

Bath Recreation Limited

www.bathrec.co.uk

Annual Report - September 2019

Introduction

The Objectives of the Charity are:

The provision, with or without charge, of property in or near Bath (including but not limited to the Bath Recreation Ground) for use as indoor and outdoor recreational facilities for the benefit of the public.

The charity has had another positive year with further progress being made in development of facilities and increased activity at both the Recreation Ground and Glasshouse Playing Field. Broadmoor Orchard has now settled into a success story with the focus being on community enjoyment.

Our charity was recognised at the Institute of Groundsmanship Industry Awards winning the Multi-Sports Grounds/Facilities Team of the Year for 2018. Other finalists were the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Manchester City Sports City. This accolade bears testament to the quality and variety of work delivered by our small but dedicated staff team.

The award has brought the charity to the attention of a wider range of organisations, particularly National Governing Bodies for sports. We have increasingly been recognised as a source of advice, particularly for grounds maintenance and funding opportunities; this advisory role is one we expect to develop further over coming years.

Further growth of the Schools Coaching Hub has taken place with new schools participating and we have developed deeper relationships across the Primary School network. In addition to the Hub we support on-site activities including netball, football and sports mentoring.

We have begun a City-wide audit of sport and recreation facilities coupled with a senior leadership symposium including a variety of organisations from the sport, education, philanthropic, heritage and community sectors. This audit will support the development of our strategy beyond 2020.

A summary of governance, general activity, future plans of the charity and the aspiration of one of our tenants, Bath Rugby, to develop a new stadium at the Recreation Ground are also covered in this report.

Governance

Three new trustee/directors have been appointed to the Board and enhance the expertise, knowledge and competencies of our existing Board within legal, financial, education and sporting areas. The Board is grateful to Rob Carver for his input and support during his time as a trustee/director. Details of current and retiring trustee/directors are:

Derwent Campbell	- Chair, retiring September 2019
Dave Durdan	- Somerset Playing Fields Association nomination
Angela Lewis	- Fields in Trust nomination
Geoffrey Fairclough	- re-appointed for 1 further year
Martin Harman CBE	- appointed September 2018
Keziah Moreno	- appointed September 2018
Jason Dalley	- to be appointed September 2019
Stephen Tanner	- to be appointed September 2019
Naomi Defroand	- to be appointed September 2019
Stephen Baddeley	- retiring September 2019
Liz Bloor	- retiring September 2019
Simon Emery	- retiring September 2019
Mike Laughton	- retiring September 2019
Rob Carver	- resigned July 2019

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The Board will continue to recruit further new trustee/directors as necessary to manage the continuity of knowledge and experience as current directors complete their terms of office and new opportunities present themselves.

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 2018/19 are published on the charity's website. The Board have taken a prudent approach to new liabilities until the future of the Stadium for Bath proposal is determined.

We have sufficient operating reserves for current needs and continue to grow funds for future strategic and operational facility investments. We have a restricted fund (of approximately £450k) for capital investment in property at the Recreation Ground and/or Glasshouse.

The staff team operates to a Board approved budget which delivers a wide range of activities and manages, maintains and improves where prudent the quality of our properties.

Strategic Activity

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan detailing our vision and strategy until 2022 is available on our website. The strategic objectives detailed are achieved through an annual operating plan and budget agreed by the Board and delivered by the staff team.

Facilities Audit

We are undertaking an audit of all recreation and sporting facilities across the City. We are engaged with a wide range of organisations and landowners who are keen to work with us; this engagement has already created real benefit, such as contributing towards a new 3G pitch surface at St Mark's School and thus increasing the availability of the surface for the local community, the school and clubs. In addition, we advised on an element of financial strategy resulting in savings to the school budget.

Once complete the audit will provide a detailed reference for the Board to determine future strategy for the provision of enhanced or new facilities. The process will also identify key stakeholders and partners; early indications demonstrate a real willingness to share knowledge and to harness our skills and resources for the benefit of communities, clubs and schools across the City.

Stadium for Bath

Formal negotiations with Bath Rugby will, we expect, shortly be underway with regard to their aspirations to replace the existing stadium. The timing and pace of such discussions when and if commenced will become clear in the future. If asked to do so the Board will consider the Stadium for Bath in terms of the benefit and advantages that would be given and created to enable the further and better delivery of our charitable objectives

- Opportunities for enhanced community use and benefits
- How any development will blend in with the rest of the Recreation Ground
- Potential for provision of additional funds which can be directed to the provision of other recreation facilities and resultant activities.

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The Board will not be part of the design process and will consider detailed proposals presented to it as a landowner with charitable obligations to be met from the resources available to it.

Operational Activity

Staff

An Operations Co-ordinator, Alexandra Hull, was appointed in November 2018 bringing the staff team to five, led by the Chief Executive. The team work closely to deliver the operational and strategic activities of the charity from our office on the Recreation Ground.

Glasshouse Playing Fields

We are currently at the planning stage for construction of a new clubhouse and changing facilities at Glasshouse Playing Fields. We have engaged directly with schools, clubs and the local community to share our plans and ensure we are providing for local needs. Once complete, the new facilities will provide for a range of recreation and sporting opportunities for the schools and some clubs across the south of Bath. The legally required emphasis will be on Schools and club use, and, the provision of cricket facilities.

Broadmoor Lane Play Area and Orchard

We continue to support the enthusiastic local residents' association at Broadmoor Lane with the upkeep of the Orchard and Play Park. The area is used regularly by local children for play, the local school for educational activities and for local resident initiatives such as May Day Celebration and Apple Days.

Recreation Ground

Refurbishment of the former Drama Hut has been completed. This building is now used as the Clubhouse for the Croquet Club and the rear room is a meeting space for the charity and other local organisations such as The Rotary Club and Cleveland Pools Trust. The Drama Club now make use of the pavilion for their rehearsals along with a wide range of local community groups such as Pulteney Estate Residents Association.

The ground itself continues to deliver a wide range of activities and this year has seen greatly increased use by Primary Schools through the Sports Coaching Hub programme.

Users and Events for 2018/19

Use of the Recreation Ground continues to grow, and Glasshouse has also seen an increase in school activity. Regular activities undertaken across both grounds include:

Croquet, quidditch, football, cricket, drama, rugby – adult, mini, women's, touch, training sessions and community events.

Other activities include: shinty, rounders, frisbee, fencing, mini "Olympics", family fun days, sports days, fitness sessions, running and fly-fishing lessons. It is rewarding to note the growth of a wide variety of regular recreational and sporting uses on the Rec and at Glasshouse.

Key events this year have been:

- Bath Festival Finale
- Bath Half Marathon
- Bike Bath and other charity cycle rides
- Bath Carnival
- Bath Rotary Fireworks

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- Rugby – Dyson 7s, women’s matches, Under 14 County games, Combined Services, University matches, Combination Cup and training camps.

The Primary Schools Coaching Hub

The Schools Coaching Hub initiative continues to grow with new schools participating. Again, the academic year ended with four weeks of festivals in the summer term. Over 2000 school children have now taken part in activity on the Rec and our 5-year plan continues. Richard Bullard, former head teacher of Combe Down Primary School is assisting our charity as schools’ ambassador, enhancing our connection to the schools in Bath.

Community Outreach / Initiatives

We have been working with various other charities and organisations to assist them with their aims and activities. These include:

- Bath Rugby Foundation – “HITZ”, “Heart of a Lion”, “Move Like a Pro”, “Standing Tall”, “Girls Social Sports” and “Project Rugby Three Ways” programmes
- Sporting Family Change
- Mentoring Plus
- Mencap
- Alzheimer’s Society
- Rotary Club and Inner Wheel
- Cleveland Pools Trust
- Dorothy House
- Kids of Bath

Summary of user numbers

We have seen use of our facilities, grounds and skills sets grow to an all-time high. Over 80 schools, clubs, charities and other organisations have used and benefitted from Bath Recreation Ltd’s assets and the Board is committed to continue to grow these numbers both in current locations and others yet to be identified. The annex below gives more detail on our users.

Future activity

The Glasshouse site will be the focus for development of a new clubhouse, improved access to open up use to those who presently are unable to do so, improved facilities and educational space. Specifically, this will include provision of suitable facilities for schools, including Three Ways School which provides for the special educational needs for school children across Bath. These facilities will also provide opportunities for a wide range of beneficiaries including sports clubs and community groups.

The audit will inform future strategy and we expect to develop our advisory and delivery roles in support of other charities and recreation providers.

Cleveland Pools Trust are working toward the restoration of the site. We continue to work with CPT in developing their operator model that will see the historic pools provide a unique outdoor recreation opportunity for the benefit of the public.

Derwent Campbell

Chair

on behalf of the Board of Directors

August 2019

Users of Bath Recreation Ground and Glasshouse Playing Fields

Tenants	Frequency of Use in year	Numbers of participants	Age range & diversity of Participants
Bath & North East Somerset Council / GLL - Sports & Leisure Centre	Every day	500,000 p.a.	All
Bath Rugby			
- Premiership/European/Anglo Welsh	Home matches	14,500 per match	All
- A League/Combination Cup	Home matches	3,000 per match	All
Bath Croquet Club	Every day	100	15 – 85 mixed
Bath Rugby Foundation	Every day	< 4,000 in year	Mainly youth but some adults
Events			
- Bath Half Marathon	Once per annum	16,000	18 > / mixed
- Dyson 7s Tournament	Once per annum	500	All / mixed
- Bath Festival Finale	Once per annum	16,000	All / mixed
- Alistair Currie Events	Once	300	20 > / mixed
- Bike Bath	Once per annum	1,000	All / mixed
- Bath Carnival & Fiesta	Once per annum	5,000	All / mixed
- Rotary Club of Bath Fireworks	Once per annum	8,000	All / mixed
Schools & Educational Establishments			
- Beechen Cliff School	Occasional		13 > / mixed
- University of Bath	Occasional		18 > / mixed
- Bath Spa University	Occasional		18 > / mixed
- Bath College	Occasional		16 > / mixed
- Visiting Schools/Colleges	Occasional		13 > / mixed
- Midford Road Nursery	Regular		3-5 / mixed
- Three Ways School	Occasional		
- Schools Coaching Hub Participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Abbot Alphege o Bathampton Primary o Bathwick St Mary's Primary o Combe Down Primary o Moorlands Infants & Junior o Oldfield Park Infants & Junior o Roundhill Primary o St Andrew's Primary o St Martin's Garden Primary o Twerton Infants o Widcombe Infants & Junior o Bathford Primary o The Grove Primary o St John's Primary o St Mary's Primary o St Michael's Junior o St Saviour's Infants & Junior o St Stephen's Primary o Weston All Saints Primary 	3 days per week, term time	1000 approx 36 classes	5-11 / mixed

Users of Bath Recreation Ground and Glasshouse Playing Fields

Amateur Clubs			
Bath Quidditch Club	Sundays	<20 per session	18-25 mixed
Bath Drama Club	Year round	45	17 - 80

Other Users

<p>Football</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bath City Youth / Girls - BANES - Life in the Old Dogs - Wild Cats
<p>Rugby</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bath Mini Rugby - Combe Down RFC - Bathwick Touch Rugby - Bath Touch League - Buro Happold
<p>Cricket</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bath Cricket Club - The Bell Cricket Club - The Ram Cricket Club - Star Cricket Club - Rotork Cricket Club - Bear Flats Cricket Club - Combe Down Cricket Club - The Harington Club - Buro Happold
<p>Other sports / users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flik Ultimate (Frisbee) - Orvis (Fly fishing lessons) - Bath Abbey - Framptons - Bath & Avon Vineyard - Fitness - English Shinty Association - Kwik Cricket - Softball - Kids of Bath

<p>Sports Development Clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formula Football
<p>Charities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bath Rugby Foundation - Mentoring Plus - Mencap - Sporting Family Friends - Dorothy House - Bath Area Play Project - St John's Foundation
<p>Pavilion /Conference Room Users (meetings, hot desking, functions & consultations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PhysioImpulse - Bath Croquet Club - Bath Drama Club - Cleveland Pools Trust - Bath Rotary – 3 committees - Bath Inner Wheel - Mentoring Plus - Royal Society of Arts - PERA Seniors - Bike Bath - Gerrards Buildings - Local residents' private functions

New Users/Activities