

NOTES OF CSSC LONDON ANNUAL MEETING HELD 21st APRIL 2009

The Chairman, Roy Alder, welcomed everyone to the meeting and went on to say that the activities programme in London had been expanded and that recruitment was on the increase. CSSC London is now funded on the basis of membership, and so retention of members is equally as important as recruitment.

CSSC London continued to keep in touch with members through regular emailing and the excellent website.

Roy Alder went on to say that as he was to become a Vice Chairman of CSSC and Chairman of the CSSC Sports & Leisure Committee he would be standing down as Chairman of CSSC London with immediate effect. Roy introduced John Summerfield as his successor.

Neil Le Milliere asked why there were no contact details of LMB members on the website. It was agreed that contact details would be updated and published.

Charles Stewart wanted to know how a member could become a member of the London Management Board (LMB), he was also concerned that we were not being successful at getting event information out to all members and potential members. He said that there was no acknowledgement in London of all the work that volunteers do and which areas of volunteer work do give a boost to membership.

Roy Alder replied that membership of the LMB entailed application and the approval of the National Management Board. David Graham (Treasurer) said that an applicant would need to send in a CV and then go through an interview process.

In terms of recognising the work of volunteers Roy Alder said it would be impossible to thank everyone for their contribution as some might get overlooked. He said his Chairman's Report (last para) thanked everyone for their support over the 6 years he has been Chairman. Insofar as getting information out to members Roy said that London had an excellent website which was continually updated.

Neil Le Milliere said that Table tennis information was on the National website but not on the London one. It was agreed that this would be remedied.

Bob Blackman (Home Office) asked if membership details were available. It was reported that the 'Admit' database at Head Office provided information on membership numbers and data. John Butterfield said that we only had 33% of members' email addresses; if we could increase this percentage it would be very helpful.

Roy Alder said that it was important that we did not bombard people with emails.

The 2008 Accounts were available and Brian Carrick (Finance Manager) invited questions. Charles Stewart wanted to know how volunteers would get funding to run events. Brian said that the application for funding would first go to John Butterfield and then on to himself.

Brian said that the 2009 grant would be similar to that of 2008. Roy Alder repeated the need to increase membership and therefore increase the grant.

Chiswick

The high turn out of members at the Annual meeting was due to the CSSC decision to partially close the Chiswick Sports Ground facilities thus saving CSSC some £180k per year. Numerous representations were made from the floor and these are detailed below:

1. Concern/anger at the lack of notice or consultation by CSSC to give users time to suggest alternatives or make preparations.
2. Worry that there might be a hidden agenda to fully close Chiswick.
3. A 6 or 12 month deferral of the decision should be considered with a substantial increase to current hire charges.
4. Look at hiring a Catering Contractor.
5. The cricketers were pleased to learn that the cricket pitches were only going to be reduced by 1 pitch but had concerns over catering being provided from the Bowls Pavilion.
6. The CSFC were understandably concerned that they may get kicked out of their league as they have to provide meals for their opposition after matches.
7. Bob Blackman (Home Office) said that, if asked, the major Departments that have a stake in Chiswick may have been in a position to offer finance. He felt that Chiswick had not been charging an economic rent for Sports days.
8. Mike Lee (CSRFC) said the Rugby Club only had 5 days notice of the Chiswick Users meeting, he felt that CSSC should just hand everything over to ROKO.
9. Jim Kellett said that the Football Club had started a petition at No 10.
10. John Thompson (CSFC) asked if CSSC London had considered taking back the management of Chiswick.
11. Neil Le Milliere said that the money CSSC London spends on the Barbados Challenge should go towards the cost of Chiswick.
12. When did the LMB receive notice of the partial closure?

Roy Alder said that the LMB was not informed until the staff at Chiswick had been given details of the proposals that would entail redundancies. Staff were informed on 3 March, thereafter numerous meetings were held with users but no suggestions were forthcoming as to how a saving of £180k could be achieved without partial closure.

John Butterfield said that the remaining sports facilities would be ample to provide for CSSC members with the obvious exception of bowls. He said he would be happy to meet with Catering Contractors and all clubs that have ongoing concerns regarding their usage of the ground.

There was no disguising the fact that members were very angry at the decision that had been taken to partially close Chiswick, they wished this anger to be conveyed to CSSC Head Office.

There was no other business.