

DARTINGTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION AGM 5TH JULY 2022

Present

Will Fitzgerald (chair) Louise Morpeth (treasurer) Margaret Cushen (notetaker)
Jan Maddick (trustee,) Adrian Porter, Karen Dorow (trustee), Joel Riley (trustee)
Mark Burton, Mandy Burton (trustee) Bex House, Jim Brittain, Helen Tune (trustee)
Carole Tudor, Alan Tudor.

Apologies

Lynn Williams(trustee) Jinty Balch, Ashish Ghadiali, Sarah Guest(trustee), Charlotte Huish (trustee)

Welcome

Will Fitzgerald welcomed those present and thanked those who have volunteered for the DRA in a multitude of roles. He offered special thanks to Alan and Carole Tudor, Peggy Prout and Jinty Balch for their work as trustees, now retired from their posts.

Trustees agreed to setting up a management group to enable operational decision making in a timely fashion. This group consisted of Will Fitzgerald, Louise Morpeth, Margaret Cushen, Jinty Balch on whose retirement as a trustee was replaced by Jan Maddick. This group and its' functions will be reviewed by trustees in their September meeting.

Trustees agreed three changes to the constitution (1) the registered address (2) broadening the catchment for recruiting appointed trustees from Dartington Parish, to Dartington, Totnes and the local area (3) increasing the range of appointed trustees from not less than 4 or more than 6, to not less than 4 and not more than 12.

There was discussion about the constitution changes, no one objected to these. We need to update the Charity Commission about these changes, and the changes to trustees- which will be done with the annual submission.

Finance

Louise Morpeth presented the accounts for the year April 21- April 22 and the budget for April 22- April 23. The accounts were accepted. The budget proposed is for DRA income and expenditure and does not include grant funding for projects which is restricted for spending on the specific project. Restricted income and expenditure will be reported routinely to trustees at their meetings.

The reserves policy will be reviewed by Trustees at their September meeting.

Louise has rationalised the bank accounts and we now have a business account with Barclays. Louise has moved all the accounts to Xero and is confident this will make the treasurers job much more manageable.

A huge thanks was offered from all present for Louise's work and patience with the bank!

Community Centre

Joel Riley, who chairs the building group reviewed the year. The major highlights being negotiating new user agreements with New Lion Brewery and Pizzalogica. New signage has been agreed and will be up on the building soon, with the blessing of Dartington Trust who have to approve all our signage. Notice boards have been in place for a few months now, allowing regular users of the rooms to advertise their activities in the building. The snooker room has been brought back into use and we hope to see it become used regularly. Repairs are regularly required and are managed by Joel and Mark Burton. More outdoor seating is required Pizzalogica and New Lion have been asked to provide more.

The group has started the process to develop a plan to replace the building, a feasibility study is underway.

Pool

Helen Tune, who chairs the pool group updated the meeting. This summer will be the last for the current pool. It will allow the group to concentrate on fundraising for the redevelopment project. This season all the schools are using the pool St John's, The Grove, Dartington, Steiner, Wave Academy and soon Lifeworks.

This season opened for the community day, which focused on fundraising for the pool, over £5000 was raised. Two Eco Design students from Schumacher are going to use the pool compound for their project and hopefully some of their ideas will inform the redevelopment plans.

£9,000 is now in place to allow the preplanning work to be carried out by the Architect and the group. The drawings and models will enable the redevelopment group focus public consultation and the bigger funding bids that are needed over the next 12 months.

The 10 acres

Bex informed the group about Earthjump, her not for profit CIC and the work she has done from that platform. The playground maintenance and replacement of split beams is covered by the warranty provided by the contractor.

Earthjump have completed 48 sessions with students from Bidwell Brook, Dartington Primary and River Dart Academy, Lifeworks hope to be part of that in the future too.

Bex thinks a working partnership with Totnes Rural Youth Engagement can be developed. Earthjump focus their work on young people in the margins.

The Bidwell students have been helped achieve their Duke of Edenborough awards-planting trees, bulbs, establishing the wild flower banks. RDA students are focused on land management and more of their staff are participating now.

Family sessions – outdoor public engagement sessions have a small core of returning families, which is encouraging.

Bex has also raised £18,500 as Earthjump and the DRA to enable future investment

As part of the bike track group Bex has organised Natasha Bradley to do girls/women bike training sessions. These start next week till the end of term. Then from September Natasha will run Wednesday after school training sessions. Dynamic Adventures will also be using the track for their sessions with St Johns PC pupils.

There will be snorkelling sessions with Bidwell Brook and Dartington Primary School pupils jointly run by Earthjump and the dive club in the next few weeks and perhaps a public session in the holidays.

Bex is hoping to organise a retirement group to undertake a survey of the flora and fauna on the site from September, with Jinty. The hope being to develop a green vision for the site for wildlife and people.

Adrian asked about the MUGGA proposal for the tarmac area. Bex confirmed that the money has been secured but it seems planning permission is required for the basketball posts, which has brought the plan to a stop. There is uncertainty about the long term future for the tennis courts too, so the DRA are reluctant to invest large amounts if the site ends up being used for a different purpose in 5-10 years. Alan Blake suggested an adjustable height post which could be removed and relocated, he agreed to send a link to Bex.

Mandy proposed a huge thank you for Bex and her work both as Earthjump and as an active volunteer for the DRA.

Bike track

Mandy Burton updated the group about the successful build, launch, storm damage, reopening and its ongoing inspection and maintenance by the DRA. The best thing for Mandy was that one person who strongly objected at the planning stage, talked to trustees at the community day saying now she fully supports the project and sees it as an asset to the village.

Football

Totnes and Dartington FC have merged with Meadowbrook FC and will be known as Totnes, Dartington and Meadowbrook FC in the future. The club has 200 adults and juniors a week training and playing. The club has two adult teams who play at Foxhole. Junior training is on the DRA field with groups from 5+. There has been a 16 week pilot of girls football with 34 young girls 5-11 participating. Maintaining the group through the winter will depend on female volunteers coming forward to manage the groups use of the all weather pitch at KEVICC and return to the field in the spring. A new user agreement needs to be worked on for July.

Dive club

Membership dropped a little in the pandemic but is back at around 100 members with 40 regularly diving. We have trained another 6 ocean divers this winter, they are now in the sea nearing the end of their training. The crowd funding money raised has been used to upgrade the gas panel and buy various bits of kit. We are back diving every weekend from the ribs, every Tuesday evening from the shore and have various dive trips planned.

The club has decided to compete for the BSAC Hienke Trophy this year!

Next stages

Will closed the meeting by introducing Jim Brittain who has accepted the role of trustee. Will appealed to those present to encourage friends to step up as volunteers for the DRA, to consider becoming a trustee of the charity and to continue to be generous, not only with their time but with their money.