

East Grinstead Sports Facilities & Development Group (Sports Council)

Notes of Meeting held on Thursday 20 September 2018 at East Grinstead Town Football Club

Present:

Bob Shelley	Chair (Dunnings Squash & Racketball Club)
Eddie Vermeer	East Grinstead Athletics Club
Elaine Clarke	Mid Sussex District Council
Lisa Compton	East Grinstead parkrun
James Evans	East Grinstead parkrun
Ray Dennis	Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club
Rachel Du Feu	Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club
Lee Farren	East Grinstead Business Association
David Tomsett	Meads Football Club
Rex Whittaker	East Grinstead Town Council
Geoff Border	East Grinstead Cricket Club
Peter Reed	East Grinstead Rugby Club
Richard Tramontin	East Grinstead Town Football Club
David Eves	Felbridge Badminton Club
Peter Wyan	East Grinstead Town Council

Apologies:

Katherine Ross	East Grinstead Swimming Club
Lester Medcalf	East Grinstead Athletics
Micky Bushell	East Grinstead Bowling Club
Fiona Humphreys	East Grinstead Tennis Squash & Racketball Club
Bob Russell	East Grinstead Rugby Club
Julie Holden	East Grinstead Town Clerk
Nikki Hughes-Faldo	Wave Leisure
Judith Parsons	East Grinstead Tennis Squash & Racketball Club
Andy Hayes	East Grinstead Cricket Club
Richard Leman	East Grinstead Sports Club
Steve Hill	Schools Sports Co-ordinator

Bob Shelley welcomed everybody and thanked East Grinstead Town Football Club for kindly offering their facilities for hosting the meeting.

News

Bob Shelley was pleased to report that Richard Leman, our local hockey Olympian, had been awarded an OBE for services to hockey.

On the 8th September our East Grinstead parkrun had celebrated its first anniversary.

The recent Mayors Charity Sports Quiz had been a great success and raised over £1000 for his three charities. The Mayor, Rex Whittaker, said he intended to make it an annual event following its success.

East Grinstead Tennis Squash and Racketball Club had been awarded Club of the Year by Mid-Sussex Active in recognition of their work in introducing racket sports into local schools.

2. Get To Know Our Clubs – Ashurst Wood Junior Football Club

The Club's Chairman, Ray Dennis, gave an interesting presentation on this successful junior football club.

The club have junior teams in all age groups and include girls. They compete in the Crowborough and Horsham Junior Leagues. Matches are played at six different pitch locations.

They are always looking for sponsors and use fund raising activities to keep membership

subscriptions down. To support international aid the club is sending coaches to Africa to work with local youngsters. They will be taking used football kit to donate locally and are looking for contributions of kit to this cause.

They recently won an award from Sussex Active at their Annual Awards for their achievement of FA Chartered Club status.

3. Get To Know Our Clubs – Felbridge Badminton Club

David Eves, Chairman of the club, explained how they were 52 years old and had, after 32 years at Felbridge Village Hall moved to East Grinstead Sports Club. Here they became the first Associate Club at the site after the founding hockey and cricket clubs. This gave them much better facilities and court capacity and they want to be an integral part of the multi sport set up at Saint Hill as the new operators, Wave Leisure, seek to develop and improve it.

The club has 75 members, making it large on the national scale and the biggest in the area. They have 15 teams competing in a number of local leagues, hold two club nights each week for members and include a junior hour in the format. They have a vibrant junior section with currently 28 young people making them one of the most successful in Sussex, and employ a professional coach for their development. David explained that the club has no ability to teach children the game as beginners and requires a reasonable minimum playing ability to take them on.

They have no aspiration to become an elite academy or to become part of the badminton development pathway.

4. Clubs Updates

The clubs attending gave an update on their health and recent successes to the members. Some highlights were :-

East Grinstead Athletics Club - Eddie Vermeer reported that the club will be 40 years old in 2018. They will be hosting the East Grinstead Primary Schools Cross Country on 8 October and have recently been awarded a capital grant to improve the hammer throwing cage at Imberhorne School, their training facility.

East Grinstead Rugby Club - Peter Reed said the club will be celebrating its 90th birthday in 2019. They were trying to grow their girls and ladies participation but were finding there was divided opinion as to whether the tackling format should be touch or full contact.

East Grinstead Cricket Club – Geoff Border reported that the First Team had won the Sussex County T20 Cup the previous weekend and their Seconds had lost in their final. Next season they would have a Girls team and Juniors down to the 6-9 age group. As a policy they don't pay players in their First Team, including the permitted overseas player. Instead they use the finances to develop their grounds at East Grinstead Sports Club and Fonthill School. They were extremely grateful to Mid Sussex District Council for their financial contribution to the club in the form of grant aid. They had received no assistance from their NGB – the

Dunnings Squash & Racketball Club – Bob Shelley said they have their First Team in the Sussex Premier Division for the second year running. The club will also be hosting a national junior graded tournament in October. These have been very successful in previous years.

East Grinstead Table Tennis League - Lee Farren explained that there were now 16 teams competing and they still have capacity for more in the league based at East Grinstead Sports Club.

East Grinstead Sports Club – Lee Farren outlined how the handover from Freedom Leisure to Wave Leisure as operators at the site had not gone as well as hoped due to some unforeseen issues with a negative financial impacted. It may take two years to see the improvement Wave intend to deliver.

Meads Football Club – David Tomsett described the club's "Football for All" philosophy. They have 357 players registered, 25 teams and 50 qualified coaches. They will field 4 new teams this season – an U6, a third U9, an U8 Girls and an U18 team to bridge the gap with adult football.

Their U12 Girls team had 3 cup wins, their U16 team won Horsham Division A and the U9 team won

the Youth U9 cup.

East Grinstead Town Football Club – Richard Tramontin was pleased to report that, for the first time in their 128 year history, they have reached the FA Cup second qualifying round and meet Hornchurch of the Bostik Premier League in the next round.

On 11 October they will stage the 15th annual Adam Dabell Memorial charity match between the sixth forms of Imberhorne and Sackville Schools.

Mid Sussex District Council – Elaine Clark described the playing field strategy being undertaken for the council by Belap, the leisure and planning consultancy. This latest version would look at open spaces used for rugby, football, hockey, cricket, tennis and bowls. Questionnaires would be supplied to our local clubs shortly through their NGB. Any who have not been contacted should contact their NGB. The programme is being run by Jackie Bennett of Belap under contract to MSDC. This work would inform an updating of the Council's playing field strategy.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th December 2018 at East Grinstead Rugby Club.