

East Grinstead Sports Facilities & Development Group (Sports Council)

Notes from Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2015

Present

Bob Shelley.	Chair
Bob Russell.	Rugby Club
Lester Medcalf.	Athletics Club
Geoff Border.	EG Cricket club
Steve Phillips.	Meads Football Club
Roger Bean.	EG Tennis and Squash Club
Eddie Vermeer.	Athletics Club
Richard Leman.	EG Sports Club
Andy Hayes.	EG Cricket Club
Rex Whittaker.	EGTC

Apologies

Julie Holden.
Jeff Morris
Steve Hill
Ian Bellish
Graham Radford
Trevor Rudd
Richard Tramontin

BS welcomed everybody and said that the planned main agenda item would be deferred to a future meeting, as the guest speaker was unfortunately unavailable tonight.

1. Get to Know East Grinstead Cricket Club Presentation

He thanked Andy Hayes who had kindly agreed to give the group a brief presentation on East Grinstead Cricket Club.

Earliest known local cricket activity was in 1643 in Horsted Keynes. More known was the early Victorian era with a known match in 1835.

Club founded in 1857 in the Crown public house - then moved to Lingfield road recreation ground in 1878. In 1890 a cornfield in West Street was rented - then Alfred Payne a then County player - undertook all of the groundsman duties.

In 1896 a bazaar raised £ 465 and the West Street ground was purchased and set up by seven Trustees. In 1901 a pavilion was built for £ 300. In the 1950's West Street also hosted football and hockey matches.

EGCC joined the Sussex League in 1971 when there were twelve teams, and the club had well known connections in John Edrich John Snow and Bill

Frindall .

By 1986 as the club had expanded they were struggling for funds and wanted to move to expand . The last match at West Street was played in 1989 after the ground was sold to Crest Nicholson who then, as part of the deal, formed the Sports Club in Saint Hill Road in 1990.

By 1997 the First Team won the Sussex Knockout Cup and the Hockey club went from strength to strength.

In the Millenium decade netball badminton and the gym were added.

Now the cricket club is strong with Junior teams from under 9 to 18 - plus four senior teams both days. In the last two years ladies cricket has proved very popular.

Sussex league have paid neutral umpires but players cannot be paid.

Group general discussion followed comparing cricket officials with football,rugby ,athletics judges and how each sport had a culture of respecting officials - except for senior football sadly .

2. East Grinstead Neighbourhood Plan

RW explained that the draft Neighbourhood Plan was currently out for public consultation between 27 July and 21 September. Responses so far had been good and mostly positive - which is encouraging. Next stage would be for the plan to be reviewed taking on board public comments - then approved by the TC and submitted to MSDC with a request for independent examination. Timescales were approval and submission before Christmas with examination early 2016 then hopefully a local referendum in the Spring of 2016.

3. Sports Funding update

RL explained that the original 18 month contract with Oaks had now expired. Decided to lapse as number of grant applications had now fallen. Current figures were £ 200 K grants applied for - £ 131 K has been paid by Sport England. It could still be a future option to re engage with Oaks if the group felt inclined. RW requested a brief summary report for inclusion in the papers of the Town Council Finance & General Purposes Committee to be held in December (Post meeting note - this has been completed).

RL / SH and Oaks were still working on the very large ' Reaching Communities Project ' which was circa £ 300 K over three years - twenty letters of support had been prepared and the application is 95 % completed and will be submitted before Christmas.

4. Any other Business

Cricket Club

First Team have won 14 league games with 467 points finishing second. 17 teams in total operate - Sussex women held two matches at Saint Hill - a women's coaching course is set to be at Sackville school.

Rugby Club

Good start to season in National 3 South - but key fixtures are coming up - there has been a big change in player personnel over the summer - a 3G pitch project is currently being debated by members.

Athletics Club

Have struggled for athlete numbers - get the usual regulars - 2 October is the presentation and awards night - 11 October is the East Grinstead school cross country competition held at East Court with over 250 competitors - no progress on discussions for a new athletics track - RW stated that in the Neighbourhood Plan under policy SS3 Imberhorne School were considering unifying both current campuses to Imberhorne Lane - and this might provide a future opportunity for enhanced athletics facilities .

Meads Football

Now 18 youth football teams plus an adult team - they have a waiting list for every age group - and the club have an excellent reputation for community and not elitism - Every age team has at least one Level 1 FA qualified Coach and the club do a lot of coaching training - 400 junior members currently - 50 people are CRB checked - club is self funding.

Tennis & Squash Club

Have recently completed a funding application - recently awarded a participation initiative award - have written letter to EG Town Council about possible club relocation plans (subject to member approval) .

Table Tennis Club

Ten teams are currently playing in the local league including a junior team from Nutley.

Carnival

RW stated that it was the intention to hold a Town Carnival in 2016 - looking at 3 July with an Olympics (Brazil) theme - all sports clubs , schools and voluntary groups would be invited to participate - small delivery group being set up - website to follow soon - watch this space!

Next Meeting

Thursday 10 December 2016 at East Grinstead Sports Club from 7.30 pm