how she does lots of sneaky shots. She's unpredictable and knocks the ball back with lots of control.

Q8. Would you like to attend Wimbledon in person this year?

Yes, I would like to very much. But I don't know if we can get tickets this year.

* * * * *



Father Christmas at The Chelsea Physic Garden:-



We were invited to extend an invitation to some of our Cheer families to see Father Christmas at the Chelsea Physic Garden. It so happened that Father Christmas was one of our C4K's volunteers, Julian 😊

Here is what two families said about the trip:

"It was simply brilliant. The day made us so happy. We really enjoyed it. I have never seen a place so beautiful in London. Thank You Cheer!"

"Thank you we enjoyed it very much. To visit the venue made us so happy. My kids thought it was really Santa! A really wonderful outing."

"Oh my goodness it was so beautiful - Father Christmas interacted with the children which was fantastic and even the staff in the building were so welcoming. It was the best Christmas event we have ever been to. It was warm, the smell was very festive and the place was highly decorated and atmospheric - came home and got ideas about decorating my own place

with fairy lights even on the branches of my dead plants! LOL!"

Cinderella:-

We also got tickets for Cinderella at a wonderful amateur theatre, which incidentally could have been a show in the West End! We had a great turn out for this. The children were completely riveted the whole way through the performance. The mother of one family of six children (they all came) said:

"It was great. The kids had a blast and I loved it as well. Thank you Cheer so much."

"Between Father Christmas and Cinderella it completely made our Christmas."

"Thank you very much for organising the pantomime, we all really enjoyed it. Two little girls couldn't take their eyes off the stage for two hours. Such a great show. Thank you so much for everything last night, for the lift and for the generosity from Cheer and LAC (Lantern Arts Centre). A free show is VERY special. Big thanks."



You can donate to Cheer by:-

Cheque payable to:

CHEER TRUST
c/o 23 Calbourne Road
London
SW12 8LW

Bank Transfer:

BANK: Barclays Bank.
NAME: Cheer Trust
SORTCODE: 20-67-90
ACCOUNT: 00502200

Or online by going to either of these giving portals:-

Stewardship (GIVE.NET):

www.give.net/cheertrust

Stewardship



Scan Me

PayPal Giving:

www.paypal.me/CheerTrust

PayPal



Scan, Pay, Go.