

## East Grinstead Sports Development Group (Sports Council)

Notes from the meeting held at 7.30 pm, on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Venue: East Grinstead RFC

Present: Simon Hardy (Mid Sussex DC), Richard Leman (EGSC), Jeff Morris (EG Sports Club and Dunnings Squash and Racketball), Bob Shelley (Dunnings Squash and Racketball, and Chairman), Richard Tramontin (EG Town Football), Geoff Border (EG Cricket), Eddie Vermeer (EG Athletics), Bob Russell (EGRFC), Lester Medcalf (EG Athletics Club), Phil Major (EGRFC), Julie Holden (EG Town Clerk), Trevor Rudd (Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club), Steve Hill (Imberhome School) Roger Bean (EG Tennis Squash and Racketball Club), Steve Phillips (EG Meads FC), Gilly Pollock (Meridian FM)

Apologies: Elizabeth Purdy (Estcots TC), The Hon Sir Nicholas Soames MP, Cliff Barrow (Disability Access), Stuart Scholes (EGBA), Ian Bellis (DSRC), Annabel Farley (Springfit), Sue Kent (Swim Club), Rex Whittaker (EGTC), Ben Knight (Chartham Park).

**1 - Bob Shelley** opened the meeting and thanked The Rugby Club for agreeing to host the meeting

**2 – Get to Know the Clubs** – Bob Russell and Phil Major gave an update on the Rugby Club

The Club has been going since 1929 although did not operate between 1942 and 1946. They used several grounds over the years and ended up at Saint Hill in 1972. Funding from members and local councils over the years have helped get them up and running. They are a company limited by guarantee and have a board of Directors. There is a thriving youth team for both boys and girls. They won the RFU seal of approval and more recently full accreditation for the recruitment and retention of members to grow the club.

The Club competes at the highest level at National 3, finishing high in the division, they hope to progress to National 2. In 2011/12 they were promoted from level 2 to level 1, also winning the RFU Cup and Sussex trophy in that year.

The Sunshine Sevens tournament is held in spring, it is always popular and raises money for local charities.

Match days are important, they have a pre match lunch which has seen 100 people for a 3 course meal and crowds are often 400-500.

The future plans surround the clay ground that can take several days to drain, meaning that after heavy rain matches can be called off if sufficient time has not elapsed. Two 3G pitches are being considered, which will overcome this. Funding and planning permission are being sought.

Phase 1 : 3G pitch will amalgamate 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> team pitches

Phase 2 : Change the direction of the 1<sup>st</sup> team pitch

Working with neighbours to overcome floodlighting issues, and MSDC on planning. Section106 funding has been awarded at £50,000 towards the project.

Still fundraising for phase 1 and hoped to be in place by November. Phase 2 is longer term

**3 – Fundraising** – Richard Leman

Oaks Initiative agreement ends in August. There have been 18 applications asking for £167,000. 13 have been approved reaping £122,000. There is one application pending and 4 were turned down.

There are another 14 being submitted over the next few weeks.

We had 18 months at the cost of 12 and if we extend the contract it will be at the monthly rate of £1500. A decision has to be made whether to continue and the sub group will make a decision. It is likely that the decision will be not to extend, but to take a break and maybe come back again when fresh ideas are starting to emerge (2016).

### **3 – Eddie Vermeer - Back the Track**

The Campaign is underway with the Business case being drawn up. Sir Nicholas Soames is supportive of EG Sports being an exemplar of sporting provision. The idea will be that a track will have a sports pitch in the middle, which will provide the sustainable income stream.

### **4 – Weir Wood Sailing Club**

Mike Summers explained that the Club was established in the late 1960's when the reservoir was put in. It is a Royal Yachting Association centre and has won sailing club of the year in the past. Sailing is generally in decline and Weir Wood's numbers have fallen. The Club rent the facility and a new 50 year lease has been negotiated which will hopefully allow them to regroup and grow membership and the club for the future.

The Club are a CASC: there is a changed legal amendment this year in that they can claim a reduction in corporation tax and can do gift aid. They are already eligible for business rate reduction.

To qualify however they have to revisit the main purpose of the club; membership costs and that 50% of members must participate a minimum of 12 times a year. They need a recording mechanism to show this.

Following general discussion it was wondered whether MSDC would put on a seminar to explain the changes to CASC. The Clerk offered to write to MSDC to ask that they consider a supportive policy for sports clubs who have to deregistered from CASC due to the demands of the changes to ask that they consider the non profit clubs for the same element of relief as the CASC.

### **5 – Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club**

Trevor Rudd, the current Captain, explained that the club was a private members club for the Old Course and a pay and play for the West Course.

Golf membership is reducing generally, but RAFGC have a stable membership. The club was founded in 1888 and they are looking to see how they can make the club more usable to the community and other potential users. Charity Golf Days can be organised.

### **6 - Updates:**

Meads FC: Oaks grant was approved

EGCC: Successful Sussex womens county day was held and will be repeated in August.

EGTS&RBC: Applied participation initiative is being worked on and a bid with Oaks

EGAC: Ashurst Wood have a sports open day which they are attending and they are considering an Oaks Bid.

EGRFC: A couple of Level 2 prestigious matches are coming up in August. The Rugby World cup coverage will be in the Bar on the TV's.

MSDC: Cabinet grants must be in by the end of August. Home of Sport has been launched by *Visit England* where the top sporting venue in the Country is being sought. Simon will circulate information.

Schools: Thanks to all clubs who have worked with them this year as the schools have been involved in many taster sports at both primary and secondary level. Funding for next year is also in place.

Mike Summers offered if anyone wanted to go out Sailing on Weir Wood to contact Mike and he can arrange it.

Meridian FM: Gilly Pollock is working with MFM and looking at the sports coverage and liaison with clubs. Please contact her with any information or ideas on how MFM can promote your club and activities.

EGTC: Sports Grants will be considered in the winter, applications on the website. Also a big thank you to EGRFC for the Mid Sussex Marathon venue and all who helped, took part or volunteered.

### **AOB/ Future Agenda Items**

Social Media for Sports Clubs  
Hockey and Netball Academies