



EDITOR'S WELCOME

It's been an incredibly challenging year for everyone, as we know, but it looks like the end is in sight! The vaccine is moving into distribution and you should get your inoculations soon. Keep following the rules and try to support your family and friends as well as you can. It won't be long until we are able to return to some semblance of normality.

As usual, if your club or society would like to feature here, please email Graham Devereux at chairman@orc.org.uk. Don't forget you can visit our website at <http://www.orc.org.uk> – and we're also on social media; all the details can be found at the bottom of the page.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN, GRAHAM DEVEREUX

I was listening to Dame Katherine Grainger (Olympic Gold in rowing and now Head of UK Sport) recently and her comments struck a nerve. She was able to perfectly summarise why so many of us get involved in our beloved sports and activities, and why they mean so much to us. Here's a précis of what she said:



During 2020 we lost our Olympics, many global events, international events, and gradually local events were all shut down as we were gripped by the pandemic. Consequently we missed our communities, we missed our friends, their camaraderie and the human connections that allow us to build alliances and friendship networks.

In the interests of sports we wear team colours & tattoos, we wave flags, we buy endless merchandise that we don't really need – but that human connection is what we do need, it's a basic, fundamental desire. We sing, we chant, we clap, we shout at the TV in frustration and cheer in joy (who does that?). We rise to our feet inexplicably in unison and we shamelessly hug strangers in tears of victory or defeat.

We struggle to explain these wild emotions that are so extreme – about something that means nothing really.....which gives way to those immortal words "it's only a game"after all it's all just play isn't it? And yet it has the power to energise us, to provoke passions and to provide meaning for so many. From international athletes, to children's after school activities – the smells, the sounds, the feelings of live sports thrill us but also have the ability to provide another critical element of humanity: hope! There's always the chance of next time: in that next game we will win, we'll be better, we will overcome the challenge! The great Nelson Mandela said: "...*sport has the ability to inspire and bring us together like nothing else!*"

So as we move through 2021 we can look forward to our vaccination programme which will allow us to get back to where we want to be. We can look forward to the return of the sports and activities that we all like to engage with: to watch, to listen, to play. And it looks like it's going to be a bumper year for everyone where we will see the following:

Olympics and Paralympics
European Football Championships
The Ashes in Australia
The Ryder Cup & Solheim Cup
Rugby Union Lions Tour
Wimbledon

Rugby League World Cup for men, women & wheelchair athletes
And the sporting calendar will fill up fast around the country. It's not going to be an easy journey but locally we are well placed to move fast as we have a fantastic volunteer network dedicated to helping the health of our community. One of the key reasons why Overton is such a great place to live!

Happy New Year Everyone – stay safe, stay healthy.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE ORC

- **Your Monthly Prize Draw** –Emma and her team of helpers are still managing our normal schedule of monthly prizes – good luck!
- **ORC Sports Facilities** – the grounds team have been maintaining our facilities so that they are ready for action as soon as permission is granted. We wish Kevin Ratcliffe a speedy recovery following his knee operation.
- **Football – OUFC:** contact Gary Savory – garysavory@dynamicplanner.com
- **Football – Overton Youth:** contact Ian Clarke – ianclarke@icsafety.co.uk
- **Cricket** – contact Andy Galvin – andrewgalvin@talk21.com
- **Harriers:** contact Sean Holmes – sean.holmes1970@gmail.com
- **Tennis:** available to book through Bob Pallister – 01256 770643 & robertpallister49@gmail.com
- **Golf:** Town Meadow Golf Club is open but you must follow the clear guidelines
- **Art Group:** - contact Mary Reid for advice mary.reid@outlook.com
- **Walking For Health:** - check the booking system - www.basingstoke.gov.uk/healthwalks
- **Pilates:** pilates classes are online – please contact Cath Wheeler – see orc.org.uk.
- **Move It or Lose It!** - postponed until further notice. Contact Nicky on 07469923997 / nicola.carter@moveitorloseit.co.uk
- **Scouts/Cubs:** get in touch with Stuart on stuart_gray2@yahoo.com

Whilst we have a great volunteer network please get involved where you can – get in touch!

PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

- Overton Business Association – designing and creating a village “Welcome Pack” & supporting Sustainable Overton
- Overton Parish Council – we are collaborating to find better ways to serve the health needs of the community
- Watership Down Medical Practice – developing an approach to improve your health locally
- Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council – aligning to and cooperating with area sports strategy
- Overton Primary School – through the hard work of Dennis Rowles we have re-started to cut the sports field here to help accommodate improvements in healthy activities
- Test Valley Golf Club –youth golf at Town Meadow GC via lessons from Professionals is delayed
- Southampton Football Club – assistance with youth coaching
- St. Mary's Church – building wider relations in the community

Website: www.orc.org.uk / Facebook: “Overton Recreation Centre

Twitter: [@orc_overton](https://twitter.com/orc_overton) / Instagram: [@overtonrecreationcentre](https://www.instagram.com/overtonrecreationcentre)

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