

Introduction

2020 has been a very challenging year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Whilst the year started with a wide range of activity and events planned the impact across all we do has been significant. There has been no activity, tenant or user group immune from the sudden change of regulations and legislation. As a charity we have held prudent levels of reserves and have weathered the year well in financial terms; this has enabled us to provide support and flexibility to our tenants and critical breathing space for our event organisers.

Throughout the 2 lockdowns we continued to operate and provide direct support to our tenants and network. In some cases, we were able to reach out and provide ad hoc support to local sports and recreation organisations including emergency grant funding. A prime example is the network of local charities and organisations, led by Bath Rugby Foundation, who created and delivered a Summer Breakout project which supported a wide range of vulnerable young people. We also contributed to the cost of PPE and Covid testing for Bath City FC as they faced the dichotomy of no funding stream and the cost of competing in the league playoffs. Both of these activities providing a much-needed boost for the community and something positive to break the stress of life without sport and recreation.

Our schools support programme also pivoted to provide immediate aid in the form of school meal deliveries and in school PE support for schools stretched by the impact of staff absence. Our staff, led by Kev Adams, volunteered time to help provide support to the most vulnerable young people and families. We have redesigned our whole school approach in partnership with local schools and particularly Palladian Academy Trust. The approach ensures as many children as possible enjoy PE, games and sport in the safety of the school setting whilst community sport remains in hiatus. Organised activity with schools will return to the Rec and Glasshouse as soon as it is safe to do so.

Annual Meeting

As the risks have not reduced sufficiently, we will not be in a position to hold a meeting this calendar year but will aim to hold one as soon as it is practical and safe to do so. We will give at least 3 months' notice when we can settle on a new date.

Operational Activity

The Recreation Ground. After a very short period of closure whilst we established safe routines for tenants, users and visitors we made the Rec available for Covid-Secure daily exercise. Whilst major events were cancelled along with many routine bookings it has been fantastic to see our regular users such as Bath City Foundation and MIND run their sessions, promoting healthy and active lifestyles. In October Alex Hull worked alongside Bike Bath to bring Bath Marches to life, consisting of two walking routes, 9 or 15 miles, starting from the Recreation Ground. We are working with the event organiser to expand this activity and aim to make it a fixture in our calendar.

Glasshouse Playing Field. The development of the pavilion is well underway with completion scheduled for Spring 2021. Some activity has continued throughout the lockdowns and we were pleased to be one of the few community cricket grounds that saw play including club and social teams. The fields also provided space for a local pre-school to provide key worker childcare.

Broadmoor Orchard and Playpark. The park was initially closed but since reopening has been operating as normal; providing an oasis of fun and recreation space for local people and visitors.

Other activity. We have supported St Mark's School in developing their community facilities as well as Bath Festivals and Bike Bath. Our Grounds Manager, Dave Cobb has provided advice and support to the FA, ECB and Somerset County Cricket through pitch reports helping to raise the standards of community facilities in our area.

Governance

Our Board of Trustees/Directors currently are:

Geoffrey Fairclough	- re-appointed for 1 further year
Dave Durdan	- Somerset Playing Fields Association nomination
Angela Lewis	- Fields in Trust nomination
Martin Harman CBE	- appointed September 2018
Keziah Trump	- appointed September 2018
Jason Dalley	- appointed September 2019
Stephen Tanner	- appointed September 2019
Naomi Defroand	- appointed September 2019

The charity is currently in the process of recruiting a new trustee with financial qualifications and expect to make an appointment in early 2021.

Professional Advisors

Clarke Willmott continue as our property legal advisers and Veale Wasbrough Vizards as advisers to the company in charity legal matters. MHA Monahans act as our auditors and accountants and JLL act on property valuation matters.

Finance

The accounts for 2019/20 have been submitted to Companies House and the Charities Commission and are published on the charity's new website. <https://www.bathrec.co.uk/>

We have sufficient operating reserves for current needs and continue to grow funds for future strategic and operational facility investments. The staff team operate to a Board approved budget which provides for the operational management of our properties.

Staff

Kevin Adams -Sports Development Manager. Kev joined Bath Recreation having been involved with a school PE project that was delivered on the Rec. In his time with our charity he was instrumental in expanding our relationship with schools, particularly those with a high proportion of additional needs. He grew the activities and opportunities creating a sustainable legacy which will now connect generations of young people to our iconic venues in Bath whilst fostering a love of sport and recreation. Kev has now opted to retire and we look forward to inviting him back to celebrate his achievements with our charity as soon as possible. He leaves with our thanks and good wishes.

Dave Cobb continues as Grounds Manager and has taken on responsibility as Site Manager for the Rec. Kai Harwood joined as a groundsman in February to support with grounds maintenance across all three sites. Alex Hull has been promoted to Operations Manager and will take on responsibility as Site Manager for Glasshouse.

Future Initiatives

We are delighted to announce a new children's activity club which will launch in Spring 2021. In partnership with St John's Foundation and the Medlock Charitable Trust the programme will support the development of young people from Year 5 through to leaving school.

We continue to consider future opportunities for development of recreational facilities and programmes within Bath and work with various other local charities and organisations to enhance community opportunities.