

8th November 2023



Cheque for £1,800.00 handed to Guide Dogs for the Blind Charity



A letter of thanks addressed to the members of Fareham Bowls Club, Leigh Road, Fareham was received after its generous donation of £1800.00, which was raised throughout this years outdoor bowling season.

Members raised funds from the beginning of its season in April through to the season closure in September. This included a dedicated charity 'all-rounder' tournament, held in July which showcased a selection of different bowling skills, some of which were easier than others.

The event was a great success despite the inclement weather in the afternoon. There were guide dogs and their owners in attendance too, and an opportunity to speak to their owners and find out more about the charity and the process of training a guide dog.

Charlie Bailey, President at the club for 2023 said: "I am delighted with the response of the members to raise such a significant amount of money. Having the guide dogs and their owners representing the work that the charity does at the charity event, was the real highlight.

Understanding the benefits that these dogs give their owners and how important the charity's work is to the blind and partially sighted community is very humbling.

Despite the bad weather on the day, we were able to still go ahead with the skills tests in the morning. There was a buffet lunch with donations and a raffle with a huge number of prizes.”

Lynda Cook from Gosport attended with her guide dog Vivvy, she said: “Thank you to all of you here today. Vivvy loves everyone! Our guide dogs are so precious to us as they help us to live fulfilled lives.

With Vivvy by my side I can put all my trust in her. However, she doesn't like the rain and will often steer me into a café, so she doesn't have to get wet. I have had seven guide dogs myself and I could not imagine my life without one to assist me in everyday life.

Fundraising is vitally important to the charity to support the training programme of these dogs which costs £50,000 a year per dog. The need for dog fosterers is also a crucial role of the training programme. If you want to know more about this role visit the charity's website for more details www.guidedogs.org.uk “

Photograph supplied by Clive Jackson

Photograph caption: Fareham Bowls Club Charity Event (left to right) Charlie Bailey, Lynda Cook, Ben Good, Rosemary Bailey and Joe Gowling (a Fosterer with the charity.) Guide dogs, (Left to Right) Vivvy, Stamp and puppy Ada soon to embark on her training.

Visit www.guidedogs.org.uk ‘As a **Training Dog Fosterer**, you'll be giving a dog in training a loving home whilst they embark on their journey to become a guide dog. You'll get to see the progress your furry companion is making in their training and be a vital part of their journey, without the commitment of looking after a dog full time.’