

Langside Sports Club Our Journey Through COVID 19



Langside Sports Club

Our club sits on almost 10 acres of land with 4 outdoor tennis courts, a grass bowling green with 5 bowling rinks, an outdoor pitch which is used for a variety of sports such as Cricket, Football, etc. We have two main building which help to serve our members and the associated activities; our pavilion supports activities on the large pitch and a club house which supports the activities on the tennis courts, Bowling Green, etc. This building also houses a bar area and social space for functions.

Our club has 3 main sections; bowls, cricket and tennis and is supported by a number of other clubs and activities, such as OLA Football Club, Titans Football Club, local Brownie's group. More recently we also have a biodiversity group who are looking at ways to help us maintain and develop Albert Park as a site of natural beauty which has a rich history in sport and supporting the local community.

However on **March 20th 2020** we had to close our club, lock up our buildings, and stop all activities - nobody entered the grounds or the buildings for the next three months...

Our Application to Glasgow Sport's COVID 19 Recovery Fund

In **June 2020** LSC was made a successful application to Glasgow Sport's COVID 19 Recovery Fund (#ReadySteadyGoAgain). The purpose of our application was to help us recover from the effects of the pandemic, and to help us to purchase the much needed equipment we now needed to re-open during the pandemic. We were able to purchase the following items; Hygiene and Cleaning Equipment, New Outdoor Storage for all sections in particular the lawn bowls and tennis sections, new COVID signage at Albert Park to help remind people to maintain physical distancing and to help ensure our Health and Safety Measures are clear to our members and user groups.

Impact of Glasgow Sports COVID 19 Funding

Tennis activities at the club were able to restart towards the **end of June**. Funds were spent on health and safety, hygiene and cleaning equipment and signage to keep members safe and allow the grounds to reopen.

At this time there was no access to any indoor facilities so outdoor storage was considered essential. This was especially true for our bowlers who tend to be elderly and have trouble carrying heavy bowls to and from the grounds, so when guidelines allowed, they could store their heavy equipment on site.

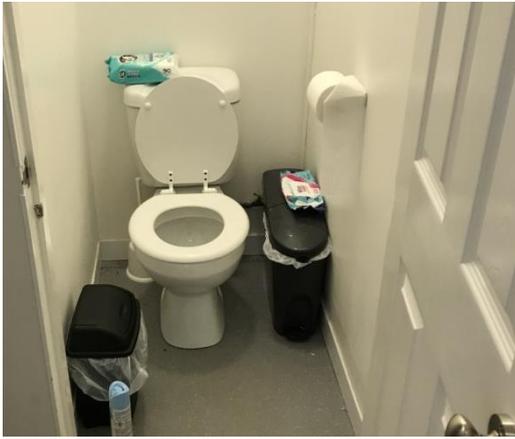
As restrictions were relaxed over the coming weeks and months, bowls, cricket and football were also allowed to restart activities. This initially meant that just one toilet facility was made ready when allowed, and again, as restrictions were lifted other toilet facilities were reopened for use. It was decided that there was too much risk associated with opening the bar area but in early



Hand sanitiser at cleaning stations



Outdoor storage to enable continued sports participation during pandemic



Hand wipes for toilets

autumn one indoor area was made safe under the returning to hospitality guidelines for members to relax in-between games.

Since then the club has regularly monitored government and SGB guidelines and has produced signage to accommodate this.

The grant from Glasgow Sport has been crucial in allowing us to return to some sort of sporting normality. As a result of this support the different sports sections have been able to achieve the following;

“It has been a difficult time for the Cricket Club, we were able to deliver junior sessions on the tennis courts and in August we were able to host a sixes competition where 24 people took part ... other users of the grounds have been a Tai Chi club and a Karate club who needed space when their indoor facilities were closed, like the Brownies ... we have also seen the emergence of the Biodiversity group who are keen to maintain and develop the natural beauty of Albert Park.” – Gary Laing, Vice Chair Langside Sports Club & Langside Cricket Club Member.



Physical distancing measures in club house

“At the bowling club we have an older membership and have been hit especially hard by the COVID 19 pandemic ... our members are cautious about social distancing ... we have only been able to play a handful of times during the pandemic, we are pleased to have been able to sustain 25 members.” – John Lassa, Langside Bowling Club.



Festive Fun Doubles Players

“We have really battled through this difficult year ... we have been able to field 4 men’s teams and 3 women’s team in the west of Scotland league ... on top of that we have also organised 4 events although 2 were cancelled due to the weather; 67 players participated in the Battle of Langside and Festive Fun Doubles events ... we have also been able to deliver a coaching programme across 13 different groups; ranging from junior tennis to social, improvers sessions and cardio tennis.” - Jackie Clark, Chair Langside Tennis Club Committee.

January 2021 and beyond ...

This is by no means the end of our journey through the COVID 19 pandemic, however we are lucky to have a committed board of trustees, supported by our membership who are equally up to the challenges posed by the pandemic and are looking forward to a time where restrictions are relaxed and we can get back to a more normal way of delivering sports and activities within our community.

This project is a partnership, supported by;

