

## **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM**

**MONDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2013**

### **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM HELD AT THE STAFF YARD, PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS, LONDON NW5 ON MONDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2013 AT 6:30PM.**

#### **Present**

##### **Members:**

Bob Slowe (Chairman)	-	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Highgate Harriers Committee)
Marc Hutchinson	-	HH Winter Swimming Club/ Heath & Hampstead Society
Dave Bedford	-	London Marathon Trust
Rudolph Benjamin	-	HH tennis coach
Richard Sumray	-	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (London Council for Sports and Recreation)
Richard Priestley	-	Highgate Harriers
Simon Taylor	-	Hampstead Rugby Club

#### **In attendance**

Jeremy Simons (Hampstead Heath Management Committee Chairman)  
Ben Pochee (Highgate Harriers)  
Graham Norris (Highgate Harriers)  
Kate Jenrick (Highgate Harriers)

#### **Officers**

Natasha Cendrowicz	-	Note taker (also Highgate Harriers)
Simon Lee	-	Superintendent, Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	-	Manager, Parliament Hill
Paul Maskell	-	Leisure & Events Manager, Hampstead Heath

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from John Carrier.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 2 October 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising**

AOB – Camden Representative (item 9) Paul Maskell reported that discussions were ongoing with Camden regarding a replacement for Erin Bunting on the Forum. Although Camden were not planning to appoint a dedicated Olympics officer, it was hoped that a new sports representative would be appointed in time for the next meeting.

AOB –BMF Paul Maskell reported that discussions had taken place with British Military Fitness regarding opening up the franchise for an open air fitness operator, once their contract was due to expire.

4. **Charging Policy**

A report by Simon Lee regarding a draft charging policy was considered. The Chairman thanked Richard Sumray for his input in the preparation of this report. The Chairman noted that the City of London were happy with the principles suggested.

During the course of discussions, the following points were made:

- The Chairman favoured taking three or four sports for detailed consideration each year, resulting in prices being set for three years, with adjustments for inflation.
- Dave Bedford felt that the order in which each sport was considered was important. He favoured including athletics in the first tranche of sports and different types of sport should be considered in any one year.
- Richard Sumray referred to an iterative process which needed to be adopted to make the pricing policy and what was driving each policy, clearer.
- Richard Sumray stated that diversity needed to be a consideration when looking at each sport.
- The Chairman noted that swimming was not within the Forum's remit, as it was already dealt with at the Swimmers' Forum.
- Simon Lee felt there was merit in taking the policy to the Superintendents' meeting, for it to be considered for adoption by the Open Spaces Department and also by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) Simon Lee prepare a list of sports and venues, with a suggested order, for consideration at the next meeting; and
- ii) The contents of the report be supported.

5. **Update on Places, People and Play**

A number of architectural drawings, setting out proposals for a new cricket pavilion, were circulated by the Simon Lee. Simon Lee

explained that two phases of construction were being considered. The first phase would cost £60,000 to £80,000 and included construction of a veranda and changing rooms. The second phase, would cost £80,000 and involve extending the facility and creating larger internal changing rooms. He reminded the Forum, that due to ongoing spending constraints, the City of London was not currently permitting any new capital projects. Even with the match funding element, it would be difficult to make a case for the remaining funds to be released.

A discussion then took place regarding whether funding from other sources could be found to secure the money from the Places, People and Play, to build a new cricket pavilion. David Bedford was asked whether the London Marathon Trust might consider bridging the funding gap. He felt that it had more chance of success if it was a standalone project. He referred to the ongoing strong relationship between the London Marathon and the City of London. Richard Sumray preferred securing funding for the cheaper scheme first, as there was scope at a later date to extend the premises, should further funds be forthcoming.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) the London Marathon Trust be approached to see whether they would be prepared to part fund the cheaper pavilion option;
- ii) Simon Lee sound out City of London support for the cheaper option for the cricket pavilion, once ~~additional~~ funding for the entire project had been secured; and
- iii) On the above basis, Simon Lee approach Places, People and Play to ascertain if they would support match funding for a new cricket pavilion on the Parliament Hill fields cricket green.

**6. Verbal Presentation by Highgate Harriers**

The Chairman reminded the Forum that in order to keep in touch with all the sports on the Heath, it had been agreed to invite each sport to make a presentation at a Forum meeting, to help the Forum better understand how they could help these sports.

Kate Jenrick, Graham Norris and Ben Pochee set out how Highgate Harriers operated and changes introduced in recent years to improve the success of the Club. Membership in all age groups was expanding. This had been anticipated, in the wake of the Olympics. The Club has been able to maintain a high level of competition for serious athletes, as well as attracting training sessions to suit recreational runners. A stronger sense of club identity had been achieved by ensuring that Club banners and the Club gazebo were present at fixtures, which was helping the club to get noticed at regional and national level.

The volunteer dimension to the club has also improved in recent years, thanks to the success of Quadkids, which takes place once a month for eight months of the year. Parents were more inclined to get involved in

the Club, which had improved the club's standing in the local community.

Responding to questions, Kate explained that the capacity of the Club was dependent on the number of coaches available, which had increased significantly in recent years. In addition, while more areas of the Heath were available for training in the summer months, the shorter days in the winter months, limited training options. She suggested that having access to portable lighting would improve the training scope in the winter months.

A discussion took place regarding whether additional lighting on the Heath could be entertained. Simon Taylor supported the proposal of investing in temporary portable lighting, which could also be used by the rugby club. Simon Lee advised that provided these were only temporary lights, planning consent would not be required. In order for this to be taken forward, it would need the support of the Consultative Committee.

In response to a question regarding the club's weaknesses, Kate Jenrick explained that the club lacked depth in field events, specifically throwers, due to scarcity of throwing coaches.

In response to a question regarding how the club interacted with parkrun, Ben Pochee explained that they both happily co-existed, with club members regularly taking part in Hampstead Heath parkrun events.

Responding to a question regarding how the Club interacted with the local community, Graham Norris explained that a productive relationship with Camden Sports Development meant that initiatives such as Disability Quadkids were being taken forward and extended to university aged children with disabilities. Graham went on to explain how the Club had gone about improving its accreditation status to attract external funders and demonstrate that it was a well run club to attract further members. Ben referred to the use of social media to engage with other sports.

Responding to a question regarding how the Club was able to reach out to non sporty children, Ben Pochee explained that Quadkids provided a fun introduction to athletics. The emphasis was on having fun and personal development rather than serious competition.

Kate referred to the growing relationship with the rugby club, which shared the use of the athletics track during training nights.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) the Highgate Harriers members be thanked for their presentation; and

- ii) Simon Lee investigate whether temporary lighting could be introduced to assist the rugby and athletics clubs with their winter training.

7. **Review of Green to Gold**

Paul Maskell provided an update on the success of Green to Gold during 2012. By the end of 2012, 131 events had taken place as part of the Green to Gold festival of sport. He also updated the Forum of events further events taking place in 2013, as the Green to Gold sobriquet was able to continue until September 2013. Paul was thanked for the huge amount of work he had put into securing the success of an unprecedented number of events during 2012.

**RECEIVED.**

8. **Draft Cancellation Policy Large Events (Adverse Weather Conditions)**

A report by Simon Lee regarding a draft cancellation policy for large events, due to adverse weather conditions, was considered. The Chairman explained that the need for such a policy had arisen in light of the recent cancellation of the Southern Counties Cross Country Championships, which had been due to take place on 26 January on the Heath. These had been cancelled due to the dangerous conditions underfoot, should the race have gone ahead on that day. David Bedford remarked that he had walked on the Heath on the 26 January and in his opinion conditions were indeed very dangerous and the decision to cancel had been correct. While there had been a lot of adverse comment, it was felt that lessons should be learnt. Managing communication and liaising with the organisers early on alternative dates were now favoured.

Simon Lee advised the Forum that this incident had also called into question whether the event had been properly licenced. A discussion took place regarding whether more could be done to encourage the English Cross Country Association to enter into a conventional licence agreement with the City of London when cross country events were being organised on the Heath.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) The draft cancellation policy be supported; and
- ii) The report be submitted to the Consultative and Management Committees for endorsement.

9. **Any other business**

- i) Lido Showers In response to a question by Natasha Cendrowicz, Paul Maskell explained that problems had arisen during the building works, which had caused the hot showers at the Lido to fail.

ii) Saracens In response to a question by Declan Gallagher, Simon Taylor explained that better links had been forged with Saracens since they moved into Barnet.

iii) Chairman's Last Meeting Bob Slowe informed the Forum that he would be relinquishing his chairmanship of the Forum and standing down from the Consultative Committee and therefore the next meeting of the Forum would be his last. He was thanked for all the hard work he had put into steering the Sports Forum since its inception.

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting be held on 20 May 2013 starting at 6:30pm.

**The meeting closed at 8:03pm.**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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