

East Grinstead Sports Facilities & Development Group (Sports Council)

Notes from Meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2015

Present:

Bob Shelley	Chair
Bob Russell	Rugby Club
Roger Bean	EG Tennis and Squash Club
Eddie Vermeer	Athletics Club
Richard Leman	EG Sports Club
Gilly Bradley	Meridian FM
Kate Bennett	EG Business Association
Philip deJong	EG Business Association
Simon Hardy	Mid Sussex DC
Jan Johnson	CD Phoenix Netball
Jeff Morris	EG Sports Club
Judith Potter	EG Tennis & Squash Club
Ray Dennis	Ashurst Wood Junior FC
Martin Thomas	Ashurst Wood Junior FC
Rachel duFeu	Ashurst Wood Junior FC
Jo Moore	Southdown Netball Club
David Barham	EG Volleyball Club
Matt Wagg	Dunnings Squash & Racketball Club

Apologies:

Julie Holden
Rex Whittaker
Micky Bushell
Steve Hill
Lester Medcalf
Ian Bellis
Bob Russell
Phil Major
Richard Tramontin
Geoff Border

BS welcomed everybody and thanked EG Sports Club for hosting the meeting.

1. Get to Know Our Clubs - CD Phoenix Netball Club Presentation

Jan Johnson gave the group a brief presentation on the Netball Club.

Founded in 1994, the club is based in Crawley Down (CD). It has teams in all age groups playing in the South Regional Leagues, which embrace Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Isle of Wight and Guernsey. There are 9 such Regional Leagues around the country. The club also competes in local leagues in East Grinstead, Crawley and Brighton.

The club has Sport England Clubmark Gold status. It has a good development system and is particularly well set up for producing umpires and officials at both local and national level.

Particular difficulties are the shortage of indoor netball courts locally, together with volunteers, sponsorship and mentors.

2. Social Media and Sports Clubs – Matt Wagg

Matt, from Dunnings Squash & Racketball Club, gave a useful insight into the usefulness of

the principal social media platforms in the context of local sports clubs. He set out the best ways of exploiting them and some of the pitfalls in doing so. His presentation will be distributed to members in due course.

3. Sports Funding update – Richard Leman

RL explained that the application and 20 letters of support had now been submitted for the Reaching Communities Project, which would provide around £300K of funding over three years. Were we to be successful the finance would be available in time for the 2016-7 academic year.

4. Any Other Business

EG Tennis & Racketball Club (RB)

The club planned to make good use of their Awards for All grant to reach out to primary schools. Steve Hill wants to discuss this with them.

Their business case for their proposed relocation to an edge of town site fell short by £1m and consequently there was no appetite amongst members for developing the club in this direction.

Meridian FM (GB)

They currently have a vacancy for a sports producer. The sports dimension is a required component of their Ofcom regulated output.

Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club (RD/RD/MT)

Since this was their inaugural attendance at this forum, Ray Dennis set out a brief history of the club's development. They run 13 teams across the age group spectrum (under 6-16), with fathers encouraged to take coaching awards and get involved in development. Access to and maintenance of pitches is an ongoing issue and they are in discussion with MSDC about those that are managed by them. The club is a charity rather than a CASC.

Southdown Netball Club (JM)

Jo has taken on the job of Chair of the Club role. Some of their girl's team members are taking on minor coaching roles as part of their GCSE curriculum. The club has a shortage of coaches and some of them are forced to double up on age groups. They only use outdoor facilities as they do not have the financial resources for indoor options.

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.

EG Volleyball Club (DB)

They had been successful in being awarded Sussex Volleyball Club of the Year status specifically and rewardingly for their ability to bring on junior players. DB was now further developing the junior section of the club, with young players coming through from their sessions at local schools in conjunction with Steve Hill. They are now exploring reaching a wider adult participation through an adult section based at Kings Centre.

The club has 2 men's and 1 women's teams in Sussex Leagues and 1 men's in the Surrey League.

EG Sports Club (JM)

The Charity was working on a planning application to rearrange and extend the vehicle access, but the principal challenge would be raising the finance.

EG Athletics Club (EV)

The club had vacancies for the positions of Treasurer and Secretary. They had 4 nominations for the EG Courier Group Sussex Sports Awards and 3 had advanced to the Finals and awards evening on 18 January.

East Grinstead Carnival (BS)

It was the intention to hold a Town Carnival on 3 July 2016, coinciding with, and themed with, the Olympics. Local sports clubs, schools and voluntary groups would be invited to participate by letter.

Funding Initiative

A press release had been prepared by RL for local media contacts to publicise our success in raising £150k for local sport. This had been published in both the press and social media outlets.

Youth Sports Revenue Grants

Tonight's meeting coincided with the Town Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting. At this the outcomes of the 2015-16 Youth Sports Revenue Grants would be announced. It was likely, subject to process, that the following would receive £500 each – Chartham Park Golf Club, East Grinstead Cricket Club, Imberhorne School, Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club and Felbridge & Sunnyside Cricket Club.

East Grinstead Business Association (KB)

EGBA is responsible for the Visit East Grinstead website, which has a very high Google ranking due to the tourism activity. Because of this level of activity it is in the interests of local sports clubs that the sports content on the site be as up to date and relevant as possible, particularly the contact details for them.

Funding Delivery – EG Cricket Club (GB)

GB reported that the club had received awards from both A4A and SESG. Whilst in both cases the funding had ultimately been made available, comparing the delivery relationship, he reported that A4A had been considerably better to deal with than SESG.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 16 March 2016 at East Grinstead Town Football Club from 7.30 pm