

## **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM**

**MONDAY 20 MAY 2013**

### **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM HELD AT THE STAFF YARD, PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS, LONDON NW5 ON MONDAY, 20 MAY 2013 AT 6:30PM.**

#### **Present**

##### **Members:**

Richard Sumray (Chairman)	-	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (London Council for Sports and Recreation)
Bob Slowe	-	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Highgate Harriers Committee)
Marc Hutchinson	-	HH Winter Swimming Club/ Heath & Hampstead Society
Richard Priestley	-	Highgate Harriers
Simon Taylor	-	Hampstead Rugby Club
David Walton	-	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (Sports Users Representative)

#### **In attendance**

Jeremy Simons (Hampstead Heath Management Committee Chairman)  
Neil Brookes (London Orienteering Klub)

#### **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, Dave Bedford, Rudolph Benjamin and Nigel Robinson.

#### **1A. Chairman's Welcome**

Following his decision to step down as Chairman of the Sports Forum, Bob Slowe invited Richard Sumray to take over as Chairman.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4 February 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising**

Camden Representative (item 3) It was reported that Nigel Robinson had been appointed by Camden Council as their replacement representative on the Sports Forum.

BMF (item 3) Paul Maskell reported that he had reservations about altering the contract with British Military Fitness. The two open air fitness operators he had contacted were not able to offer as favourable terms as BMF. A brief discussion took place regarding whether it was worth opening up the franchise to other operators. As the contract was renewed on an annual basis, each year in September, the Chairman suggested that for this year, the BMF contract be renewed, with a view to considering it in more detail in the future. The suggestion by Paul Maskell that BMF be invited to make a presentation at the next Sports Forum was supported.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) the contract with BMF be renewed for a further year, with the view to considering open air fitness operators in more detail in the future; and
- ii) a representative from BMF be invited to make a presentation at the next Sports Forum meeting.

Charging Policy (item 4) The Chairman reported that the charging policy had been endorsed by the Consultative Committee. A discussion then took place regarding which sporting activity should be looked at in detail first. There was support for examining the athletics track and cricket facilities first. Simon Lee agreed to bring a paper to the next meeting setting out charging proposals for the athletics track and cricket facilities.

**RESOLVED:** That a paper setting out charging proposals for the athletics track and cricket facilities be brought to the next meeting.

Presentation by Highgate Harriers (item 6) Simon Lee reported that at the last Consultative Committee walk, a presentation had been given regarding collapsible floodlights. There had been support for introducing this on a one year trial basis.

**RESOLVED:** That Simon Lee formally seek the views of the Consultative Committee regarding the proposal to introduce collapsible floodlights on the Heath to assist with running and rugby winter training, on a one year trial basis.

Draft Cancellation Policy (item 8) Simon Lee reported that although the report had been considered by the City of London Superintendents'

group, it still needed further refining. He would bring back an updated version to this Forum.

**RESOLVED:** That an updated version of the draft cancellation policy report be submitted to the Sports Forum for consideration.

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

Simon Lee reminded the Sports Forum that there were capacity issues in his department due to the demands of the Dams project. He hoped to still take forward this bid, but was mindful that any approach to the London Marathon Trust for match funding, might compromise any future bid for any other sports facilities such as the athletics track. Jeremy Simons added that the Crossrail commitment of £200 million meant that the City of London was having to rein in spending on capital projects. The Chairman undertook to sound out the Secretary of the London Marathon Trust regarding this and any future bids for the athletics track. Simon Lee undertook to discuss the bid further with the Places, People and Play representatives.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) the Chairman sound out the Secretary of the London Marathon Trust regarding this and any future bids for the athletics track; and
- ii) Simon Lee discuss the bid further with the Places, People and Play representatives.

5. **Verbal Presentation by London Orienteering Klub**

Neil Brooks, the Chairman of the London Orienteering Klub gave a presentation on the activities of the Club. He explained that the Club had been operating for forty years, and although it did not have a home, it was based at Hampstead Heath. While orienteering had started in wild wood settings, it had evolved to more urban routes in recent years. A recent Hampstead Village run had attracted nearly two hundred participants. Most championship events took place in the winter when pressures on parking were not at such a premium. Due to regular changes in natural boundaries, areas needed to be regularly remapped. Google Earth had proved to be a good source for drawing maps. In the future, orienteering was moving towards more local events where people could just turn up and have a go. There was a push towards more community events, reflected in recent changes to more urban and local events, which had helped to diversify the sport.

During the course of discussion, Neil Brooks explained that the ease of use Hampstead Heath, together with access to the Kenwood Estate, was its main advantage. Unlike some open space settings, there was no charge. He explained that smaller parks were good for holding 'come and try' events. It was noted that although there were two permanent courses on Hampstead Heath, the Golders Hill Park route was less used. Paul Maskell stated that a lot of schools used the Hampstead Heath course. Already orienteering was moving to electronic mapping and the downloading of courses from the internet.

In the future, integrating the posts with phone technology, would reduce reliance on printed maps. The cost of printing maps was included in race entry fees. Copies of Hampstead Heath orienteering maps and other popular courses were laid round the table. Thankfully not many of the orienteering posts on Hampstead Heath were moved.

Looking to the future, Neil Brooks hoped to map the South East corner of the Heath, using existing infrastructure for markers. He did not foresee using the Heath for big championship events as it was too open. The Chairman thanked Neil for his presentation and suggested that a discussion be held in the future regarding how to link orienteering with other sports on the Heath.

**RECEIVED.**

**6. Update on Lido**

Simon Lee updated the Forum on £350,000 repairs being undertaken at the Lido. Discussions had been held with a local architect regarding whether re-orientating the building would increase usage. He referred to Brockwell Lido as a helpful template for understanding changes that could be introduced to the Lido, particularly to the café, to encourage more year round usage. He suggested that this architect make a presentation on their findings to a future meeting. The Chairman agreed that a discussion be held in the future about how to use the Lido space throughout the year.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) a presentation be made by the local architect on options for re-orientating the Lido building to increase usage; and
- ii) a discussion be held in the future about how to use the Lido space throughout the year

**7. Update on Bowls Club and Croquet Club**

Bob Slowe reminded the Forum about efforts taken in the past to bring the bowls and croquet clubs together to run the Bowling Green. This experiment had not worked as these were two very different groups, without a clear strategy for winter maintenance works or dealing with reduced income following the recent wet summer. They had been advised to approach Camden Sports Council for a maintenance grant. A further meeting with both groups was due to take place at the end of the summer to review funding arrangements.

**RECEIVED.**

**8. Any other business**

- i) Consultative Committee Representative It was noted that as Bob Slowe was due to stand down, a vacancy would arise on the Consultative Committee. Simon Taylor agreed to take on this appointment.

**RESOLVED:** That it be noted that Simon Taylor had replaced Bob Slowe as one of the three sports' facilities representatives on the Consultative Committee.

ii) Green to Gold Update Paul Maskell updated the Forum on recent sporting activities linked to the Green to Gold initiative, including hosting the Camden Schools Cross Country Championships at the beginning of May.

iii) Parkrun update Paul Maskell updated the Forum on Parkrun's second anniversary event, which had attracted 180 participants.

iv) City Dip Paul Maskell reported that this year's City Dip was being hosted jointly with the Golders Lane pool at the beginning of June.

v) Gas works at the Heath extensions Simon Taylor requested that further thought be given for a third rugby pitch at the Heath extensions now that the gas works had been completed.

vi) Green Gym proposal Responding to a suggestion by David Walton that a green gym sited at the tennis courts would diversify the sports offering at the Heath, Declan Gallagher explained that this was unlikely to garner support due to the helpful income from the tennis courts.

vii) Overarching Strategy The Chairman stated that he hoped that this group would be able to develop an overarching strategy for all sports on the Heath.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting be held on 23 September 2013 starting at 6:30pm.

**The meeting closed at 8:26pm.**

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**CHAIRMAN**

**Contact: Natasha Cendrowicz**  
**tel. no. 07952096201**  
**e-mail: natasha @cendrowen.freeseve.co.uk**