

11 January 2011

Dear Colleague,

CSSC London: Important news for all members

First of all, I hope you had a fantastic festive period and let me wish you a healthy, prosperous and active New Year with CSSC!

2011 is certain to be a big year for CSSC. The CSSC Games at Loughborough University in September, the Barbados Challenge, new Online Shopping benefits, a much improved activity subsidy scheme and an enhanced Countdown discount scheme are just some of the great benefits available to you. In addition, you can benefit from the great range of CSSC London events, activities and benefits ranging from language classes, race days, ski trips, photography courses, discounted cinema tickets and a host of other sporting and leisure opportunities.

All this, plus exciting proposals concerning Family Membership and membership expansion, which are being considered at CSSC's AGM in June, are sure to make 2011 a significant year. In addition, changes are being made within CSSC London to provide you with even more local activities and opportunities. Now in our 90th year, CSSC has even more available for members.

Civil Service Recreation Centre (CSRC) - Chadwick Street

You may be aware that CSSC has a club in central London, located in Chadwick Street, SW1P between Westminster and Victoria. CSRC offers a range of facilities for members but, given its location, is used almost entirely by members located within close proximity of it.

Given the very high and increasing costs of running CSRC and, more recently, the dramatic fall in income from business conferencing coupled with a significant increase in business rates, the facility has become a bigger and bigger drain on the funds available for members in London. This is entirely the result of the economic climate and has occurred despite the hard work and commitment of everyone at CSRC. However, if the position is left unchecked, almost all of the funds intended to benefit members across the entire London Region will be needed to keep the club afloat.

So, to protect and develop the benefits and services available to all members in London, it is intended that the club will close, probably in the summer of 2011. The workforce has been informed and is being consulted. Whilst closure of the CSRC will change the facilities used by members in London, the financial benefits of closure are very clear. In future the **full** grant for London of well over £300,000 per year will be available to fund activities, benefits and services for members throughout the Region. This will include helping with the costs of hiring facilities for those activities CSSC members currently use at CSRC.

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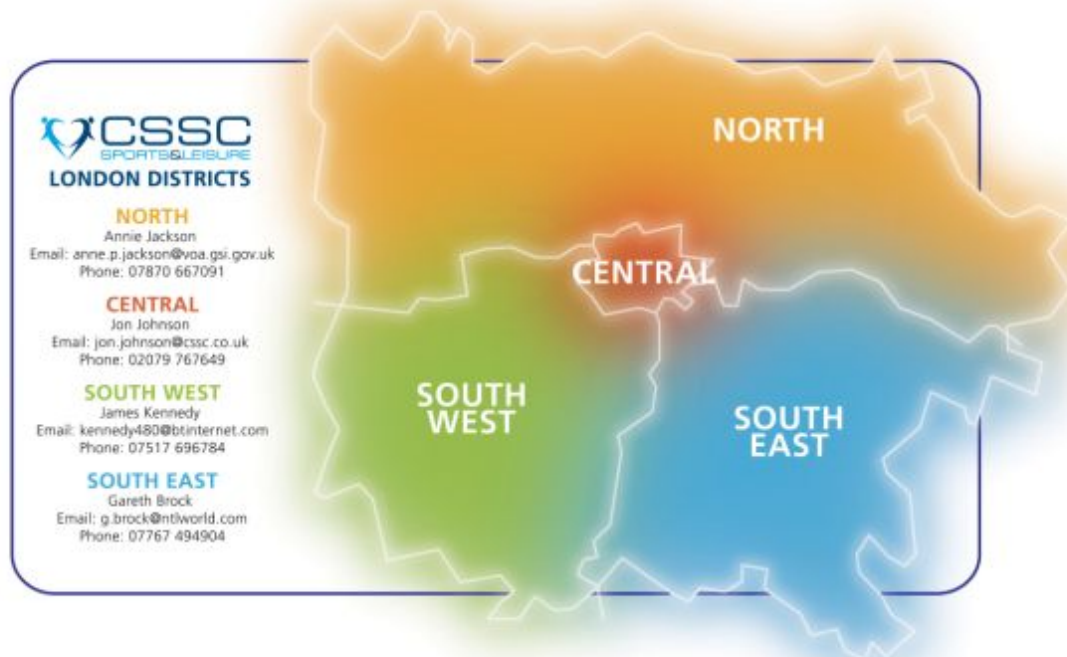
We expect existing activity held at CSRC to continue and CSSC colleagues will be getting in touch with all clubs and societies currently based there to discuss the facilities they need and where these might exist elsewhere in the Westminster area, as well as investigating what other local facilities might be accessible to CSSC members as an alternative to CSRC. If you are aware of any facilities either within the government estate or elsewhere, please get in touch.

So, whilst the intended closure of the CSRC will change some of the arrangements for members in London, the funds released will support a much enhanced programme of activity.

London Districts

With so many members in the London Region, ensuring that our local structure helps everyone to get the most from their membership is obviously really important. As I'm sure you'll realise, the Region, though quite compact, is actually very diverse, with a concentration of members working in central London, but also many members living and working elsewhere within the M25.

The plans for 2011 involve a designation of four London districts within the Region; Northern, South East, South West and Central with small volunteer teams, headed by a District Chairman, to bring CSSC's activity offering closer to more members throughout the Region. The Districts will organise and encourage local activity. They will be delighted to hear what you would like to see offered in your local area, so get in touch to tell them your ideas or to let them know if you would like to get involved as a volunteer. This is your opportunity to get support for something you already enjoy doing or to start something completely new.



Importantly, the Districts will be very flexible and if you see something in another District you'd like to take part in, no problem; just get involved and you'll be made to feel very welcome. More details of the Districts initiative will be included in the next edition of Leisure Scene, but to find out more please contact the Business Development Executive for London, Luke Roberts: 07951 342034 – luke.roberts@cssc.co.uk

Membership for Life

Given the changes under way in many departments, I know that some colleagues may be leaving the civil service in the coming weeks and months either on retirement or via other departmental exit schemes etc. If this situation applies to you or someone you know, please remember that just because your time with the civil service may be coming to an end, there's absolutely no reason to stop benefiting from CSSC. Contact our membership department on 01494 888 444 or by email at headoffice@cssc.co.uk who'll be happy to advise you on how to retain your membership and continue to enjoy an increasing array of benefits, activities and services. If you have more time available, you could make greater use of the opportunities that are available and perhaps volunteer for CSSC. By retaining your membership you can have fun for years to come.

More information

For more information on any of the topics covered by this letter or if you'd like to help in the transformation of CSSC London, contact Luke Roberts or the CSSC Customer Services department on: -

Luke Roberts – Business Development Executive for London
07951 342 034 - luke.roberts@cssc.co.uk

CSSC Customer Services
01494 888 444 – headoffice@cssc.co.uk

For enquiries specifically concerning the Chadwick Street club contact: -

Ray Collins - Chadwick Street Club Manager
020 7808 1203 – ray.collins@cssc.co.uk

As ever, more information on what's on offer within CSSC at a local, regional or national level can be found on the CSSC website at www.cssc.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued support of CSSC and CSSC London and here's to a busy and productive 2011 – just make sure that you are part of it !

Yours sincerely

By Email

David Hayday
CSSC Director of Operations