



Statement from BHC Chairman and Vice Chairman

You will all be aware of the proposed purchase of the Chapel Gate site by Bournemouth University. Many of you will also have seen recent negative statements in local press, on websites and social media of the proposed purchase. John Stuart and I have been monitoring progress and have been in discussions with the current owners of the Chapel Gate site (The Bournemouth and District Recreational Charity (BDRC)), ALL of the other sections and Bournemouth University.

We believe that some of the recent statements have been misleading and in some cases inaccurate, and we think it important that we communicate the BHC view of the current situation and future expectations as we see it.

John and I have been working with our Commercial Working Group which includes a number of local people with strong commercial, legal and property skills and experience. As a group we have been following the whole process as the Trustees of BDRC sought to find a buyer for Chapel Gate. The result of this scrutiny was that the committee unanimously agreed that the BU bid was clearly the best option for BHC and as such your elected BHC committee is supporting the BU bid. We already enjoy a strong and growing relationship with BU and there is a desire on both sides to build on this growth even more in the future.

Proper playing facilities are obviously key to the future of BHC. As part of their bid, BU has committed to the renewal of Astro pitch 2, any necessary refurbishments to Astro pitch 1 and new, fit for purpose, floodlights on both pitches. There is a desire to do this ASAP, but a major project of this size will inevitably take time. However, an assurance has been provided that this will happen within two years.

We firmly believe that the BU proposal is the best realistic solution for BHC. We do of course understand that it may not be such an obvious positive outcome for some of the other sections, however we do not believe that it necessarily should mean a negative outcome for any.

It is important that you understand our views on the issues that have been communicated recently. The key thing to understand is that nothing has yet been finalised. BDRC and BU are still in negotiation. BDRC have made it clear to BU, and all sections what their 'red lines' are as part of any sale, which includes continued community sports provision, in line with their charitable purpose, which in itself covers:

Security of tenure

Through a legally binding subsidiary company, BU intend to provide a minimum lease of 35 years to existing playing sections, with renewal option at the end of the lease. The Trustees have set 'security of tenure' as one of their red lines that must be in place to protect existing sports clubs at Chapel Gate

BOURNEMOUTH



HOCKEY CLUB

SLA payments

BU have committed to keep SLA payments fixed for a one year period, which will be reviewed at the end of the year. BU have engaged with an outside sports consultancy who have reported that BHC already makes higher financial commitments compared to other hockey clubs with similar facilities. We anticipate that while there may be a more realistic set of charges to the various sections, there will not be a significant increase in cost for BHC to remain at Chapel Gate.

BU's 'different' agenda for Chapel Gate and current sports clubs

As we have stated earlier, BU and BHC already have a growing relationship. BU are already committed to supporting BHC and this season we have developed a joint membership scheme between the two hockey 'clubs'. BU have no plans to play hockey as a University on a Saturday, so intend to use BHC to develop their hockey players in order to continue their plan for success in the University BUCS competition. This is a key element for the promotion of sport at BU. We believe that BU's objectives for hockey, fit very well with BHC objectives.

Restrictions on sponsorship arrangements

We understand that there may well be certain restrictions on sponsorship arrangements. However this does not apply to shirt sponsorship or of sponsorship of players or teams, we can think of no reason why this should affect any current or planned arrangements for BHC or any other community club.

The latest statement from BDRC Trustees is attached for information.

Ian Barber BHC Chair

John Stuart BHC Vice Chair