

East Grinstead Sports Facilities & Development Group (Sports Council)

Notes from Meeting held on Thursday 15 December 2016 at East Court Council Offices

Present:

Bob Shelley	Chair (Dunnings Squash & Racketball Club)
Bob Russell	East Grinstead Rugby Club
Philip deJong	East Grinstead Business Association
Ray Dennis	Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club
Katherine Ross	East Grinstead Swimming Club
Geoff Border	East Grinstead Cricket Club
Roger Bean	East Grinstead Tennis Squash & Racketball Club
Steve Phillips	Meads Football Club
Vern Given	East Grinstead Parkrun Project
Ian Greenaway	East Grinstead Parkrun Project

Apologies:

Julie Holden	EG Town Council
Rex Whittaker	EG Town Council
Roger Bean	EG Tennis Squash & Racketball Club
Jeff Morris	EG Sports Club
Richard Leman	EG Hockey Club
Andy Hayes	EG Cricket Club
Graham Rowcroft	EG Target Shooting Club
Steve Hill	Schools Sports Co-ordinator

Bob Shelley welcomed everybody and thanked East Grinstead Town Council for hosting the meeting. He also informed the members of the retirement of Simon Hardy from Mid Sussex District Council. Bob wanted to record huge the debt of gratitude that East Grinstead sport owed Simon for his support and direct involvement in the work of the clubs over many years. His replacement, although not directly in the same role, would be Elaine Clarke, who many club representatives knew from her work with local clubs.

1. Get to Know Our Clubs – Dunning Squash & Racketball Club Presentation

Bob Shelley gave the group a presentation on the 36 year history of one of our two local squash and racketball clubs.

He set out the three phases of the club's history :-

- 28 years as a successful commercial squash club, competing in periods at the highest level and with over 200 playing members
- Following the sale of the club for redevelopment there then followed 4 years of domicile at the local Leisure Centre while the members formed their own new club and raised the money for the development of three new courts at East Grinstead Sports Club. These were opened in 2012.
- The period since 2012, when the club has completed the transition into a self managed community sports club, been awarded Chartered status by it's governing body and now continues to develop and flourish.

2. East Grinstead Parkrun

Vern Given and Ian Greenaway gave a presentation to brief the members on their intention to launch a Parkrun in East Grinstead.

Parkruns are free, open to all, 5km timed runs held on Saturday mornings in areas of open space around the UK. Participants of all ages and abilities can walk, jog, run or volunteer. They are hugely successful around the UK and the World. As an example, Tilgate parkrun

has 300-600 runners each week and has recently spawned a junior parkrun which had over 300 participants in its first week. Vern and his group have taken part in many parkruns and have volunteered in their organization too.

Their presentation set out the ethos and huge success of parkrun and their preparations for an East Grinstead parkrun based at East Court, hopefully launching around April 2017.

3. Review of the Year – Clubs

The clubs all shared their activities and state of health in 2016 with the members as a Review of the Year.

EG Target Shooting Club – Graham Rowcroft

The club has 70 members, including three who shot for England. It holds regular Open Shoots and also hosted the Kenyan team on a visit to the UK.

It has continued to improve its clubhouse facilities and won an award from Access East Grinstead for the accessibility of its toilets.

Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club – Ray Dennis

The club has 200 young people playing and 20 coaches. It costs £20k annually to run, all raised by the club. Safeguarding its young players is of paramount importance.

It was awarded Bronze Charter status by the FA, and won an award at the Sussex Sports Award, presented by Jo Pavey.

Meads Football Club – Steve Phillips

The club runs 21 junior and 1 adult teams, including a new girls section introduced this year. They have links to every junior school in East Grinstead, in conjunction with Steve Hill, the Schools Sports Coordinator. There are 34 coaches, including three women.

The club has FA Silver Charter status and is considering becoming an affiliated club at East Grinstead Sports Club.

East Grinstead Rugby Club – Bob Russell

The club has had a difficult year having made the decision to withdraw from its semi professional status and reverting electively to being a community club. Its major sponsor has also withdrawn. The club will drop 5 leagues in playing status and run 2 teams in the Sussex leagues. They have been supported by their governing body and the Sussex Association and have obtained new sources of income from members.

East Grinstead Cricket Club – Geoff Border

The club runs 17 teams, 7 of them juniors and has matches on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer at East Grinstead Sports Club and the ex Fonthill Lodge School site at Coombe Hill. The first team challenged for part of the season in the Sussex Premier League. In 2017 they will host 3 Womens T20 Premier County matches.

They have invested in improvements to the drainage of their main cricket square and are raising funds for the completion of the work.

East Grinstead Tennis Squash & Racketball Club – Roger Bean

During 2016 the club was offered a relocation and redevelopment opportunity by a major developer but declined it. The members preferred to maintain the character of the club and

remain at its current site in the Town Centre. They have been awarded an inclusivity grant by their governing body and have also won an Awards for All grant to support a schools outreach initiative. This should form the basis for growth in their junior participation levels.

They also plan to improve the clubhouse entrance area in due course.

East Grinstead Swimming Club - Katherine Ross

Predominantly a junior club, it has suffered a net decrease in membership this year, but nevertheless did well in the County Short Course event and Sussex Division 1.

They are finding the operator at Kings Centre, Places for People, a challenge to work with.

Dunnings Squash & Racketball Club – Bob Shelley

Bob added to his comments in his earlier presentation by outlining the exceptional success of the Men's 5 teams in the Sussex Leagues, which are probably as good as they have ever been in recent years.

The latest phase on investment in their squash and racketball facilities at East Grinstead Sports Club was an excellent balcony viewing area behind the courts, completed in 2016.

4. Any Other Business

There was none.