

Highbury Fields Tennis Steering Group

Meeting: Monday 20th Jan 2014, 8pm, Italian Trade Union Centre, Highbury Corner

Present: Jill McLaughlin, Hitesh Soma, Nigel Billen, Sally Kinnes, Viren Soma, Wendy Proudfoot, Karen Dawson, Kate Mathews, Simon Moore

Apologies for absence: Jon-Paul Mbaka, Manu Ducrocq

AGENDA

- 1) Minutes and matters arising**
- 2) Social Media Training**
- 3) Match fixture dates and update on court upgrade**
- 4) AOB**

Minutes and matters arising: The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Jill and Nigel apologised for missing the meeting of the Tennis Development Group. Apologies had been sent to Andrew Bedford and to Jemima Lee from the Middlesex LTA who had attended the meeting.

Nigel recapped from a post-meeting briefing from Andrew. It had been noted that as second tennis policy group existed and that there was some confusion over the remits. Andrew suggested that this should be discussed at the next development group meeting.

The application for funding for the renewal of the courts had been made to the Mayor's fund. If successful, it would receive match funding from Islington's 106 fund and possibly LTA grants and the work would take place in 2015. If unsuccessful, the more limited court renewal plan would be carried out this year. A decision on funding was expected in March. Upgrading work on the courts will proceed ahead of any consolidation of the footprints of the various amenity buildings. Development of these buildings would be funded separately. As a consequence, the layout of the courts themselves will remain as they are.

Andrew had thanked the steering group for its support of the application and Nigel said that we would again do whatever we could to support the likely planning permission request for additional floodlighting.

The decision to appoint a new leisure centre managing company for the borough had been called in for review. If Aquaterra were to lose the contract, the main implication for tennis on the Fields would be the online booking system which might change.

A freeze on court charges had been confirmed.

Social Media Training: The group thanked Katy for the work on setting up and preparing the Facebook page.

Katy, with reference to her prepared document, outlined the functionality of the page and suggested ways it would work.

It was agreed that the page should have a mutually supportive and positive tone with the various interests represented on the Steering Group acting as administrators.

The main function of the Facebook page would be to post topical items relating to tennis activities, answer basic questions and cross-refer to the website for static background information.

The Facebook page is to be tweaked to be called "TennisOnHighburyFields" to reflect the Steering Group title and its website URL.

Katy is to send the administrators "homework" to complete ahead of a second social media training session. It was hoped that page could be fully functional by Easter.

Katy

Nigel said he would look at ways to take a feed from the Facebook page onto the website.

Nigel

Match fixture dates and update on court upgrade: Wendy withdrew the proposal to change the scheduling of club matches which will now remain as before but with an option to play matches if necessary on Sundays. This was acceptable to all.

AOB

Sally reported continuing problems with obtaining credits through the online booking system. It was noted that Andrew Downey has taken over in IT support and problems should be addressed to him. Nigel said it was still impossible to get the Izzcard discount if booking in person at the Hut and various other issues were raised.

Wendy reported that she continued to have informal conversations with possible sponsors of tennis on the fields. It was suggested that the pursuit of outside support should at least wait until March when the future of the court renewal should be more certain.

Nigel said he undercharged steering group members for the annual website renewal fee. He apologised and said he would correct this at the next meeting and issue receipts.

Nigel

Karen recapped on an impressive program of school and community activity including a fortnightly programme at Highbury Grove involving 120 children and a lunchtime club for girls. New public courses for children will start at the end of

April and run for ten weeks. Adult courses will begin in May. The steering group discussed the problem of encouraging the older children to take part. While it was hoped the work with the younger children would mitigate this in the future, currently there was a participation age-group gap to be filled.

Karen noted that the Go Islington sports festival date had been set for 28th June. It was hoped that this would coincide with one of the LTA's club and community weekend dates and steering group hoped that all the tennis interests on the Fields would this year be given the opportunity to be involved. This would be followed up at the next development group meeting.

Jill
Nigel

Sally said the next Highbury Fields Forum meeting was on Monday 27th January. She would represent and report back.

Sally

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was set for Monday March 10th 8pm and would again focus on the Facebook page.