

MINUTES OF THE HAVERING SPORTS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd July 2024

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| Present: | M Wallace | D Ainsworth | R Cook |
| S Deane | K Heilbrunn | Cllr V Persaud | J Robson |
| D Shewring | S Swaisland | G Webb | D Wiltshire |

Note: It was at this point it was stated that some members hadn't been receiving meeting notices/agendas. The Chairman agreed to liaise with the Hon Secretary.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from D Braiden, D Keeley, C White, M Lipson, J Hickie, K Nutt, D and A Drew, J Watson and A W Dron.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and were proposed by R Cook and seconded by D Shewring.
3. **Matters Arising from the previous meeting**
 - a. The Chairman advised that a suggestion of a bar on Category Winners (except from Schools) not being eligible for a 3rd successive nomination after 2 consecutive wins be lifted and would be further looked at by a committee of senior office holders.
 - b. The Chairman suggested the Sports Council's Bursary Scheme needed to be more active in entertaining applications. To be considered by a committee of senior office holders.
4. **Correspondence** None has been received.
5. **Membership Secretary's Report** No report is available but numbers are thought to be the same.
6. **Treasurers Report**
The Treasurer sent in a report on current balances. It was agreed by M Wallace and seconded by D Ainsworth.
7. **Information on forthcoming events and results of past events**

Cllr. V. Persaud gave an overall view of Council business as it affected sport, leisure and recreation. It was reported that a Libraries' consultation was still in progress and members were urged to participate. Parks, where many sports teams play, had 16 prestigious "Green Flags". D. Shewring specifically drew attention to Harrow Lodge Park's Green Flag" being tatty and dirty. Cllr. Persaud was asked to raise this with a relevant Council Department. Mention was made of concerns about locking park gates and about recent reports of anti-social behaviour in public parks. The Chairman enquired who our 2nd nominated Councillor was? He praised Cllr. Persaud's regular attendance, but stressed there were 2 Councillors assigned to attend Havering Sports Council meetings. The Chairman stated he would personally enquire into this matter.

Havering Athletic Club

Their Youth Development Squad (U17/U20s) won their division and were promoted to the top Southern Premier Division. The Senior National Athletics League team were Championship East Division runners-up and with 1 remaining fixture hope to clinch promotion to Division 1. An unbeaten Eastern Young Athletes League team top the table with 1 remaining fixture; are assured of a top-4 finish and have qualified for an end-season final against 6 top Clubs. A Youth Development U13/U15 Southern Premier team are relegated to Southern Division 1 after finishing 6th and last.

3 individuals for special mention are Joel Ajayi who won an English Schools Championship 100 metres, breaking U17 & U20 records and made a GB debut winning bronze at European U18 level in Slovakia. Ruby Tilson won High Jump gold at the English Schools Championships and England Athletics U20 Championships. Stephanie Okoro won a 400 metres hurdles gold at the England Athletics U20 Championships and an English Schools silver medal in the same event.

4 Club relay teams participated in the Invitation Connect Relays at the Olympic Stadium, held immediately before a Diamond League event, and featuring the fastest U15 & U17 teams in London. A U17 team men's team broke their Club record and the Women's team came close. Kieran O'Hara placed 5th in the Ambulant 1,500m and won bronze in the same event at the British Championships. He made another GB appearance at the Virtus European Athletics Championships for T20 intellectual impairment athletes in Sweden. He did well in both 1,500 & 800 metres and in a bronze medal 4 x 400 relay team. Coach Pat Gahagan was among GB Coaches.

Upminster Bowls Club

An outdoor bowling season is well under way despite wet weather difficulties. Upminster B.C. gentlemen play in 3 leagues but in 2 are currently bottom and in the 3rd are 5th out of 9. Essex County Bowling Finals are due to be played on Sat 27 July at Essex Bowls Club but only 1 Havering Club, Romford B.C. are in a final. Romford & District Bowling Association are celebrating a centenary and in May played Chelsea Pensioners in a friendly and were successful. In 2025 the Association will be hosted by the Pensioners and Sandy Dron is to be Association President. In June E.C.B.A. played a yearly match against the R.B.A. and although the R.B.A. won 4 of 6 rinks, the overall score was 109 shots, so an honourable draw.

Essex County Women's Bowling Association have released their finals on 27/28 July with Havering Clubs well represented. The 2 Wood semi-finals are to be played with Clockhouse and Elm Park playing Essex opponents with finals later that day, so an all-Havering final could be in prospect. In the Pairs Final, Elm Park are playing, and in the Fours Clockhouse are playing against other Essex Clubs. On Saturday Clockhouse are to play in the Top

Club Competition. Sunday is a Clockhouse affair as teams from that Club will play against other Essex Clubs in both Triples and Senior Fours.

Essex Cormorants Diving Club

In the half-year to July 2024 the Club were represented at 7 competitions. It had been a tough year so far with their pool closed for nearly 3 months. Despite such setbacks, Clubs members were able to continue training at various venues and 125 different members had participated in competitions. 20 members had entered Skills level competitions. The Club had seen a better spread of ages. One diver had achieved National Skills Qualifying Standard. Average scores for Skills level Competitions were 241.2. In-house and Invitational average scores had risen from 81.3 (2023) to 84.46 (2024). Male entries show an encouraging increase.

There are major concerns, with time lost due to maintenance work at the pool also the new pool has less needed facilities when compared to those in their former pool. Allocated pool availability time was down to 4 hours per week. It was suggested the Club invited Cllr. Gillian Ford, Havering Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Sport Leisure and Recreation to visit the Club to meet Officials and members and observe what the issues are? The Everyone Active representative present took notes to be passed to that Company's management.

Everyone Active

It was reported it was "Business as usual" and they've been nominated for consideration as "UK Active Sports Centre-of-the-Year". Favourable rates were available for court hire etc., and free kids' swimming was on offer.

Hornchurch Cricket Club

Hornchurch Cricket Club continued fielding 5 teams each weekend. In June the Saturday 1st XI had won comfortably at Hutton, lost narrowly at Chelmsford, lost at home to Brentwood by a wider margin, lost at Wanstead & Snaresbrook, beat Winchmore Hill BY 5 wickets a high-scoring Conference Cup 2nd Round match in which George Hankins recorded another century (111), drew at home to Chelmsford and beat Acton by 56 runs in Round 3 of the Conference Cup. July commenced with no play on July 6th, July 13th saw 301 runs amassed for 5 wickets with George Hankins scoring 106 runs. Chingford replied with 149-1 before bad light forced a draw. 20th July saw a deserved win against Colchester. The League is tight, with a number of important games coming up with everything to play for.

The Sunday 2nd team in June suffered a heavy home defeat by Abridge, beat St. John's by 89 runs and lost at home to NEO by 79 runs. In July the 1st XI suffered abandonment v Newham due to rain, lost to Chingford by 2 wickets and to Wanstead by 37 runs.

Cup competitions saw victory in an Essex T20 match at Billericay, as Wanstead & Snaresbrook could only reach 97 in reply to Hornchurch's 109. In the final, Chelmsford won the toss and batted first, making 106-8 allowing Hornchurch to be victorious with 108-2. A Quarter Final League Cup match at home saw Brentwood clock up 122 runs which Hornchurch confidently passed in 28.1 overs.

Romford Rifle Club

Looking good with over 100 active members, based at the David Lloyd Club. The Club need to find £7000 per annum to rent their facilities

8. Newsletter/Website/Publicity

Web Site and Press Officer's Report. The Press Officer reported he'd complained to the Romford Recorder's Lee Power about much reduced sports coverage in our local press. He'd also adversely commented on the whole back page of the Romford Recorder and 2 other titles (Ilford Recorder/Barking & Dagenham Post) being given to reporting England football Manager Gareth Southgate's resignation which wasn't a local newspaper issue - and already been covered to excess in our national media. A polite email wasn't responded to.

9. A.O..B

a. Mrs. Julia Lopez MP (Hornchurch/Upminster) had been appointed Shadow Minister for Culture, Media & Sport. In this post, it was suggested she might make a possible AGM guest speaker.

b. Hornchurch-based Paralympic medallist swimmer Amy Marren was awarded an M.B.E. in the King's Birthday Honours List.

c. Georgio Bugnatelli B.E.M., Secretary of Hylands Tennis Club, who'd been an active Havering Sports Council member for 2 decades, was awarded a National Lifetime Club Hub Award for his services in the Children's Activity Sector.

d. An enquiry was made with reference to dates for HSC Annual Sports Awards. The topic is usually discussed on October's agenda, with nominations opening on 1st November and closing on the 2nd Monday in January (Jan 13th). Presentation is normally the 1st Monday in February (Feb 3). The Schools Representative checked this date to ensure it avoided half term.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th September at Hornchurch Cricket Pavilion.
Meeting closed 9.10pm.