

Hyde Park Old Football Pitches Consultation

A paper by Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Yas Edwards

Background

Towards the end of the 2012/13 academic year, signs began to appear on the Old Football Pitches in Hyde Park. These displayed a notification that soon the area would have to be booked and paid for by groups of people wishing to use the space. This space is used by various groups of Imperial College Union's members throughout the year and for many different purposes. These groups include Clubs, Societies & projects, Halls of Residences' sports teams, and many informal groups of students.

On September 6 2013 the Royal Parks decided to suspend charging for the space to hold a second consultation period, though Imperial College Union was not informed of or aware of the first consultation period. During this period booking to use the space is still mandatory by submitting a form via email or telephoning Will to Win, who are managing this booking system and also manage the tennis courts in Hyde Park. This second consultation period began on September 30 and will end on October 31 2013. During this time, the Royal Parks are inviting users to submit a consultation questionnaire (Appendix 1) by post or in person and they held a Public Open Day on Saturday 12 October.

I have been informing Clubs, Societies & Projects through their club officers and other users through the warden system about this situation, and encouraging anyone to fill out a consultation questionnaire and hand it in, or send to me to hand in on their behalf. On October 31 2013, Anthony Crowther, our Student Activities Manager at Imperial College Union and I will take all of the consultation questionnaires and a covering letter covering the various reasons behind our stance to Hyde Park. We also hope to secure a meeting from someone at the Royal Parks before then to discuss the situation.

Beliefs

- The first consultation period was not publicised enough to allow Imperial College Union to take a stance on whether the area should be booked and paid for at all.
- Many Union Clubs, Societies & Projects, halls of accommodation football teams and other groups of students will be negatively impacted upon by the booking and charging system, causing them to move their activities to a different location, cease their activity altogether or increase the financial cost of taking part which may exclude or deter individuals from participating in their activities.
- Activities that take place on the old football pitches are an important part of our members' time at University. Recreation that takes place there is important for physical and mental health and wellbeing, building friendships with others and developing skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership.
- This area is described as public and has been perceived to be for many years.
- The area should not have to be booked or paid for by Imperial College Union members.

Resolve

- For the union to take a stance on this situation based on the background and beliefs in this paper.

HYDE PARK FOOTBALL PITCHES CONSULTATION – September / October 2013



This confidential survey is being carried out to gather people's views of the current booking and charging system introduced at 'The Old Football pitches' in South Carriage Drive Hyde Park. A mix of quantitative and qualitative opportunities to contribute views will be offered to regular users, occasional users and schools who will benefit from the space. Interested parties will be invited to take part in the consultation.

The consultation will run from the week commencing the 30th September 2013 until the 31st October 2013. Decisions and outcomes will be ratified by the Park management team on the 27th November 2013 and will be communicated to all consultees and the wider public before the end of the calendar year.

This questionnaire is not referring to any other public space in Hyde Park.

- 1. Please tell us your Postcode so that we can better understand how far you travel to Hyde Park to use the facilities? Please enter your full post code.**

- 2. If you play sports on the Old Football Pitches, what is your group?**

- 3. On average how often do you use The Old Football pitches in Hyde Park?**
(Select one)

Daily		Monthly	
Weekly		Less often	
Every 2-3 weeks		Never (go onto	

- 4. What day of the week do you use the pitches?**

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday	
Thursday		Friday		Saturday/ Sunday	

5. What activity/ies do you play?

Soft ball		Football	
Cricket		Rounders	
Other (please state):			

6. On average, how much time do you spend on the pitches per visit? (Select one)

Less than 30 minutes		30 minutes to 1 hour		1 to 2 hours	
2 to 4 hours		4 hours or more		A full day	

7. How do you normally travel to the pitches? (Select all that apply)

On foot		Bicycle		Car		Train	
Coach		Tube		Bus		Taxi	
Motorbike		Other, please state below					

8. Have you been issued with a license to use the pitches site?

YES		NO	
Did not know I needed one			

9. Are you currently using the booking system for use of the pitches?

YES		NO	
Did not know there was one			

10. Do you feel the booking system has improved your use of the site?

YES		NO	
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11. Have you been paying for your space on the pitches?

YES		NO	
Did not know there was a charge			

12. If you have been paying for the pitches do you then re-charge your participants to play the sports?

YES		NO	
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13. Do you feel the charges are realistic to your use of the site and comparable with other central London outdoor sports areas?

YES		NO	
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14. Over the last three years, do you think the pitches area has improved, stayed the same, or got worse? (Select one)

Improved		Stayed the same	
Got worse			

15. Do you think The Old Football pitches site provide? (Select all that apply)

Good facilities for sports		A good green open space locally	
Good facilities for children		Good place to walk the dog	
Other (please state):			

16. What improvements could The Royal Parks make to the administration system for The Old Football Pitches site?



17. Do you have any other comments you would like to share?

A large, empty rectangular area with a light green background and a thin black border, occupying the middle section of the page, intended for user comments.

About You

Monitoring Data Only

The following responses will be used only for monitoring and broad statistical purposes only

18. How old are you?

Under 18		18 – 24	
25 – 34		35 – 49	
50 – 64		65+	
Rather Not Answer			

19. Are you...

Male		Female	
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20. Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long term illness that affects your use of The Old Football Pitches?

Yes		No		Rather Not Answer	
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21. Which of the following best describes your ethnic group?

White British English, Scottish or Welsh		Pakistani	
White Irish		Bangladeshi	
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller		Chinese	
Other White Background		Indian	
White and Black Caribbean		Other Asian Background	
White and Black African		Black Caribbean	
White and Asian		African	
Other Mixed Background		Other Black Background	
Any Other Ethnic Background		Arab	
Other (please state)			

Thank you for completing our survey (Please return by 31st October 2013)

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Data Protection - How information will be used

The Data Protection Act 1998 ensures that the information you have provided will only be used for research or to produce statistics. All responses will be treated as confidential and only aggregated data that cannot be attributed to any individual will be published. This survey is being carried out on behalf of The Royal Parks. This survey aims to help The Royal Parks to understand and improve the administration process for The Old Football Pitches in Hyde Park and to ensure that the user groups receive the best standard of care possible.

Please return this questionnaire to the staff member or post it back to us at the address below.

If you would like further information on the consultation please complete the following information

Name:		Email or Tel No.	
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Thank you for your time. This is part of consultation carried out by The Royal Parks.

For further information regarding the Royal Parks please visit our website:

royalparks.org.uk or email: tofhydepark@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk

Or call 0300 061 2000 or post the reply to:

The Royal Parks
Old Police House
Hyde Park
London W2 2UH



HYDE PARK FOOTBALL PITCHES CONSULTATION

Thank you for your help.

www.royalparks.org.uk