

## Fundraising day report

First I'd like to mention the 35 juniors who between them served **987** serves into a household bucket placed in the back corner – try it; it isn't easy.

When they started I was a little apprehensive that my target of 500 for them might be a little harsh. How wrong I was. The attitude of these kids to do their bit can be displayed by no better example than Amy Rogers - 9 years old, and set 10 serves into the bucket. She would not stop until she completed it. 1 hour 50 minutes of serving later, the 10<sup>th</sup> serve disappeared into the bucket and her reward – a rip-snorting blister on the right hand thumb!

Other notable performances include Dan Cochrane and Chris Bond hit a staggering 126 and 104 buckets each!

Onto the half marathon then. 2164 lengths. 13.1 miles up and down the court. It wasn't the first few lengths that were the most daunting, but perhaps after about 40 minutes and 600, when we'd got 1500 to go and another two hours!

As time went on, it was a case of trying to turn avoiding a certain movement, then 15 minutes later ruling out another twist of a ligament, until you started running out of options. Don't bend your left knee too much this way...your right ankle too far that way.... whilst not putting too much pressure through your right Achilles on the push off whilst simultaneously not landing too hard on the ball of your left foot.

If truth be told, many of the worries Chris and I had, turned out to be not too bad. I have knee troubles, and Chris has painful feet. Each of these caused some discomfort but nothing as much as we had imagined.

At about 800 lengths Natalie turned up with an iPod docking station (music facility for our older readers). I knew it was my lucky day when The Smiths "Panic" came on random play first, followed by Pulp. This brought furrowed brows and sneers from Chris and Rees (our guest runner at this point) – they will learn - so I flicked through until I found one of Natalie's Rhianna songs which seemed to cheer Chris up!

Whilst all this was going on Helen and Jess Cochrane were running the cake and rackets stall. A roaring trade was being done. More of which later.

We did get quite a few new arrivals who to my dismay would join us, race off and Chris would enjoy being able to pick up the pace a little. This was definitely not in my plan and I told him in no uncertain terms to slow down. He ignored me, though I must thank him for occasionally stopping to let me catch up.

The hardest part was the last (predictably), mainly because adrenalin got the better of me with 200 lengths to go, and the random choice of the iPod was an upbeat Ray Charles number "Night Train".

This felt great for about 20 lengths and then I started to wilt somewhat with 180 lengths to go. However, it was just a case of holding on and getting it done then.

We had great support both on court with seniors and juniors all doing a few lengths (special mention to Lucy Green (10) who must have ploughed through 300 lengths at least) and off from supporters, hecklers and counters. We completed it in 2 hours 28 minutes, though I'm sure Hally could do it much quicker without me.

Thanks then to Helen and Jess Cochrane for running the shop, Roger, Dawn and John Wilson for general organisation, anyone who counted serves or lengths, all the juniors for their efforts in serving and getting sponsors, all the cake makers, the sponsorers, Martyn Kerry who under duress gave me a pint of Strongbow on the house (hope you don't get into trouble Martyn), SJ for donating loads of rackets and stuff, Prince for donating rackets and a bag, and anyone who came down to lend some support for the kids, Chris and I.

What are the results? Well we won't know the final total for a few weeks, but a best estimate would be, including gift aid contributions, somewhere around the £4000 mark. A remarkable effort for one day's work –thanks and congratulations to you all.

The goals were threefold; to raise some money for the MS Society (who will get ~£2000), to raise some money to go to a fund to go to possible build costs for a 6<sup>th</sup> court (again ~£2000), and finally to raise a little awareness that this was still an option for the club. In my humble opinion, progress on this had stagnated. There was a lot of discussion at GC level and no action. Since the fundraising day was scheduled we have some progress, in that it has been agreed that there will be a vote on the issue at the forthcoming AGM. The exact wording is to be decided, but you will have your chance to have your say on this issue.

Success all round then, and dare I say that fun was had by all??

Estimated Breakdown.

Sponsorship for Chris and I	~£1650
Sponsorship for the juniors	~£1000
Cake receipts	~£97.50
Racket/other sales	~£450
Gift Aid	~£840