

## GIYM AUTUMN NEWS 2019

We have had a busy Autumn so far, all very positive!

With the new school term beginning our programmes have got off to a great start and our children are enjoying their GIYM tennis lessons. So far this year we have delivered tennis to 18,456 children and 359 children through our disability programme; next year we want to reach even more. I am pleased to report that more of our programmes have introduced the Give It Your Max Plus programme, which is aimed at those children transitioning from primary to secondary school. Our hope is that this extension programme will offer them a little continuity at what can be a very turbulent time for some. Part of this programme offers the LTA Leader's Course, helping teach our children important leadership qualities and hopefully broadening their mindset regarding their future potential.

On the events side our Co-Founder Tara Stotesbury held a bridge event at the All England Club where 120 people came together for a fun social evening to play bridge, have dinner and socialise with fellow players. It was a really lovely evening and given its success and popularity, one that we would like to run every year. In October we held a fundraising golf day with the IC Philanthropy Foundation at The Berkshire. A few weeks later we had our annual Coach Forum at The Wimbledon Club. Dan Bloxham, Head Coach of the All England Club did a fantastic job on-court demonstrating various drills for our coaches to take away with them. It's a great opportunity to thank our coaches for the work they are doing in the community and for everyone to share best practices and challenges they may have experienced along the way. We had a fantastic turnout and it's always a very inspiring day.

We were thrilled to have our pro-player ambassador, Heather Watson, visit our Grenfell Community programme in early November. We had 30 very excited children present at the Kensington Leisure Centre. The Metro and Daily Telegraph joined the day to capture the special moments with the children and to talk with Heather in more detail about her role as a Give It Your Max ambassador and what it means to her. It was a wonderful day and so lovely to see so many happy children playing tennis, I am not sure who had more fun, Heather or the kids! Please see some of the media pickup on the day;

<https://metro.co.uk/2019/11/06/getting-upset-at-losing-a-tennis-match-seems-so-ridiculous-heather-watson-reflects-on-her-first-emotional-first-visit-to-site-of-grenfell-tragedy-11042878/>

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/qwyy9sv3psdb6fx/HW%20Give%20It%20Your%20Max%20\[16x9\].mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qwyy9sv3psdb6fx/HW%20Give%20It%20Your%20Max%20[16x9].mp4?dl=0)

Moving forward we are busy planning exciting fundraising events for 2020, working with our ambassadors and sponsors, it looks to be an exciting year.

May I take this opportunity to thank those who have supported Give It Your Max in 2019 – we could not have done it without your support. We have achieved a lot this year and we are looking forward to achieving even more in 2020!

Abigail Tordoff  
Give It Your Max CEO

## GIYM PROGRAMME UPDATE 2019 - 2020

The 2019/20 tennis year has started well for the Give It Your Max programmes. With the introduction of programmes delivering to schools within deprived areas in England and Scotland (using pupil premium and SIMD percentages respectively), our programmes are providing more opportunities than before to children who would not normally have the chance to play the sport of tennis. This year also sees the introduction of a minimum 5 weeks delivery to a school class, providing greater opportunity for the children to experience the benefits of playing sport for a longer period and to increase the chance of wanting to continue to play tennis outside of school.

We welcome Croydon to our programme locations in 2019/20 which will be based out of Ashburton Park and led by GLL. This is a fantastic new project and the programme will be linking with 4 schools with a pupil premium above 30% with an after school offering on the newly refurbished courts at Ashburton Park. Rhys Hanger (GIYM Tennis Manager) said following a visit in September 2019 "I am very excited to see the impact this programme can make in the Croydon area. We know the benefits that tennis can have on young people and with the schools programme and after school offering for the community in Ashburton Park we can only see this programme having a positive effect in the area."

GIYM is also very pleased to confirm that the GIYM pilot in Leek during the summer term 2019 was a success and we will be continuing to support the Leek Tennis Club with its ambitious programme to make tennis available to all children across all the school years from 5 – 18 years of age. GIYM will provide funding for the schools programme delivered to children aged 5 – 10 years of age at the local first and middle school, with an after school programme also funded for the children who wish to play outside of school hours.

In 2019/20 we will be working with 16 programmes around the UK and will continue to look to grow our GIYM Plus programme (children 11+ years) launching more pilot programmes in the summer of 2020.

We are into our final year of our five-year agreement with the Tennis Foundation, funding inclusive tennis programmes within 6 SEN schools around the UK. In addition to these schools, we will look to continue the delivery of an inclusive programme at Lonsdale School in Hertfordshire which also supports programmes in local mainstream schools to children with disabilities.

Below highlight's the impacts of our programmes in 2018/19:



- 132 primary schools in the UK received GIYM tennis sessions
- 14,880 children received school coaching
- 3,576 children participated in GIYM funded after schools programmes
- 359 monthly participants took part within our disability programmes with the TF\*

Rhys Hanger  
Tennis Manager – Give It Your Max

## GIYM PLUS

Our Lewisham and Northampton programmes reported great success in delivering the Give It Your Max Plus Programme in the summer of 2019. The GIYM Plus programme is aimed at the 11+ age group and specifically those children who have been part of our in-school programme and who are now transitioning into state secondary school.



Lewisham is in the 2nd year of delivering the programme and now has a pool of 20 players who attend the sessions with several of the players now being trained as Leaders and supporting in the delivery of tennis in the community. Northampton led a 10-week pilot programme starting the course with 5 players and after only 6 weeks had doubled the numbers to 10 players attending the session. With this being a difficult age to get into tennis or an age that players stop playing it is great to see that in such a short period of time both programmes are engaging this age group within their areas.

In 2019/20 we will be offering an enhanced GIYM Plus programme within our programmes in Birmingham and Lewisham offering a 20 week programme for children aged 11+ years with a tennis Leaders course held in the summer term.

## HSBC – MEDIA PANEL/Q&A

During The Wimbledon Championships 2019, HSBC invited GIYM to participate in a Q & A media session with Tim Henman (OBE) and Lindsay Davenport, hosted by BBC commentator Andrew Cotter. The morning started on Court 20 with The Wimbledon Foundation speaking about the ticket resale scheme which allows tickets no longer being used to be sold on to anyone already in the grounds. This initiative helps to raise considerable funds for the Foundation which supports many local charities including Give It Your Max.



Andrew Cotter then invited Tim Henman (OBE) and Lindsay Davenport to answer questions from the Give It Your Max children from our Merton programme. Tim and Lindsay came up with some fun and entertaining answers to the children's excellent questions and Andrew kept everything moving along with great humour. After all the questions had been answered the balls and rackets came out and Tim and Lindsay fed balls and hit with the children which was an amazing experience.

Once all the media interviews had concluded GIYM then ran a coaching clinic with lots of ball skills and drills and a competitive finish to the session. With the support of Wilson Sporting Goods we were able to hand out sweat bands and key rings to all of the children participating in the session and all the children



went back to school having had a great morning and a big dose of inspiration.

Our thanks to HSBC for inviting us to take part in the morning.

## COACH FORUM 2019



In October we hosted our annual GIYM Coach Forum at The Wimbledon Club, which included a coach education session in the morning and an update session and group discussion in the afternoon.

The morning session was led by Dan Bloxham (Head Coach of the AELTC), with the focus on working with children in small spaces, developing players over a 5-week programme, and setting standards within a group environment. Dan led the session with such enthusiasm providing 20 coaches with a fantastic 3 hours of coach education. One of the coaches commented; “loved the on court with Dan Bloxham - his batteries never seem to run out” another said “it was a really enjoyable and informative day. Learned a tonne from Dan and Rhys regarding the charity's goals and standards”.



After a quick bite to eat, Abi Tordoff and Rhys Hanger presented the successes of the previous year and the future vision and aims for programmes within the GIYM network in 2020/21. Chris Howard from the Lewisham programme then provided a talk on his journey in Lewisham parks and how he has delivered the GIYM and GIYM Plus programmes and the success that he has had with them. This was followed by a group

discussion around different aspects of programme delivery giving programme managers and coaches a chance to interact and learn from each other's experiences.



The day once again highlighted how lucky we are to be working with such a passionate group of community focused coaches. They are all making such a huge difference in the areas that they work around the UK.

## GRENFELL TOWER COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATE

Throughout 2019, GIYM funded 18 two-day tennis camps for local residents aged 5-12 years old, led by GLL. The camps were designed to support the community to be physically active, targeting those affected by the fire in Grenfell Tower. In total, 319 different children took part with a total of 517 spaces taken throughout the year, with many children continuing to play tennis after the camps.



Each camp was two consecutive days in duration, with two hours of coaching per day. Two venues were used for the camps: Better Kensington Leisure Centre and The

Curve Community Centre. Each session included a dynamic group warm up, racket and ball drills, competitive match play, and fun and engaging team games. The focus for day one was forehands and serves, whilst day two centered on backhands and volleys. All coaching was delivered by LTA accredited coaches.

Attracting such a high number of local residents was extremely positive and helped ensure we delivered a service for those most in need. As well as the obvious physical benefits, each pupil developed their tennis ability and improved social skills through interacting with the other children. The technical drills were also designed to promote teamwork by working together and provided opportunities to build self-confidence through captaincies.



After each camp, KLC noted an increase in the number of weekly tennis lesson and course sign-ups, demonstrating that the children were continuing their engagement in tennis and many of them had only experienced tennis for the first time a few days beforehand.

## BARNET AND MIDDLESEX INCLUSIVE TENNIS EVENT

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Give It Your Max ran an inclusive tennis open session for three local primary schools at Barnet Burnt Oak Leisure Centre. The open session provided local children with the opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends and have fun in a safe and friendly environment.



The session consisted of coach led skills stations that followed the start, middle and end game situations that players must contend with during a tennis match. Each station was led by an experienced tennis coach with the support of assistants and volunteers to ensure all participants got the most out of the skills being taught.



Each station included a tennis specific warm up, the development of tennis racket skills and the introduction of game-based skills and activities. These activities included serving, rallying (forehand and backhand) and volleying skills.

In total, 30 children attended the event with 15 carers and volunteers present. The event was a great success and the children all thoroughly enjoyed the session. We would like to thank GLL and the Barnet Partnership for School Sport for delivering this session. Participants came from Woodcroft Primary School, Orion Primary School and Goldbeaters Primary School; all schools that participate in regular Give It Your Max sessions.

Finally, we would like to thank the Middlesex Sports Foundation who kindly awarded us a grant to enable this session to take place.

## EVERYBALL TENNIS

GIYM is very proud to have created an association with Everyball Tennis, the coaching programme at Halton Tennis Club. Mike James and James Morgan have been very supportive of GIYM and ran a Pro-Am to raise important funds in 2018. In September 2019 GIYM has been further supported by Everyball Tennis, with parents and players being able to donate £2 to the charity when signing up to the Everyball training programme at the club.

Rhys Hanger (GIYM Tennis Manager) said “We are so pleased to have created such a close link with Everyball Tennis. The programme has a huge emphasis on developing young people and players and have many children playing and benefitting from the sport of tennis. This is a real chance for the tennis community to be able to support a charity that is looking to provide less fortunate children with the opportunity to experience the benefits of tennis and sport. We hope this will be the catalyst for links with other clubs and thank Mike and James for their vision in being the first to support us in this way”



James Morgan from Everyball Tennis said “Everyball Tennis at Halton UK are proud to be supporting GIYM this Autumn. After a terrific Pro-Am event last winter, we decided to add a voluntary contribution option to our booking area of the coaching page. We have been delighted with the response and this has served to raise awareness and generate much needed funds for the charity.”

We are also excited to announce that Everyball Tennis has agreed to run a 2nd Pro-Am later in December 2019 to raise further funds and we look forward to reporting on this in the Spring of 2020.

If you or your club would like to look at ways to support GIYM in the future then please contact Rhys Hanger by email at [rhyshanger@giveityourmax.org](mailto:rhyshanger@giveityourmax.org)



## TONY PORTER TENNIS TOURNAMENT



We have been very fortunate this year that Porter Tennis in Essex, who ran their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual charity tournament on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October in memory of their Dad who passed away in December 2017, chose GIYM to be the charity it wished to support in 2019. Rachel and Matt Porter felt they really wanted to raise money for a charity that supported a sport their Dad loved especially in introducing children to tennis in deprived areas throughout the UK.



The event was run as a sponge ball doubles tournament with over 100 entrants participating in 4 group stages and a last 16 knockout draw. Everyone could play no matter of age or standard and there were many competitive and exciting matches throughout the day. Rachel said, "it was great to see the sport of tennis bringing so many people together and we even managed to raise over £1000 for GIYM".

GIYM thanks Rachel and Matt for choosing to support us and raising an amazing amount of money to put back into our tennis programmes around the UK. We also wish them huge success as they continue to develop junior tennis players in Essex.

We really loved the look of the cakes made for the event (pictured).



## BEECHWOOD PARK SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Beechwood Park School held it's first ever 'Wimblewood' in aid of Give It Your Max. It was a relaxed family charity tennis day topped to the brim with summer sunshine and strawberries. In order to enter the tournament, half of the doubles partnership had to be a pupil who played alongside any other family member. If a child wanted to play and was unable to find a partner from their family the school partnered them up with a member of staff. Each pair paid an entry fee which included two servings of strawberries and cream. A raffle was up for the taking and in the build up to the tournament children from across the school helped out with selling tickets. On the day all players were given the opportunity to win a prize by dressing up as their best John McEnroe. It was a family affair with lots of non-playing family members picnicking at the sides of the court.

We were absolutely delighted to receive just over £1000 from the school for their fundraising efforts on the day. Our thanks to all of those involved in the organisation of 'Wimblewood' and special thanks to Headmaster of Beechwood Park, Edward Balfour, for approaching GIYM and offering to host this event. Edward was Max's housemaster during his school years and it is Max who Give It Your Max was set up in memory of.

## PROGRAMME'S FUNDRAISING IN 2019



In the summer of 2019, we set the challenge for some of our programmes to run an event at their club or venue to raise awareness of the GIYM programme within their local community whilst raising funds through donations and entry fees. The challenge was taken up by Edgbaston Priory, Lewisham, Hythe and GLL using their venue in Sutton.

Lewisham ran a mini orange team challenge followed by an adult American tournament whilst Hythe organised an inter-schools' event. In Sutton they ran a player/parent team tournament and Edgbaston Priory ran a family tournament, played on different sized courts followed by a round of beat the coaches. It has been great to see these programmes try a variety of ways to engage people into a charity awareness event around their programme and to raise much needed funds to put back into the GIYM schools programme.



In 2020 we look forward to growing our programme fundraisers and will be looking to have a GIYM awareness event across all our sites as well as other tennis clubs who would like to support GIYM in the future.

We would like to thank Wilson Sporting Goods for donating headbands, wristbands, key rings and grips to participants of these events.

## GOLF DAY

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October GIYM hosted a joint charity golf day with the IC Philanthropy. We welcomed 80 golfers to The Berkshire Golf Club which was a stunning venue with challenging golf on offer for our guests. After 18 holes, golfers were treated to a delicious 3 course lunch followed by prize giving. Auctioneer Nick Bonham sold off 7 fantastic lots including two luxury villa holidays, a beautiful oil painting, tickets to Wimbledon and Glyndebourne, a trip to the Monte Carlo Masters tennis and a box at Ascot racecourse. The event raised around £15,000.



## BRIDGE EVENING



Our first ever charity bridge evening, held at the All England Club at the end of October was a huge success. We had 120 bridge players on the night and there was a wonderful atmosphere in the room with everyone enjoying their cards as well as a delicious supper, preceded by a short wine reception. Fantastic raffle prizes were on offer and the tickets were snapped up by our guests giving them the chance to win a whole host of items including wine tasting, personal training sessions, luxury gifts, a tour of the V&A and many more! A magnum of pink champagne was handed out to our winner at the end of the evening. After great feedback and over £3000 raised we hope to add this to our calendar of events again for 2020.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep an eye on our website and social media for dates of our 2020 events. We will look forward to another wine tasting evening at Bonhams, a golf and tennis day at Bradfield College, a dinner at The AELTC plus some new and exciting events, more details of which will be shared soon!

## STAYING IN TOUCH

You can follow GIYM on the following social media platforms:

Facebook [www.facebook.com/giveityourmax](http://www.facebook.com/giveityourmax)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GiveityourMax>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/giveityourmax/>

and of course, you can keep up to date with all the latest information at our website [www.giveityourmax.org](http://www.giveityourmax.org)

***GIVE IT YOUR MAX***

Gets kids playing tennis