



BRIGHTON & HOVE CRICKET CLUB

Nevill Sports Ground, Eridge Road, HOVE

President: Chris Pearson

FAO
Mr Robert Walker
City Parks Manager
Brighton & Hove Council
Hove Town Hall,
Norton Road, Hove BN3 3BQ

13th September 2019

Dear Rob

**Council Committee Meeting - Supporting Information
for change in license and lease Brighton & Hove Cricket Club**

Please find enclosed a summary outline of the club's ethos, values and the community benefits for the Nevill sports field and Pavilion as a multi-sport and multi user playing field for all users and stakeholder.

Background:

The Nevill Pavilion and Sports Field has been the home of Brighton and Hove Cricket Club [B&HCC] since 1993 and Brighton & Hove Hockey Club [B&HHC] since 2012. It is a multipurpose community facility for football, hockey and cricket and is in use 360 days of the year. It is also the home of Dolphins playgroup throughout the academic year.

This document focuses on the activities of B&HCC but makes reference to activities of B&HHC, as well as football clubs who utilise the space, where shared facilities and or a common interest exists.

About Us:

B&HCC is the largest community cricket club in Sussex providing cricket opportunities for boys, girls, men and women. The club currently has six senior teams (5 men's and 1 woman's) with the Men's 1st XI competing in the Sussex Cricket League Premier Division and the Women's 1st XI, in the Southern Cricket League Championship. Our colts section is well established and we currently operate teams at every age group from U9 to U19 for boys, as well as U11, U13 and U15 for girls. A popular and critically acclaimed program run at B&HCC is the England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) "All Stars" program which is run for young



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children from 5-8 year olds. This fun and friendly Saturday morning program regularly has over 100 children from all over the city being coached in basic and motor ball skills.

The club is based at Nevill Sports Ground, Eridge Road, Hove and leases the ground and pavilion from the council under license. We operate our own ground maintenance program and own some dedicated machinery and equipment, with the Club responsible for the maintenance and up-keep of the two cricket squares, as well as helping to maintain the out-field and surrounding areas of the Nevill. In 2018, and in recognition of the hard work of club volunteers meant that, B&HCC received the most improved ground in Sussex.

Our Ethos:

We are a fully inclusive club and welcome all new comers without prejudice or hindrance. irrespective of back ground, location and age. We are known as a friendly, unassuming and ambitious club.

B&H C.C work closely with both state and independent schools in the area including Blatchington Mill, Brighton College, Cardinal Newman and Hove Park schools. All of whom use our pitch and training facilities and there are close ties between the coaching staff and teaching staff at these schools.

We are proud of our “open to all” policy and have a number of undergraduate and post graduate members from Sussex and Brighton Universities too. We also have ties with a number of local language schools whose students are part of our membership.

We foster good relationship with our residential neighbours and the local community and several smaller fraternity teams who use the sports field for a variety of recreational activities and games.

Our motto is “get the game on for everyone “ and our open to everyone policy means that welcome families especially those with young children , disabilities and wheelchairs. We also have several senior citizens who visit the Nevill to spectate and participate in social events.

About the Nevill:

The Nevill is a first-class inner-city sports field which is available to all users. In addition to cricket, hockey, football and rugby it is a popular community space for neighbours, dog walkers, joggers. It is a clean clear and popular open space which is well kept and suffers only occasional bouts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.



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It is known colloquially as “the windy Nevill”. Relationships with dog walkers, neighbours and allotment users is extremely good.

About Brighton & Hove Hockey Club:

B&HHC are also based at the Nevill and share use of the pavilion for social and changing facilities whilst using two AstroTurf pitches adjacent West Blatchington Mill School. The Hockey club has ten men’s and women’s teams as well as ten junior boys and girls’ teams. They play over 300 competitive & friendly fixtures each season as well as hosting county and regional tournaments days. Their men’s team compete in National Hockey League, the second tier nationally.

About Dolphins Playgroup:

Dolphins, an outstanding OFSTED rated pre-school was founded in 1960 and have been based at the Nevill since it first opened. B&HCC and Dolphins lease the building from Brighton and Hove City Council and enjoy good working relationships. B&HCC is administered by an elected committee of volunteers who meet regularly to agree club priorities, activities, investments and all decide on all cricket related matters.

The club generates income of about £50K per annum through player subscriptions, sponsorship and bar revenues and aims to operate a cost neutral balance sheet with any surplus reinvested back into the club. We have a relatively high cost base with our grounds contractor (approx. £25K), lease and license (£8K) and cricket equipment (£7K) being our biggest costs.

The club has some notable alumni, with former England and Sussex, multi-Ashes winning wicket-keeper Matt Prior, and former Scotland international Matt Machan among them. This is in part to our highly respected and critically acclaimed coaching infrastructure.

The club has a well-defined social and processes and a dedicated welfare officer who is in close liaison with the ECB/SCB/FA . Our coaching standards are high, and we have produced a number of male and female international cricketers over the years.

The club is GDPR compliant and operates all welfare and safeguarding requirements.

Current Funding:

B&H C.C do not have any wealthy benefactors or single sponsors/investor/shareholders. By changing the licenses and lease this will give B&H CC access to a wider range of sponsors and grants. This additional funding will

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be used to improve the quality of the playing surfaces through a holistic ground care improvement program.

In turn this will provide funding for equipment for the development of the sport for all ages and classes. There is a strong sense of community esprit d'corps at the Nevill and this would enable us to increase the scope of provision for teams and associations.

B&H CC do not generate profit, have no shareholders and is run entirely by volunteers. Most of our revenue is made up from fund raising and players seasonal subscriptions. The club funds one overseas player per season which is common for larger cricket clubs in the country.

Benefits:

The benefits to the community are many. By developing the Nevill the Cricket, Hockey and football clubs will be able to provide better infrastructure and coaching/development in the area. All local junior and senior schools will continue to make use of the grounds including schools' sports days. The Nevill is a valuable community resource for local organisations as it can be used as a meeting and social venue. Local Government intend to use the Nevill as a polling station.

Acronyms:

ECB – English Cricket Board,
SCB – Sussex Cricket Board,
SFA – Sussex Football Association



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