

SOMERTON RECREATION GROUND TRUST (2019)

Monthly Newsletter No: 7 - November 2019

Welcome to the November 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

The Operations Team Meeting

Was held at the Sports Club on Monday 11th November. The next one will be on Monday 9th December 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.

Outstanding Actions are in **Red**.

1. Public Questions

There were no questions from the Public.

2. Grounds Maintenance (Jason/Andy/Wayne)

- October Pitch Usage – 36 matches and over £1k pitch fees. Considering this and the prolific rainfall 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 Andy 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 - the Trust approved the request for new goals to be funded from the pitch sponsorship monies being raised by Tony Jotcham. Quotes had been obtained for wider and narrower gauge posts and although the wider ones were more expensive they were also deemed to be more robust and safer.

The Chair requested help from SSDC to offset the VAT element but they are no longer able to help with this. **Andy/Jason to find the best price for the wider spec goals and proceed.**

3. Buildings Maintenance (Jake)

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

- The electrical certification work in the Clubhouse has been completed.
- 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. **Update** – this meeting did not happen. The Chair has now met with STC and has been given contact details for the original contractors. **Jake will now contact these with a view to implementing the work asap.**

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- Lighting to the MUGA – The MUGA is now in use seven evenings per week and there is a need to light the pathways to and from the MUGA to enable safe exits when floodlights are turned off. Paul Castle presented an option to provide two powerful additional lighting heads to the existing tower in the Tea Shed corner of the MUGA and point one to light the Play area and path to the upper car park and one to light the path back towards the clubhouse. Each would cost approx £600, require the use of a cherry picker and Paul would fix the one dysfunctional Muga floodlight at the same time. The Chair approached STC for possible funding but work cannot be funded retrospectively and approval would require full council sign off which is not now available until January.

The Chair will now make a formal approach to 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 and also to the door which was damaged by vandalism.**
- 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 **Update – Brian Raybould volunteered and the tress have been trimmed**

4. Health and Safety (Tony J)

- At a meeting with the Chair STC confirmed that they are responsible for the provision and maintenance of the fence between their play area and the road. They will forward a copy of their Annual Risk assessment of the fence and have confirmed that they believe it meets the safety standards required of a 'Run Break'. **Tony J to review the STC Risk Assessment and advise as to whether the Trust need to instigate our own.**
- Tony confirmed that regular inspections of the Defibrillator were now taking place and that he was in the process of organising some replacement supplies. **Tony to complete.**
- Andy confirmed that he was planning to relocate the goalposts previously chained to the Tennis fence in order to eliminate any hazard. **Andy to complete.**
- Tony raised the hazard of holes in the Langport Road hedge which could afford immediate access to the road. **On Wednesday 13.11.19 Andy installed new fencing as requested.**
- Tony reported that a sign notifying a trip hazard in the car park had been knocked down. **On Wednesday 13.11.09 Andy replaced the sign.**

5. Events (Fred)

- **Events 2019 – Fireworks**
- The event held on Saturday 2nd had been a great success with an estimated 1200 people in attendance. Over £900 had been collected on the evening and the Sports Club had held a successful evening Disco. **Thanks to Martyn Gould and all the volunteers for all their hard work.**

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6. Children's SafeGuarding (Phil)

- Please see Play area fence above.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. User Group Items

- Rugby Club – The Club have requested permission from the Trust to commence installing floodlights around the current rugby pitch. The previous Trust had granted consent for the project and the Rugby Club have now provided a detailed report of the work involved. The Ops team discussed the project and raised some questions which will be passed back to the Rugby Club. Once answers are received then all of the information will be passed to Trustees for consideration. **Chair to send questions to Club and then answers to Trustees**
- The Ops team also discussed the charging regime for Rugby training. Previously the Club had been charged £7.50 per session without changing room use. It was proposed and agreed that this charge should be increased to £20 per session including changing room provision. **Treasurer Ray to notify the Rugby Club**
- Tennis – Please see the Trust section re the search for a third court location.
- Sports Club – the Club raised the point that they might lose some revenue based on the current plans for next year's Fun Day. A discussion was held but as this was fundamentally a matter between the Club and the Arts Festival it was agreed that it should be taken separately. **Fred to arrange consultation.**

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. – **Update – Tony's proposal for a new site was approved by the Trustees and Tony is authorised to commence work on this project**

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

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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 £100 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.**

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:

SRGT Operations Team	
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

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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.

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. **The final proposal was approved by Trustees.**

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. The final logo has been approved and **Fred will circulate to all Trustees**

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.

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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.**

Update – the volunteers met on site on Monday 11th November and identified two site worthy of further investigation. The Tennis Club will undertake some initial measuring and report back. **Jon Power**

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.

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.** **Update:** An initial draft project plan is being prepared by **Fred Bassett**

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:

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I look forward to hearing from you.