



Race to give toddler Robin a fighting chance to survive

By Lynn Winton

Just after his first birthday, Robin Samuel was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, which is a high-risk cancer that in the UK still has one of the lowest survival rates. Now in remission, he has endured eight cycles of chemotherapy, a stem cell harvest and a nine-hour operation.

Parents Rachel and Nick, who live in a rented flat on Tetherdown, N10, are desperately appealing to the community for funds to enable Robin to travel to Barcelona to undergo urgent treatment which is unavailable in this country.

Rachel, who works for The National Literacy Trust, explained to me that this is crucial as it will give Robin the highest chance of survival with far fewer side effects. His current course of treatment has cured his cancer for now, but there's a 50% chance of a relapse.

Immunotherapy

The next step in the UK would involve yet more of

his current regime. The risks include deafness, fatal infection, infertility and leukaemia. But the alternative treatment of just five rounds of the state-of-the-art immunotherapy, as yet only available overseas, will train his immune system to recognise and kill cancer cells in the future and enable him to grow up healthy.

Rachel and Nick have set up a Crowdfunder page. The amount they need to complete Robin's course of treatment is £300,000 and in less than three weeks, at the time of writing, they have already raised £75,000. This has accumulated largely thanks to a huge number of people pledging relatively

small amounts, mainly from their local community in East Finchley and Muswell Hill.

"The truth is," Rachel told me, "that one day this will be offered on the NHS but it is not right now and Robin can't wait. If we can take him to Barcelona in September we are looking at our little boy being cured before his second birthday and going on to live life as a healthy adult."

Raising the money

As well as the Crowdfunder drive, Rachel and Nick are planning multiple fundraising events. Nick, a composer and saxophonist, is tirelessly performing at gigs in and around north London.

If you would like to help Robin, here's how: the Crowdfunder QR code is below, or you can go to crowdfunder.co.uk and search using keywords "Robin cancer london". You can also follow their planned events on twitter @savebaby-robin. Rachel and Nick can be contacted on 07399 447705 or rachel.samuel@myyahoo.com



Fighting for the best chance: Robin's parents Rachel and Nick



No time to spare: Robin Samuel has been through many rounds of treatment for neuroblastoma

Fees introduced for tennis in Cherry Tree

By David Melsome

Fees of £8 an hour for adults have been introduced for the first time at the tennis courts in Cherry Tree Wood. Until now, playing on the courts has been free.



Coaches from TPTennis running free sessions at East Finchley Festival in Cherry Tree Wood. Photo: Tetiana Shedko

Barnet Council has brought in the charges at the courts in all its parks. Adults will pay £8 an hour, with concessions at £4 per hour. Annual season tickets are available for £35 a year for adults, and £15 per year for under-16s and over-60s.

But there is some good news as free-to-play courts will be available every Monday to Friday, from 10am-11am, 4pm-5pm and 5pm-6pm. These and all sessions must still be reserved via the council's online booking portal.

The two tennis courts in Cherry Tree Wood now have

PIN access gates, which became active last month, and the new charging model launches on Monday 4 September. Banners and posters were being installed to advise players of the changes.

The courts were fully refurbished with new Tarmac, nets and markings two years ago after the poor condition of the playing surface was highlighted as dangerous. They are not flood-lit and the park closes each day at dusk. The adjacent basketball court is not affected by the charges.

For more information and to book, go to barnet.gov.uk and search 'Tennis in Barnet'.

Indoor car boot

The next Muswell Hill Indoor Car Boot Sale takes place on Saturday 30 September from 10am to 1pm at Hornsey Parish Church Hall, on the corner of Cranley Gardens and Park Road, N10 3AH. Admission is 50p and refreshments are available. Buses W7, W3 and 144 stop nearby. For more information, contact 020 8368 8180.

Serious incident on Beresford Road

By Janet Maitland

Police were called to reports that a man had been assaulted in Beresford Road, N2, at 12.20pm on Tuesday 22 August. The London Ambulance Service treated a man in his 30s with a head injury and took him to a major trauma centre as a priority. His injuries are not life threatening.

A 31-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm. He was still in police custody at the time of going to press. Enquiries into the circumstances continue but The Archer has been told a baseball bat was allegedly involved.

"This was a drunken affray ending in one of the men being hit over the head causing con-

cussion and bleeding," said Jan Lovell, from the East Finchley Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Anyone with any information is asked to call 101 or tweet @MetCC and quote crime reference number CAD3380/22 Aug. You can also provide information anonymously to the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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