

BSF CIO - Chairman's Report – 2019/20

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 June 2019 until September 2020.

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.

Sporting activity and use of the facilities continued to flourish during 2019 through to March 2020, with the football, cricket, tennis and bowls clubs all continuing to be regular and active users of the facilities.

As a result of significant investment into the playing pitch surface, we were able to attract two new football clubs (Brunsmeer FC and Chesterfield Community Trust FC) to the field which generated much-needed football income.

The arrival of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 resulted in complete lock-down of all BSF facilities in March. This initially resulted in all sporting activities being suspended and the need to close the Pavilion. From June 2020, we have seen a gradual revival of tennis, cricket and Bowls, albeit with COVID-19 restrictions in place. The use of the Pavilion indoors has remained restricted as result of national social distancing guidelines and full use of the changing rooms, lounge and upstairs is likely to remain restricted until 2021.

Our continued partnership with Becky Lyne and TrYumph-in-Life has continued, although activities have been impacted by the Pandemic. However, the holiday camps and ad-hoc activity days for children were able to be held whilst schools were closed 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 Pandemic period.

Contadino Atleta Cafe

One big success has been the introduction of our experimental Vegan café, delivered by Neil Angus. Whilst the Pavilion was initially closed at the beginning of the Pandemic, we were able to authorise first, a take-away service, then an outdoor café by granting Neil sole use of the Pavilion lounge and kitchen to deliver the service. The take-up and feedback on the offering have been terrific and it is hoped we can continue this service on a more permanent basis for the foreseeable future. This initiative has proved there is a market in the community for this kind of café at the sports field.

Projects

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

Feasibility work on the third phase of the Ground Floor work (an extended lounge area) has continued with designs being submitted to two building companies for quotations.

Assessment of funding options is currently in progress and it is hoped this project will be completed by the end of 2020.

Other projects carried out during the year included:

- a further ball safety net to protect cars in the car park.
- the laying of all-weather protection on the path to the Woodland Park down by the side of the MUGA, funded by a grant from the Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust and Baslow & Bubnell Parish Council.
- further drainage and treatment work on the Sports Field
- a variety of improvements around the Pavilion, including motion-sensor LED lighting and installation of a wide-screen Smart TV!
- the planting of our first ever real Christmas Tree....with lights!

We continued to work on the options for a running track around the perimeter of the sports field, although this has currently stalled due to the Pandemic and difficulty gaining approvals from national sporting bodies. This will be reviewed again later in the year.

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. Some local consultancy was kindly donated to BSF CIO to help us establish the best way to reach the wider community using traditional and modern techniques. The Pandemic impacted progress on the work, but we are starting to pick this up again and we hope to review plans later this year.

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 sources from clubs and users dried up. However, we were able to secure COVID-specific grant funding from local authorities and we had some amazing contributions from members of the local community and sports field users, which has certainly helped stabilise the finances.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the upkeep of the sports field during this difficult period, we very much appreciate your kind generosity.

Prudent financial management, and further work on seeking grant funding 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 is in fantastic shape and much credit needs to go to David Robins and his team for doing such a great job these last 12 months, especially during the COVID-19 period, not just on the field but also around the Pavilion and with the various refurbishment projects which were undertaken.

**Tony Buckham
Chairman
Baslow Sports Field CIO
September 2020**