

Athletics Clubs' Committee
Contingency Claim - Rugby
A Paper by Jonathan Hardisty – Rugby Club Captain

Summary

ACC Rugby seeks £994 to cover additional training costs incurred due to decisions made by Hammersmith and Fulham council, poor pitch maintenance on their part and lack of suitability and availability of Sport Imperial facilities.

Background

For the past 3 seasons, ICURFC has opted to hold training sessions at Linford Christie Stadium (LC) in White City as opposed to Harlington. By hiring a nearby facility and getting players to make their own way there, the Club has been able to save roughly half the cost of transporting players to Harlington twice a week.

In the previous 3 seasons, LC was also used by a local rugby club on weekends and has been maintained rather poorly by Hammersmith and Fulham (H&F) council. As such, the pitch was often in not great condition but its condition was managed between us and the local rugby club without involvement from H&F council. This off-season, the local rugby club moved away from the stadium and a local football club have taken over the weekend bookings.

We were able to book the pitch for our usual sessions but it became quickly apparent, at the first sign of any drizzle, H&F council were planning to cancel our sessions. This was namely to rest the pitch so that it could last for the season but we understand the local football club never had a session cancelled. They were also often cancelled at late notice; I received numerous emails at 17:10 on a Thursday evening, just late enough to not be able to find an alternative venue until the day of the training session.

The disruption to training has not only affected the running of the Club due to the time involved in finding alternative venues etc. but also our on-field performance, especially for the 2nd XV. This is due to sometimes being unable to find an alternative training venue (resulting in training sessions being cancelled) and in other cases, the venue simply being unsuitable for the training we needed to do.

The Club is currently in talks with Sport Imperial about future seasons but for the remainder of this season, Harlington is fully booked on Mondays and is closed on Fridays.

The Club has since cancelled its Monday night sessions at LC and has organised these to be held at Chiswick Rugby Club. The floodlights here only cover half the pitch rather than the full pitch at LC and to a lesser standard. There is also no secure storage available for training equipment so we have to transport balls and pads to each session by minibus. But the pitch is in good condition and we can be sure that training won't be called off at the last minute.

Before this move to Chiswick could be arranged, 2 sessions were also held at St. Mary's University in Twickenham which also involved providing transport for members due to its location.

Financially, this has had a large impact on the club. LC costs the club £87.50 for each 2 hour session. Obviously, pitch hire for each session is budgeted to cost this much and so detailed here are the additional costs incurred due to the council's actions. It is these costs we are asking to be awarded in this contingency claim (we are able to cover the cost of fuel to these sessions with profit from our Christmas Dinner and other SGI streams so these have been also omitted).

	Budgeted	Actual	Claim (Actual – Budgeted)
2 x St. Mary's training sessions	£175	£258	£83
2 x Transport to St. Mary's	£0	£92	£92
4 x Autumn term sessions @ Chiswick	£350	£400	£50
10 x Spring term sessions @ Chiswick	£875	£1000	£125
14 x transport to Chiswick	£0	£644	£644
Total	£1400	£2394	£994

It may be that the club can arrange some discount on sessions at LC that weren't completely called off but were moved to another area which wasn't completely fit for purpose. This avenue is currently being actively pursued. Of course, in the case of any refund from H&F council that offsets the additional costs detailed above, the club is happy to return the same amount back to CSP for redistribution to other clubs, societies and projects.

Matter for decision

Approve the £994 contingency claim by ACC Rugby Club.