

Chairman's Review 2016/2017

Sporting Activity

Our real success must be measured in terms of the sporting/recreational activity which take place on our premises. Activities all round are up on previous years. Many are worthy of special note:

- Junior tennis is in very good health with over one hundred members
- We managed to attract lots of soccer games at both junior and senior level to make good use (perhaps occasionally over use) of our pitches.
- The MUGA usage remains on the increase
- Particular mention must be made of Walking Football which continues to attract very good numbers and they have upped their usage of the MUGA and developed a social dimension to their activities
- There is increased membership of the Bowls Club
- Ladies Football has taken off as has "Back to Netball", Running and Junior Hockey. It is good to see participation in this wide range of activities and I need to thank Becky Lyne for all her efforts.
- The success of the 2016 Football Festival will be repeated in June

Football Festival . . . and Volunteer of the Year

In June 2016, we held our first Football Festival organised by Helen Watts ably assisted by, it seemed, the whole Robins family who prepared the pitches, ran the BBQ, organised the parking and generally played a tremendous supporting role. It was a tremendous organizational success and also raised £3,000. The cash was put to good use - some going to help complete the update of the home changing room and £250 went to each of the four clubs.

The whole day was a good example of the voluntary effort which Helen puts into the Sports Field on a regular basis. I was delighted to be able to sponsor her application for "Volunteer of the Year" award organised by the Derbyshire Telegraph. Helen won the award for Derbyshire Dales and was a very worthy runner up for the County award. Of course, Helen is a very special case but I want to thank all those who volunteer their time and expertise - their cumulative effort helps build the Sports Field into a vibrant recreational and sporting community.

Trustees

There has been quite a turnover of Trustees. We said goodbye to Alan Wilson - well almost goodbye because he remains our Secretary until the AGM even though now living in Lincoln! Mike Booker left after ten years as a Cricket Trustee and Matt Poole (Cricket Chair) also left as his work took him out of the area. Mike's long stint is reflective of the genuine devotion which many people give to the Sport Field. Matt will be known for the successful merger of the Senior and Junior sections of the Cricket Club. Trevor Haigh (Football) provided a valuable link with the football fraternity and Pete Ledbetter was a very useful contact for St Anne's School. Finally, Chris Brown, who is also Chairman of the Parish Council, not surprisingly given the demands of his other voluntary position, has found it difficult to give the time to the Sports Field that he would like and recently resigned. I extend a warm collective thank you to all those who have served as Trustees it is an important and necessary role. All these Trustees have been replaced - or are in the process of being replaced - and I welcome our new colleagues and look forward to working with them: Stuart Cunningham and Howard Roper now represent Baslow Cricket Club, Tony Mottram joins us as St Anne's School Trustee and Chris Lyne become our Secretary thus extending her role managing all our bookings.

Woodland Park

My Sports Field year has been dominated by the Parish Council's proposed Woodland Park development. Although BSFCIO supports the principle of the Park we were unable to reach agreement with the PC on the practicalities and particularly the matter of ball-stop fencing. The RoSPA report we commissioned in September 2016 pointed out the potential vulnerability of visitors to the Park and recommended that we seek the provision of ball stop fencing to reduce the risk of cricket and footballs entering the Park and, potentially, causing injury.

Our position is that the PG should meet the cost and maintenance of suitable fencing. But "suitable" is a very flexible word and what the Cricket Club and Sports Field feel is suitable is not necessarily what others think. The Parish Council's planning application was viewed sympathetically by PDNPA who have given the project a "minded to approve" decision. Sport England have taken an active interest in the matter and requested a "detailed risk assessment and mitigation strategy" be completed by the applicant. As I write we are awaiting to clarify the next steps with the parish Council

Defibrillator

It is disturbing when the defibrillator has to be used - but it is fantastic when it achieves the purpose for which it is designed. Early in 2017 after a regular session of Walking Football one of the participants collapsed. The defibrillator was quickly utilised, cpr applied and the emergency services mobilised. Within the hour, the patient was taken to Northern General in Sheffield, underwent tests and remedial treatment and within three weeks was back drinking tea with the Walking Footballers and expressing his gratitude.

Undoubtedly the outcome would have been very different had the Walking Footballers not acted promptly and expertly. Additional cpr/defib training will be held this summer which I commend to all clubs. We have a duty of care for all those who use our facilities and clubs should ensure that suitable people are trained to use the equipment and apply cpr. You never know - another life could be saved.

Many thanks to the Parish Council and the anonymous donor who arranged for three defibrillators to be available at the Spar Shop, the Village Hall and the Sports Field.

Finance

During the year, we have achieved a modicum of financial stability. We set what we thought were reasonable financial charges for each sport and, within reason, fees were paid and the budget was as predicted. Never-the-less the budget can easily be blown off course. A car crashing into the wall cost us £400 to repair, excessive water charges due to a fault in the men's loo meant we had to find additional hundreds of pounds to cover our water bill and our drains had to be cleared - another unscheduled £400 charge. We need to remain financially vigilant.

My thanks must go to Neil Mantell our treasurer for managing our financial matters. We hit our budget in 2016/17 and we plan to operate without any significant increases for the forthcoming year. More detailed figures can be found in Neil's report.

CIO Status

The final act is to transfer the lease from the "old" Trust to the new CIO. Unfortunately, we were not aware that the lease was lodged with the Land Registry – consequently they had not been informed when Trustees were replaced. This has now been remedied and our solicitors are currently dealing with the Chatsworth Settlement to assign the lease to the new BSFCIO. It is hoped that this will be completed in a matter of weeks.

My Own Position

After five years as Chairman I felt it was time for a change. I genuinely believe the Sports Field will benefit from fresh ideas and a different style. When assuming office, I had no idea what I was letting myself in for! Never-the-less it has been a real privilege to work with a wide range of local people a play a role in keeping the Sports Field at the forefront of local sporting activity.

Over the five years I have been in office the Sports Field has, by promoting various functions, raised in excess of fifteen thousand pounds over and above that invoiced to our clubs. Additionally, we have been fortunate to have been allocated public funds from various sources: From the Parish Council £2.5k, DCC £2k, DDDC £3k, PDNPA £1.5k and from Sport England £33k for refurbishing the MUGA. These grants have, among other things, helped us keep the MUGA operating at a high level, update the home changing room and install security cameras

I must say thank you to my likely successor - Tony Buckham. I say likely because we still have to go through the formal nomination stage at the AGM. Tony has been a stalwart over the last couple of years and has helped me enormously. I know he will do a brilliant job. Of course, like me, he will be very dependent upon the voluntary effort which is required to keep such an enterprise healthy and forward looking. I urge you all to give him the enthusiastic support he will need.

Peter Holt

Chairman
BSFCIO

April 2017