

East Grinstead Sports Development Group (Sports Council)

Notes from the meeting held at 7.30 pm, on Thursday 11th December 2014

Venue: East Grinstead Town Football Club

Present: Simon Hardy (Mid Sussex DC), Richard Leman (EGSC), Jeff Morris (EG Sports Club and Dunnings Squash and Racquetball), Rex Whittaker (EG Town Council), Bob Shelley (Dunnings Squash and Racquetball and Chairman), Elaine Coxall (Southdown Netball), Jan Johnson (CD Phoenix Netball), Richard Tramontin (EG Town Football), Geoff Border (EG Cricket), Ben Knight (Chartham Park Golf), Tony Steer (Southdown Netball), Eddie Vermeer (EG Athletics), Philip de Jong (EG Business Association).

Apologies: Bob Russell (EGRFC), Elaine Clark (Mid Sussex DC,) Lester Medcalf (EG Athletics Club, Sue Kent (EG Swimming Club), Rob Warlow (EG Courier and Observer), Steve Hill (Schools Coordinator), Julie Holden (EG Town Clerk), Cliff Barrow (Disability Access), Andy Hayes (EG Table Tennis League), Holly Sutcliffe (PFP Leisure).

1 - Bob Shelley opened the meeting and thanked Richard Tramontin for agreeing to host the meeting at the Football Club.

2 – Get to Know the Clubs – East Grinstead Athletics Club – Eddie Vermeer

Eddie gave a good presentation setting out the excellent activities of the club in offering track and field athletics, coaching and competition opportunities to local young people and adults. His presentation is available on the Sports page of the Town Council website.

He also gave an interesting insight into how small clubs can utilise social media to convey success and garner support and offered to help other clubs that could benefit from his accumulated experience of this new phenomenon. The club is currently using social media to build momentum and support for a long-term objective of having their own athletics track locally.

Eddie had been working with Steve Hill to secure funding from the proceeds of the Mid Sussex Marathons, to be used for the setting up of 321 Run England routes. These are safe signposted routes of varying lengths for recreational runners. This would be separate from the Athletics Club and needed volunteer effort to bring to fruition. There was also a longer-term aspiration, and additional funds set aside, to set up a local ParkRun. These are weekly 5k timed runs around a local park that have been very successful elsewhere in encouraging all age groups into running and jogging

3 – Fundraising – Richard Leman

Oaks Initiative - Clubs

The success of this initiative is now building impressively and over £100k of funding requests had been submitted to support the work of 11 local clubs. Of these, 7 have been successful, totalling £67k. Decisions are awaited on another 3 amounting to £28k. One, from a different funding source, had been unsuccessful. A further 12 applications are in the pipeline. The initial agreement with Oaks runs until August 2015 and there should be a total £200k of applications by then.

Richard explained that the process would benefit from local face-to-face time with the applicants, provided by those who now have experience of applying. This would add useful value to the underlying expertise from Oaks and support what they are able to provide remotely.

Some of the early applicants were now preparing to apply again for grants from the next funding financial year. There was no reason why this could not become a regular annual income stream of up to £20k to support each local club that had the vision to see how they could use the funding. The effort required was minimal and the funding application expertise was readily available.

Reaching Communities

This is a Lottery fund to support community projects. Richard has been looking at using it to develop school/club transport based on investment in an existing small local minibuss operator.

Oaks Initiative – Schools

Steve Hill had now overseen the submission of 2 applications for primary schools for the Reaching Communities project, with a further 8 under development. Discussions were on going with 3 further schools where there was interest.

Activate East Grinstead – Schools

Steve had recently put three funding proposals to the local Heads of the EG Group of Schools, each of which was agreed. These would provide coaching for schools with local clubs and further funding for Activate going forward.

Imberhorne School had been awarded funding from the Football Foundation for 9v9 Junior goalposts as part of the FA's youth football initiative.

4 – Using Our Grant – Southdown Netball Club – Elaine Clark

Elaine explained how they had used the funding for additional training for coaches and volunteers such as first aid and safeguarding. It would also be used to help with the cost of facility hire, with the added benefit of reducing member's subs. This could have been a contributory factor in the acquisition of 20 new members recently. They had taken an audit call from the funder (Awards for All), which had been easy to respond to.

The club had positively benefitted from their successful application and were pleased to know that they could apply again.

Using our Grant – Dunnings Squash and Racketball Club – Jeff Morris

The club had been successful in obtaining grants from both Awards for All and Sport England. The A4A grant would be used to set up coaching for schools, mini squash events in sports halls, a primary school league and pathways to further development for the most talented. Steve Hill's connections and expertise had been vital for the delivery of the schools dimension. The grant had also been used for a water fountain at the courts. The Sport England grant would be used to provide adult/young people courses on evenings and weekends, together with coaching, refereeing and safeguarding courses for club members.

Jeff was enthusiastic about the benefit to local clubs, like DSRC, provided by these grants and would be submitting further applications for the coming funding year. He was surprised that more clubs were not taking advantage of this accessible funding and had the view that the principal barrier was emotional. The

aim of the awards - getting the young, old and sedentary into leisure activities - was the same for all sports. He was happy to help any club apply based on his recent experience.

5 – Any Other Business

Rex Whittaker informed the meeting that the EG Town Council would be deciding at a meeting next week who has been awarded the Youth Sports Revenue Grants.

Richard Leman had recently been invited by Steve Trice, the Haywards Heath Town Clerk, to attend the second meeting of their new Sports Forum to inform them about our EG Sports Council. We are an exemplar for sports groups of this type and should not underestimate what has been achieved, or our position of leadership in this area. Burgess Hill had also held an inaugural meeting in the summer.

Rex Whittaker had donated a trophy to Felbridge Boxing Club and asked the Chairman to conduct the handover on behalf of the Sports Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and said he would advise of the next date in due course and welcomed any offers from clubs to host the meeting.