

Discussion Summary for Community Sports Groups Coffee Catch-up

Held: 9:00am Wednesday 2 September 2009

Venue: Queenstown Events Centre, Frankton

Present: Damian O'Connor, *Rugby*; Sharon Eade, Brooke Gardiner and Kay O'Connor, *Netball*; Sue Tippet and Warren Bryant, *Touch Southland*; Fiona McKissock, Cam Sheppard, Karen Gemmell and Richie Heap, *Lakes Leisure (LL)*.

Discussion summary

Welcome & introduction

General welcome and explanation of the purpose of the meeting:

1. to share information between sports clubs
2. to update sports clubs on current developments at Lakes Leisure facilities
3. provide opportunity for sports clubs to ask Lakes Leisure questions

Background on Lakes Leisure (LL)

A brief rundown of what LL manages and why Council set-up the organisation. LL is a council controlled organisation (CCO) and a not-for-profit, limited liability company. Its primary role is to manage the delivery of leisure and recreation services and facilities to the Southern Lakes District, providing affordable leisure services that are inclusive and accessible to all members of the community.

Council required an organisation to manage its new aquatics centre when the project was completed. Rather than contract this role out, Council decided to form a CCO. The CCO was set up in January 2008 for management of the new pool, Queenstown Events Centre and Memorial Hall (previously run by QEC Trust). In July 2008 the other council venues and fields were added to LL's management responsibilities.

The external turf maintenance contract expired ended 30 June 2008. The Council had voted to improve the standard of sports turf across the district. LL successfully tendered for QLDC's Turf Maintenance Contract for sports fields throughout the district (41 hectares) utilising the turf management expertise at QEC. LL also coordinates the management and booking of the district's sporting facilities and venues previously contracted out by council to Lakes Property Services. The formation of LL has enabled leisure related services to be brought in under one entity.

Funding of LL

LL is primarily funded by a council grant. Under the funding agreement between LL and QLDC, LL is required to operate facilities within a budget that meets the Council's funding policy. Where surpluses are produced, they are reinvested to expand community programmes and work to increase participation numbers.

Sports field and indoor stadium charges

QLDC is releasing a new draft Community Facility pricing policy for council fields and reserves and venues for public comment soon. LL pricing of fields and venues is at historical rates (there has been no increase since LL was formed) and well within the existing QLDC policy of 10% cost recovery of sports fields.

A change in policy may result in a change in pricing. One of the drafted changes, if adopted by Council, would be the possible 100% subsidy of junior sport for children up to the age of 16 years. The QLDC consultation process will provide an opportunity for sports clubs to comment on the proposed policy. LL does not yet know the timeline for this review but will communicate with all groups as soon as it does know.

Funding of sports clubs

Attendees expressed concerns over access to funding in order to pay hire fees, sports body affiliation fees and club operating expenses. Discussion centred on:

- the funding cycle – not knowing future fees impacts on group's ability to apply for funding;
- charities are running low on funds during the recession period; and
- charities cannot be seen to be favouring one sports group over another and so groups aren't getting the funding they may have in the past.

The question was also raised as to whether there was opportunity for sporting groups to raise funding for capital works and receive a discount in their field charges / hire fees in return. Further discussions around potential partnerships would be required.

Seasonal sports conflicts

There have been overlaps of some children's sporting codes with the change between the winter/summer seasons. Craig Ferguson, on behalf of the Wakatipu Sports Users Group, has confirmed to LL that he will begin discussions and mediation between summer and winter codes where seasonal clashes have occurred in the past.

Capital projects

Currently funded projects resulting from the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) include:

Dry changing room upgrade

An upgrade of the QEC changing rooms was required in order to meet the requirements of regional and international visiting sporting teams and to be able to continue to attract this level of sport to Queenstown. When not being used for such visiting teams, the changing rooms will also be used by Alpine Health and Fitness to increase overall usage of these facilities.

Flood lights

The field lighting project that was started in 2007 is to be completed this year. An additional two towers will be erected to flood light Field 1B. Depending on these costs and available funds, there could be the potential to upgrade Field 5 lighting which is insufficient and installed some 10 years ago.

Options for outdoor change facilities

The submitted budget to build the proposed outdoor change facility was not approved. Council approved \$100,000 for an outdoor change and toilet facility intended to go in the north east corner of John Davis Oval to service Fields 1, 2 and 3. This has not proven sufficient to build and supply plumbing therefore the project is on hold and due to limited funding it may need to be staged over multiple financial years.

Feedback from Netball

1. The surface of the courts has been too slippery

LL responded: Floors are cleaned twice per week. LL is currently investigating new types of polishes to use with the buffer and obtaining quotes for resurfacing the floor.

2. Lack of heating in auditorium during winter

Netball commented that it's cold inside early morning and difficult for players to warm up.

LL responded: The indoor stadium has never been heated in previous seasons and therefore is not a budgeted operating cost that LL has funds for. The heating system is very expensive to operate. It costs around \$150-200 per day just to turn on the heating system and bring stadium up to temperature and then additional running costs per hour after that. The building is not insulated, is an enormous space to heat due to the ceiling height, the heaters are 11 years old and the technology is very inefficient. There is no funding for this to provide an immediate solution.

3. Physio

Netball mentioned they liked it when a physio was available at QEC on Saturdays and it would be a good service to offer in future.

4. Ice

In the past Caltex had sponsored the supply of ice for netball – LL did not supply this. Netball will revive this sponsorship relationship in order to provide ice for Saturday netball competitions.

5. Scoreboards

There has been some difficulty in getting the scoreboards to operate properly. LL will ensure that step by step instructions are available for operators and are happy to teach people how to use the scoreboards if required.

Health and Fitness

LL outlined the establishment of the new Alpine Health and Fitness Centre opening 24th October:

This is a community-owned health and fitness centre. The need for a health and fitness facility providing a weights gym and aerobics area was identified and decided on through extensive public consultation on the Aquatics project by Council in 2003 and 2004. The health and fitness space was built at the same time as the pools and is the final part of the Aquatics project to be completed. LL has taken a loan for the fit out and equipment and pays a market rent to Council. QLDC is guarantor of the loan but the centre is standalone and will not receive any rate payer funding.

Facilities at Alpine Health and Fitness will include a range of cardio and weight training equipment, group fitness programmes and personal training options. As an integrated part of the Queenstown Events Centre

and Alpine Aqualand, Alpine Health and Fitness will assist in positioning Queenstown as a preferred training base for regional, national and international sporting teams.

General Discussion

Communication

LL is working to increase communication directly with sports clubs. The groups present expressed the need for greater cooperation between the various sports clubs. LL can act as a single point of contact. LL is neutral, working to increase participation in sports generally and can help balance the interests of all sporting groups and clubs.

First Aid kits

It was agreed that all users should supply their own first aid kits for their sporting meets and events.

Maintenance issues

Anything broken or not working properly please let LL know by emailing bookings@lakesleisure.co.nz. It is more effective to use this centralised system rather than tell reception or a supervisor.

LL available for contact

LL is here to help you and your sports groups. Please feel free to contact LL at any time regarding any concerns your sports group may have.

Next Coffee Catch-up

The next Coffee Catch will be held:

9:00am – 10:30am Friday 27 November