

SOMERTON RECREATION GROUND TRUST (2019)

Monthly Newsletter No: 6 - October 2019

Welcome to the October newsletter from the new Somerton Recreation Ground Trust. This newsletter is sent to Trustees, volunteers, user groups, and any member of the community who asks to receive it. The aim is to keep anyone interested, informed on developments both with the charity itself and the actual operations of running the fields day to day.

OPERATIONS NEWS

1. The Operations Team Meeting

Was held at the Sports Club on Monday 7th October. The next one will be on Monday 11th November 2019 at 6.30pm in the Sports Club. Members of the Public are welcome to raise ideas, problems or questions in the Public session which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes at the start of the meeting, but then it's Ops Team only from there on. Below are notes and actions from the October meeting.

2. Public Questions

There were no questions from the Public.

3. Grounds Maintenance (Jason/Andy/Wayne)

September saw the return to a full winter schedule for Football and Rugby and the fields had seen high levels of use. Considering this the condition of the pitches was generally viewed as excellent and thanks are once again passed to Andy and Wayne for a job well done; as well as to Henry Holland for his voluntary work on mowing etc.

New netting has been installed behind the Rugby posts that back onto the David Wilson Houses. This was funded by David Wilson and installed by the Rugby Club. It is understood that the netting will be lowered between matches, once the correct fittings have been sourced. (Jake)

Wayne and Any have reported a failure in one of the pairs of metal goal posts. A proposal to buy a new pair would be put to the Trust.

4. Buildings Maintenance (Jake)

Items below are almost all repeated from the previous newsletter unfortunately reflecting slow progress.

A contractor has been appointed to complete the electrical certification work in the Clubhouse.

Jake is working hard to try to progress the commissioning of repairs to the floors of the temporary changing rooms and has now arranged a meeting with a potential contractor by the end of October.

We are still awaiting a quote for the potential provision of lighting from the Clubhouse to the MUGA. Andy suggested that we consider relocating the Tea Shed at the same time (with power supply) to stop people using it to climb into the MUGA. Paul Castle has provided an estimate and we are now seeking funding from the Somerton Community Association.

Basketball Hoops. We still want to get two of the basketball nets moved from the MUGA to the other side of the MUGA wall. **Brian Raybould – are you able to do this soon? Thanks**

Groundsmen's Shed and Tea Shed. Thanks to Larry Weightman who has made a repair to the Tea Shed roof.

MUGA Floodlights – Paul Castle to check serviceability

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Trees on the South West bank. — Ken Edmunds who has maintained these trees thus far has requested that we find a volunteer to assist and to learn to take over the task. **Volunteer required.**

5. Health and Safety (Tony J)

STC are arranging an independent assessment of both the play equipment and the Play Area fencing – it seems that this assessment covered the fence on the field side of the play area but not the road-side where we perceive the risk to be. **Dave O has arranged a meeting with STC on Weds 13th November.**

Jason raised the need to fulfil the inspection regime on the Defibrillator and Tony Jotcham agreed to add this into his routine. The first inspection has now shown that there are no spare pads or scissors. **Tony Jotcham will check availability at STC.**

Tony J has identified that the goalposts next to the tennis courts need to be chained for safety and security. **Andy/Wayne please can you arrange**

Legionella – Graham Load confirmed that he has attended a Legionella training course and agreed an appropriate regime with the Council which includes all of the fields and facilities.

No other issues raised.

6. Events (Fred)

Outstanding Events 2019 - Fireworks

The main remaining event now is the Fireworks on 2nd November. Martyn Gould is organising the event although he was unable to attend this Ops Meeting. The Sports Club have agreed to hold a Disco in the evening to extend the event. Martyn will need more help and support in the preparations, and it would be good if we can find ways to increase revenues generated for the Trust on the evening.

Tony Jotcham, Tony Stone and Jason Burton offered to help with leafletting and Jason also offered support on the Saturday afternoon.

7. Children's SafeGuarding (Phil)

Phil confirmed that the Trust have adopted the STC policy on Safeguarding.

Please see Play area fence above.

8. Site Security and Police Liaison (Brian R)

Brian continues to lock the Langport Road entrance each evening. Users have been reminded not to leave the middle gate open. No further news to report.

9. Sponsorship and Local Fundraising (Tony J)

Tony is working on his annual campaign to seek pitch sponsorship from local companies and individuals and is making good progress. Williams/Co-Op has agreed a contribution to the Trust in return for a visible sign and it has been agreed with the Rugby Club that the south side of their pitch fencing will be used by the Trust for such purposes.

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10. Volunteers Organisation

We still need someone to volunteer to set up and run a volunteer 'bank'. Please let me know if you would like to do this.

11. Publicity and Communications

Tony Stone has offered to start looking at creating a Recreation Ground Website and agreed to take a proposal to the Trust meeting.

12. Outstanding Actions - Are highlighted in red throughout this newsletter

13. Tea Shed

The Tea Shed is now trading again on Sundays from September 8th and special thanks go to Brian and Vanessa Raybould; Julia Castle and Chris Pimm – all of whom have taken at least one turn. The shed generally raises anywhere between £40 and £140 per Sunday and is a useful fundraiser as well as a nice way to spend a couple of hours. **We need as many volunteers as possible to take a turn at manning it. Please confirm your availability to me so that I can organise a rota.**

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TRUST NEWS

14. Trustee Appointments:

The charity now has ten Trustees:

David Osmond	(Appointed)
Ray Thompson	(Appointed)
Jason Burton	(Football Club nominee)
Cliff Bassett	(STC nominee)
Phil Catlin	(Bowls Club nominee)
Jacob Ralph	(Rugby Club nominee)
Jon Power	(Tennis Club nominee)
Graham Load	(Sports Club nominee)
Henry Holland	(Appointed)
Tony Stone	(Appointed)

15. Trust Meeting:

The latest Trust meeting was held on the 14th October at Edgar Hall 7.00pm.

The Trustees voted in favour of appointing an eleventh Trustee and once that appointment has been accepted then the new Trustee's name will be made public.

16. Speciality and Support Roles and Volunteers

The table below shows the current specialities and vacancies in our Operations Team:

<u>SRGT Operations Team</u>	
Chairman	David Osmond
Treasurer	Ray Thompson
Secretary	Lina Thomas
Grounds Maintenance	Jason Burton, Andy, Wayne
Buildings Maintenance	Jacob Ralph
Health and Safety	Tony Jotcham
Events Co-ordinator	Cliff Bassett
Children's Safeguarding	Phil Catlin
Site Security and Police Liaison	Brian Raybould
Sponsorship and Local Fund Raising	Tony Jotcham
Project Fund Raising	David Osmond
Volunteers Organisation	Vacant
Publicity and Communications	Tony Stone/Barrie Davies
Project Management	Vacant

The idea is that the people named in the table above, will be a first point of contact for anything that arises in their speciality. You can see that we have some unfilled spaces and even where there is already a name that person would almost certainly welcome further support. So please, please feel free to let us know where you think you could help.

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We would also like to create a bank of volunteers who would be willing to offer occasional support on things like marshalling, car parking, tea shed service, basic maintenance etc. etc., and need someone to head this volunteers' organisation.

17. Finances

As reported last month further work will be undertaken to refine the budget in the light of new items that have emerged only after the transfer of the Trust. This will inform the budget for 2020/21.

Meanwhile the Treasurer reported once again that the Trust finances continue to meet the budgeted expectations and new processes were agreed to enable the use of internet banking for Trust payments.

18. Grounds Maintenance

The proposal from Wayne and Andy to finance the purchase a new pair of moveable goals was discussed and approved by the Trustees. **Jason to progress purchase.**

19. SRGТ Website

Tony Stone offered to undertake some initial research into the potential to develop a website for the Trust and reported on progress at the Trust meeting. He agreed to circulate his final proposal by email following the meeting and Trustees are invited to feed back within seven days before then voting on approval by email.

20. SRGТ Logo

Fred Bassett has worked up some logo options with a view to having a final selection made by Trustees. He will recirculate the final three contenders.

21. Third Tennis Court

Please note that the below is intended as a summary of events and should not be considered as legally binding opinion.

Discussions around the potential location of a third tennis court have led to the highlighting of additional schedules to the lease put in place by the previous Trust for the Sports Club building. These schedules indicate that the Club have a right of access over the car park area meaning that it would be difficult to use for an alternative purpose without the Club's consent.

Following a presentation from the Tennis Club the Sports Club decided that they would not wish to give such consent for the plans under consideration.

The Tennis Club will now research alternative locations with help from **Trust volunteers Osmond, Catlin, and Burton.**

22. David Wilson Development

Following the application of the wrong topsoil (which will be corrected by the DWH contractor) it seems extremely unlikely that the pitch will be ready for handover before Summer 2021.

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23. SRGT Development Plan

Having visited the new pavilion at Wedmore; Trustees were encouraged that a new pavilion at the fields which would provide updated changing facilities and leisure and recreational options; may actually be an achievable goal.

Funding would be assisted by S106 funds already committed as well as further new developments in the pipeline; and these could then perhaps be leveraged through match funding.

The possibility was discussed and it was felt that the arrival of the new David Wilson pitch in Summer 2021 would create a new flexibility to adjust the pitch layout and create a flexible central area which could host any new building. Timing would mean that we could aim to undertake full consultation and prepare plans for consent by Summer 2020; which would then lead to the commencement of serious fundraising over 12 months to enable commencement of construction in Summer 2021. These ideas represent a brief feasibility check rather than a committed plan and it was decided that it would be worth creating a new Working Group to research the project further. **Trustees Osmond; Burton; Bassett; Ralph; and Stone agreed to meet shortly to confirm next steps.**

End.

If you would like to offer your support or volunteer in any way; or ask any questions about anything then please contact me in the first instance for now. You can get me on:

**David Osmond Mobile 07876 563 411
Email: donnyosmond1@outlook.com**

I look forward to hearing from you.