

13 April 2011

London Based Departmental Association Representatives
CSSC London Activity Clubs

Dear Colleague,

CSSC CHADWICK STREET RECREATION CENTRE (CSRC)

As you will be aware, the future of CSRC has been the subject of much debate over recent months. In common with many other facilities, both inside and outside of CSSC, the financial pressures of running the club brought into consideration whether or not it should be retained.

You may know that the London Management Board (LMB) invited CSSC's National Management Board (NB) to reconsider their original decision of December 2010 to propose the closure of CSRC in June of this year. I can confirm that the LMB submission has now been considered and David Bell, CSSC's Chairman, wrote to members of the LMB on 12 April confirming the outcome of this consideration. A copy of that letter is enclosed with this note.

It is completely understandable that members that have enjoyed using the CSRC over the years will be very disappointed at this outcome.

Our immediate focus will continue on efforts to re-provide for most if not all of the activities currently based at Chadwick Street as well as preparing for and maintaining the delivery of the non-Chadwick Street activity in London which is unaffected by closure and continues to be very popular. We will of course also be working to bring the operation of CSRC to a managed and smooth conclusion. In particular, we must be sure to assist and support the centre's staff, who have been dealing with a period of uncertainty for some time.

With the LMB released from the mounting financial burdens of running the club in the future, the belief is that they will be in a better position to offer support to members and volunteers, activity clubs and DAs. Whilst it is inevitable that a degree of transition will be needed, the opportunity to develop a broader and more popular base of member activity is clear and will benefit from a CSSC budget in excess of £300k. Your help and input into that process will be key and can only enhance the benefits that members you cover enjoy.



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Departmental Associations (DA)

DAs are particularly well placed to engage with the LMB and help build a new delivery model for London that makes it easier for a far greater number of members to gain access to good quality sport and leisure opportunities, thus benefiting the DA and its membership. There are already many examples of good collaboration between DAs in London, but considerable scope exists for CSSC to assist in that process and help more groups and, in turn, more members benefit from those opportunities that might be shared, developed further or enhanced.

Activity Clubs

CSSC London is fortunate to have a number of activity specific clubs or groups providing valuable services for members. Going forward, these clubs, and others that we will look to create across CSSC London's Districts and centrally, are well placed to gain greater visibility for their activities and, hopefully attract more interest / participants. Whether your activity has in the past had no, occasional or even frequent use of the CSRC, scope will exist to consider new ways of engaging with members and getting them involved.

Dealing with a club closure should not of course be underestimated. We know that some members will not yet appreciate that new opportunities can and will emerge from a new CSSC London that doesn't include CSRC. However, our experience from elsewhere in the country shows that after an initial adjustment, the opportunities for members and for linked groups can be very positive.

Your help with and positive input into this process will of course be much appreciated and will help not only CSSC in general, but CSSC London and your local element of the wider CSSC community.

As things progress over the coming weeks CSSC will work hard to keep you updated of developments. However, if in the meantime you have a question or a suggestion to contribute, please contact either myself, John Butterfield (john.butterfield@cssc.co.uk / 07958344759) or Luke Roberts (luke.roberts@cssc.co.uk / 07951342034).

Kind regards

By Email

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