



COUGAR DOME CHATTER – 14th EDITION

Chatter Readers – hello!!! First and foremost, before I share any of the Dome excitement, I have to apologize to all of you (as well as the Truro Daily News) for not having shared a Chatter column in far too long!!! It's for good reason, but that's no excuse, and I can assure you, it will not happen again!!!

Over the last few months, with the harsh winter, and the growing need for indoor recreational opportunities, we have been busy, both with regular day-to-day activity and users, as well as the needs arising as a result of the weather (i.e. snow removal, maintenance, and physical plant requirements). Sidebar: We were the only Dome left standing this winter, which is something we are very proud of! Add to that, the fact that we are always looking ahead, and have been busy developing new programs and initiatives, soon to be released, and one could say, our plates have been pretty full.

However, to combat that challenge (which is a great problem to have, I might add), and in hopes of building on our accomplishments to date without sacrificing any of the things we do best, we are in the process of hiring a new Facility Manager. Although a slightly different role than the one I've held over the last couple of years, the new Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Dome, while I will focus on business and program development, community relations, funding initiatives, and more. We're a small Team, but we work really well together, and we're very much looking forward to having someone new join the mix.

Speaking of mix, although this should have been done MUCH sooner, I would like to take this opportunity to send a huge shout out to the incredible mix of volunteers, silent auction donors, and performers who contributed to our Blast From the Past Auction & Dance fundraiser earlier this year. With music provided by the McCready Brothers, Kitchen Trio, Country Bill Huey, Jim Richard & Rusty Cage, Family Ties and Wayne Delaney, the night was filled with music, and impersonations to suit every taste! On the auction front, no one left disappointed as the items ranged from one of a kind autographed jerseys to ethnic inspired, home cooked meals, prepared by some of our own Members; what a treat! Needless to say, the event was a great success, raising more than \$7,800 in just one night! Thank you all!

Now, I know Thanksgiving is the time when we are supposed to express our gratitude, but we have a lot to be thankful for here at the Dome, and I don't think it's ever a bad time to say thank you, so in keeping with that theme... It is time we also thanked our extremely generous All Sorts of Sports March Break Camp volunteers, who once again donated their time to lead our morning "Intro to Sport" sessions each day. The kids had a wonderful time, and some,

having been exposed for the first time, found a new favorite sport, and a love for being active. That's what it's all about!

Last, but not least (although we have a number of other individuals we should be taking the time to thank as well), I would like to highlight our snow removal crew and staff. For those who have been here, you know why these individuals are worthy of public thanks! Dome snow removal is no easy task, and with the winter we had this year, for them to continue coming back to ensure our Dome was ok, well, I can't thank you enough!!! Jeff McCavour, Matt Shapleigh and Ryan Crowe, as well as our countless additional crew members and volunteers, truly, I wish to express our sincere gratitude for all that you do. It most certainly does not go unnoticed.

Ok, I know this is starting to sound like an acceptance speech at an Awards Ceremony, so I will move on to share with you a few of the happenings going on at the Dome.

Joining forces with the Truro Tennis Club once again this year, the Cougar Dome is excited to announce the official opening of the outdoor season on May 15th! Staffed with friendly faces, and outfitted with beautiful, clean blue courts, and all of the equipment you need, we invite you to take a trip to the park to play some tennis!

With a new round of lessons beginning outside on June 2nd, open to all ages and ability levels, now is the perfect time to get prepped for a summer filled with time on the courts. If the weather's an issue, all play moves inside to the Bubble, so there's never a need to reschedule. Come check us out – 2015 is going to be a great year for tennis in Truro!

In addition to tennis, Truro Soccer's Women's 7 Aside teams continue their play at the Dome, while Truro Minor Football enters in to a new session of spring play beginning later this month. Ultimate Frisbee and golf continue to draw those wishing to better their game prior to hitting the grass, and pickle ball fills our Friday nights, with those patiently awaiting outdoor play. Bubble Bump Soccer, although still new, seems to be a favorite, and one all should try, at least once (can you tell, I'm a huge fan)!?

Much like Bubble Bump, noting that we are always open to trying something new, on May 24th from 10:00am-2:00pm, we will be hosting the first-ever Colchester Summer Camp Registration Day. Recognizing that Colchester has an incredibly diverse range of summer camps offered each year, and noting that parents (myself included) like to offer their children an array of experiences over the summer months, we thought it might be fun to give all summer camp vendors an opportunity to join in a one day registration event here at the Dome. For parents, the event will serve as a one stop shop, allowing all to plan out their entire summer, in just one day. With groups including the County of Colchester, the Marigold Centre, Spartans Gymnastics, and many more, there is going to be a wide selection to choose from. Don't miss out! Entry is free.

Alright, I have taken way too much of your time, so I will sign-off, but as always, it's been great chatting with you!