

## HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM

MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2014

### **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM HELD AT THE STAFF YARD, PARLIAMENT HILL FIELDS, LONDON NW5 ON MONDAY, 27 JANUARY 2014 AT 6:30PM.**

#### **Present**

##### **Members:**

Richard Sumray (Chairman)	-	Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (London Council for Sports and Recreation)
Nigel Robinson	-	Camden Council (Head of Sport and Physical Activity)
Rudolph Benjamin	-	HH tennis coach
John Carrier	-	Camden CCG
Richard Priestley	-	Highgate Harriers
Simon Taylor	-	Hampstead Rugby Club

#### **In attendance**

Jeremy Simons (Hampstead Heath Management Committee Chairman)

#### **Officers**

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

#### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Dave Bedford, Marc Hutchinson and Virginia Rounding.

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

The Chairman welcomed Bob Warnock, Superintendent of City Commons, who would be taking over from Simon Lee as Hampstead Heath Superintendent, as well as Nigel Robinson, Head of Sport and Physical Activity at Camden Council, to their first Sports Advisory Forum meeting.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 23 September 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising**

Matters Arising - Gas Works at the Heath Extensions (item 3) Simon Lee provided an update on the National Grid Gas works on the Parliament Hill side of the Heath. He added that following a new gas leak, repairs were being undertaken ahead of the Southern Cross Country Championships.

Verbal Presentation by British Military Fitness (item 5) It was reported that Paul Maskell would be contacting local sports groups to ascertain whether there was interest in taking part in team building events hosted by BMF.

4. **Fatality at Kenwood Ladies' Pond**

Simon Lee provided an update on the findings of the recent inquest into the fatality at the Ladies' Pond that occurred in August 2013. The autopsy had revealed that the woman had an underlying health condition for which she was not taking medication regularly. He asserted that the lifeguards were incredibly conscientious and had they been told of her condition, they would have been more vigilant while she was in the water.

Responding to a question by the Chairman, he confirmed that the inquest had concluded but their report had not yet been issued. Their findings would be shared with the Swimmers' Forum in the first instance, before coming to the Sports Forum. Responding to a question by John Carrier, Simon Lee explained that protocols were in place for managing the ponds when swimmer numbers exceeded fifteen. These included enlisting additional lifeguards to do extensive patrols, particularly at the further reaches of the pond.

**RECEIVED.**

5. **Verbal Presentation by Nigel Robinson**

Nigel Robinson, the Head of Sport and Physical Activity at Camden Council gave a presentation on the Pro Active Camden campaign to encourage wider participation in physical activity amongst residents. This included a video explaining the 'Give it a Go' scheme, which had encouraged 4,000 previously inactive residents to engage in measurable physical activity. He referred to the improved health outcomes achieved by the various measures that had been adopted to increase the take up of leisure facilities. Youth obesity was now being tackled through non-traditional forms of physical activity, which included making use of open spaces.

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

- Camden Council had adopted Highgate Harriers as a beacon club and were working closely with it to receive grants and develop its volunteer capacity.
- Partnerships had also been developed with the Nordic walking group and Camden CSA to highlight the health benefits of being outside and being active on Hampstead Heath.
- The possibility that there might be barriers such as costly sports wear, which discouraged some people from taking part in outdoor activities.
- Camden had piloted a project with Transport for London to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school. Distributing umbrellas was a simple measure to encourage more walking.
- A temporary 20m learning pool would be provided at La Sainte Union and Parliament Hill schools in the summer.
- The water temperature at the Lido was (often) too cold for teaching purposes.
- Partnership work with the RSPB to encourage greater interest in the pleasures of being outdoors could also be extended to Camden Council.
- While outdoor gyms were welcome, without other promotional work, they tended to attract those who were already committed to being active outdoors and more should therefore be done to target those hard to reach groups, who were less tempted.
- New initiatives to attract young people into sports facilities had been trialled at the Sobell Centre (in Islington) and could be developed Camden.
- Barnet Council had not been receptive to joint working.
- Once funding was offered, schools were more receptive to getting pupils more active.
- Initiatives using games consoles were being considered to attract younger residents to sports facilities.

## **RECEIVED.**

### **6. Charging Policy**

A report (prepared by Simon Lee) setting fees and charges for a range of facilities and services provided at Hampstead Heath for 2014/15, was considered. Simon Lee reported that the Management Committee had endorsed this report today with one minor amendment. The Chairman referred to the need for further examples of costings of a couple of facilities to be brought to this group for scrutiny. In response to a question by Natasha Cendrowicz, Simon Lee confirmed that while the Lido income had been double what was anticipated, this needed to be offset by additional staffing costs. The Chairman requested that information about such staffing costs be shared with the Sports Forum as well. In response to comments made by John Carrier, it was noted that elasticity of demand was determined more by weather than price

variables. Bob Warnock added that four areas of activity would be worked up for consideration at the next two meetings.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) the proposed fees and charges for 2014/15 set out in the report be supported; and
- ii) a further report setting out detailed costing information relating to four further areas of activity, be presented to the next two meetings.

7. **Update on Athletics Track/Property Maintenance**

Declan Gallagher provided an update on improvements that needed to be undertaken to the showers to mitigate the risks posed by low levels of legionella which had been detected in the showers. The City Surveyor had undertaken a feasibility study and £70,000 had been made available for these improvements, that would take up to eight weeks to complete.

Simon Taylor stated that some rugby players had been put off attending training while the showers were out of action. In response to a question by John Carrier, Simon Lee confirmed that the PHE (Public Health England) Department had been informed of the legionella outbreak.

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8. **Bowls Club and Croquet – New Lease**

Simon Lee reported that the meeting between the bowls and croquet clubs had been well handled by the Chairman. In order that a dialogue continue, they would need to meet more regularly. The option of extending the lease up to five years was being considered. Any extension would require simple and measurable performance indicators such as a concerted membership drive.

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9. **Cancellation Policy Large Events**

Simon Lee explained that this cancellation policy had now been adopted by all the City's open spaces. The changes suggested by Marc Hutchinson at the last meeting related to the language being used and setting out specific roles to make clear respective responsibilities. Now every event organiser was required to sign up to the policy.

**RESOLVED:** That

- i) the updated cancellation policy for large events be supported.

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10. **Update on Summer Activities**

Paul Maskell reported on the following sporting activities:

- the inaugural cold water swimming championships had taken place at the Lido in January. Participants had travelled from mainland Europe to take part. Following excellent feedback, this was now likely to become a regular event at the Lido
- The Southern Counties Cross Country Championships had taken place on 25 January, with increased numbers of participants and high quality races.
- Highgate Harriers would be hosting the British Athletics and European Championship 10,000m trials at the Parliament Hill Track on 10 May. Special mention should be made of Ben Pochee for his hard graft in securing this prestigious event.
- A tug of war championships and a number of youth endurance events would take place during the afternoon of 10 May before the start of the race programme.
- the 'Give it a Go' joint event with Camden had been moved to 20 July at the request of Camden Council.

John Carrier inquired as to whether more could be done to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first sub four minute mile in June, especially linked to the 10,000m race. A brief discussion took place regarding catering and changing facilities for the 10,000m races in May.

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11. **Any other business**  
Simon Lee's last meeting The Chairman thanked Simon Lee for his tireless work in setting up this group and raising the profile of sport and physical activity on the Heath.
12. **Date of Next Meeting**  
**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting be held on 12 May 2014 starting at 6:30pm.

**The meeting closed at 8:04pm.**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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