

London Hardcourt Bike Polo Association

Courts committee meeting: 05 Oct. 2010
(7.50-10.30 pm, Bethnal Green)

Members

Present: Ed (Chair), Jon (Secretary) Wen, Kevin, Max, Mark, John, Aidan, Ryan, Nik, Adam, Jon (Eggpie), Adrian

Minutes

Previous work done – Ray's information pack discussion

Pack needs completing, Venn has volunteered to do this with direction/help from Ed.

Current approach seems sound and clear, no overhaul needed.

Different audiences need different information, keep info relevant and concise. Use covering email and index.

Only state tournaments that have been played on London courts. Show growth in different ways.

Map shows polo scene in a negative light? Percentages can show things more positively.

Show polo as gender and age neutral to allow councils to tick boxes.

Keep the raw info as a Google Doc copy file for others to use and then create art-worked version.

More polo dreams/excitement needed!

Development of existing courts - Analysis of each court in turn

Brick Lane: Don't play there regularly, slope is too extreme, ask if re-developing it, otherwise leave it

Broadway: DIY ethic (Ryan and Max could quote for Broadway)? Ask council if we can improve the court for bike polo (boards at the end and ice hockey style gate).

Downham: Lights (feeling is that it's a no-go), drains, too small for future polo? Needs better maintenance.

Hackney Downs: Wooden boards at the base (Newington style), storage available? Gabes is close-by with goals.

Venn is right beside it. Lights for the other courts to reduce pressure on caged court? Possibly arrange a night a week to exclusively use the court? Open comms with council who seem very receptive.

Mitchison: No real change needed, tricky area to develop, court too new?

Newington: Lights need turning back on, needs sweeping regularly (courts needs broom bearers, Jon to action).

Push for exclusive use of the courts one night per week (giving us more leverage when lights don't work)?

Fences need removing (Jon to action post BFF)! Storage at Newington (general feeling is no)?

Courts caretakers elected, uncontested and unanimous

Kevin elected as courts caretaker for Newington (January onwards) (Can work with S rep: Adam).

Pique elected as courts caretaker for Mitch and Downham (Can work with NE area rep: Rupert).

Venn elected as courts caretaker for Hackney Downs (Can work with NE area rep: Rupert).

Other business relevant to existing courts

Southwark council mentioned developing a court? Can this be looked at again?

Coin operated lighting system (or LHBPA direct debit) may get councils on board?

Could Quorn Rd be re-developed, general consensus is no.

PCP was saved back in the 80s... now has an arts/alternative vibe. How did Frank's get their space? Roof on the roof for covered polo?

Finding new courts discussion

Cataloguing old courts information needs to be done: Ed (Wiki Doc, or doc in downloads section of LHBPA

Informal arrangement of every journey searching for new courts works well. We're being too fussy with courts.

Prioritise finding lit and covered courts.

People need to test courts more often. Reccy the East London Line for potential (Pique to action). Borough

have play areas on their websites, use list to our advantage.

Getting a court built discussion

Needs more research, source Ray's design. Venn has expertise.

Find opportunities not locations, talk to everyone!

Create master list of public sector contacts

Create master list of private sector contacts (Yorgo may have property contacts. Camelot = cookery show, need to contact again. Share the use of a court (roller hockey, street hockey, etc)?

Max is happy to find private spaces. Find legal squats (security guarding). Polo renters? Max will approach Camelot style companies. (Goldenwheel may be useful for sponsorship contacts.)
Pique knows an architect related to the Olympics (will contact for contacts).
John Mack may have contacts (Aidan to contact).

Herne Hill – potential site for new court

General feeling is once a week is the most use you will get. No-one's opposed. Amazing winter court (covered/lit). "Build it and they will come". Existing cycling community. Awesome for tournaments.

Lots of facilities. Get behind it...

Be honest with developers about numbers, how often we'd probably play, etc.

Partner with Herne Hill in a PR push to show new usage, etc (if Herne Hill are interested).

Kevin to go to meeting tomorrow night and report back.

We should do polo showcase events in general? Indoors, no live polo (videos?), spend money to raise the profile of the sport, bring the topic up at the next general meeting, get a sponsor too?

Creating a pop-up court

A solution for tournaments, not each day.

Need more information, Munich could provide? We could potentially tour cities to get funding from the government to promote polo (Rollapluzza are a good analogy).

Use a tourney to fund it, don't hire motorway barriers. (Red Bull pop-up night weekend? Southbank centre worth contacting. Truman brewery tournament -mate of Yorgo?)

LHBPA storage would be needed, bring up at the next meeting.

Temporarily hiring an indoor space

No consensus on how much a player would pay.

Polo should remain free if possible.

Could be a long-term solution (but not generally liked by the group). Sports halls are precious about their surfaces. Can't guarantee numbers/payment. May become overwhelmed. First come first served, limit numbers?

Extending Courts Committee

Max: Co-Chair of Courts Committee.

Adam: Roller Hockey Bike Polo Crossover Liason Officer.

Wen: Courts Reporting Officer.

Kevin: Courts caretaker of Newington (January onwards).

Pique: Courts caretaker of Mitch and Downham.

Venn: Courts caretaker of Hackney Downs.

Meeting Actions

Wen: Revision and completion of Ray's document.

Ed: Create collaborative Google Doc of courts report copy.

Ed: Source extra info/imagery for completion of Ray's document.

Ed: Catalogue old courts information into one place, recommend any courts for "testing".

Ed: Decide on new meeting date in the future and manage others.

Jon and Ed: Create master contact lists for both public and private sectors.

Jon: Pass London Open brooms to court caretakers.

Jon: Get rid of Newington fencing after BFF.

Jon: Contact councils about improvements to existing courts.

Jon: Contact Herne Hill after Kevin attends meeting.

Max: Contact Camelot style companies about legal squatting somewhere.

Kevin: Herne Hill meeting representative for 6th Oct, to report back.

Pique: Reccy the East London Line for dead space.

Pique: Contact Olympics architect guy for contacts.

Aidan: Contact John Mack for contacts.

Adam: Contact roller/street hockey associations/groups and research "dual usage"/get contacts.

New members

Aidan paid for LHBPA membership, Jon to transfer £5 to LHBPA account.