

## **BSF CIO - Chairman's Report – 2020/21**

### **Introduction**

This report summarises the key events, achievements and challenges relating to Baslow Sports Field Charitable Incorporated Organisation (BSF CIO) and its constituent sports clubs over the period October 2020 until September 2021.

### **Sporting Activity and COVID-19 Impacts**

The core objective of the CIO is to support the local community in improving their physical and psychological health and well-being by providing the best possible facilities to local sports clubs and community organisations.

2020/21 proved to be a challenging year from a sports perspective because of the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in several national lockdowns and closure of sports and leisure facilities across the UK.

Clubs were asked to suspend all activity for a period of time and our Pavilion was placed in lockdown to all members and visitors.

However, in late Spring 2021 all our clubs were able to restart their programmes and we saw an extended football season, which overlapped with the start of the Cricket season, which proved a complex logistical challenge! Meanwhile, Tennis and Bowls were also able to restart and have been active all Summer.

The use of the Pavilion indoors has remained restricted for some parts of the year, but has largely returned to normal now with changing rooms being brought back into use by the start of the football season.

Our continued partnership with Becky Lyne and TrYumph-in-Life has fortunately been able to thrive, although some activities have been impacted by the Pandemic. However, the holiday camps and outdoor group activities have continued and Becky's enthusiasm, energy, and ingenuity in running these is much appreciated. Becky continues to be a great asset to the local community, and we continue to value her massive contribution to BSF CIO.

The field continued to be used by St Anne's Primary/Junior School for their various activities, but use was limited during the lockdown periods.

### **Café Development**

The experimental Vegan café continued during the year and proved very popular. In May, the Café closed and in July a further café service was established which, again, proved very popular. It is the intention to offer a more permanent service throughout the year, which can be established in collaboration with other clubs' usage of the Pavilion. These initiatives have proved there is a market in the community for this kind of café at the sports field, and we thank Neil Angus and David Robins for helping to establish these pilot services.

### **Projects**

We have seen several projects established and completed during the year.

- A new stand-alone storage facility has been built to store sporting equipment, currently housed in the Pavilion storeroom.

- Work has commenced in upgrading the old storeroom to become an extension to the lounge, providing extra facilities for players and spectators.
- Furniture in the Pavilion lounge has been upgraded to support the cafe operation and picnic tables installed outside the Pavilion.
- Significant work has been undertaken on the field to ensure the playing surface is safe and robust for the coming Autumn and Winter months.
- Discussions are being held with Chatsworth Estate around the feasibility of a Golf Pitch and Putt' course in an adjoining field. This is a long-term project aimed at adding to the range of sports we provide at the field.

### **Marketing and Fund Raising**

Trustees continue to work hard to attract funds into BSF CIO and work in this area will need to continue to help fund our current and future initiatives and projects.

Raising the awareness around the community of what we offer remains one of our biggest challenges, although the café has helped enormously in raising the profile of the Sports Field.

### **Finance**

The advent of COVID-19 has been a serious concern for the Trustees with respect to the sustainability of the Sports Field as our income from clubs and users was adversely impacted during the 2020/21 period. However, we were able to secure COVID-specific grant funding from local authorities which was directly used to cover our day-to-day overheads and provide opportunities to refresh some of our facilities. This funding, coupled with some income from the café and TrYumph has enabled the sports field to operate without too much impact on cash reserves.

**The Sports Field Trustees would like to thank Derbyshire Dales District Council and all our benefactors for their great support over the last 18 months.**

Prudent financial management, and further work on seeking grant funding remain key objectives for BSF CIO, achievement of which will help ensure the organisation remains on a sustainable financial footing for the foreseeable future.

### **Maintenance of the Sports Field**

Finally, it is sometimes easy to forget the day-to-day work that goes into making our facilities first-class. The sports field and Pavilion are in the best condition we have seen for years, and much credit and thanks need to go to David Robins and his team for doing such a great job these last 12 months, especially during the COVID-19 period.

**Tony Buckham  
Chairman  
Baslow Sports Field CIO  
September 2021**