

**WALKER CRICKET GROUND TRUST**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NO 303006**  
**ANNUAL REPORT TO GROUND USERS**

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Last year's report concentrated on the ground's financial position and challenging future. The last year has seen some significant progress and we list below some of the highlights:

- ❖ The squash & racketball club (SSRC) has thrived under the new arrangements outlined in the last report. The SSRC Committee and several enthusiastic volunteers have combined to increase membership and increase use of the courts by members and non members. Membership averaged 270 throughout the year.
- ❖ The increased court revenue has enabled SSRC to embark on a programme of refurbishment of the courts and we now have six well maintained courts.
- ❖ Southgate Rugby Club has established itself as an important and enthusiastic ground user and has done its best to arrest the decline in bar takings.
- ❖ A record number of football teams played at the ground during the winter months.
- ❖ We received a significant donation from the ASDA Foundation which enabled us to replace the roof of the main pavilion and Courts 1 and 2.
- ❖ The ASDA money (supplemented by donations from Adelaide Members) was also used to fund the refurbishment of the Adelaide room and changing area.
- ❖ We secured funding from various sources to supplement money raised by the Weld Tennis Club and Palmers Green High School to replace the tennis surfaces. We are applying for planning permission to install floodlights and hope to provide an Astro turf surface over the new tarmac surface.
- ❖ Middlesex Country Cricket Club returned to the ground for one four day game and a one day game during April.
- ❖ We hosted practice sessions for the 20/20 World Cup including a warm up game
- ❖ Our five a side football tournament doubled in size and was run over two days.
- ❖ We held an inaugural 8 a side cricket tournament which we hope will grow in the future.
- ❖ Outside and corporate hiring's of the ground and pavilion reached a record level.
- ❖ On two separate days we had a small army of 40 volunteers helping keep the Ground in good condition clearing overgrown areas and painting the Pavilion.
- ❖ We have hosted weddings at the Ground using a marquee between the cricket pitches.
- ❖ We have a new web site see [www.thewalkerground.co.uk](http://www.thewalkerground.co.uk) which contains information regarding user clubs and forthcoming events.
- ❖ We have established better links and relationships with local councils, schools, colleges and universities.

The trustees are confident that the ground has been available for the use of the people of Southgate and surrounding areas in a way that promotes sport and social activities and improves the quality of lives of our beneficiaries. In this way, we are achieving our charitable objects.

### **Accounts**

The accounts for the year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008 show a small surplus for both the bar (Stocksfield Limited) and the Trust in line with last year's report. The accounts show a much improved picture with the overdraft reducing from £48,175 to £37,658. In addition to the overdraft reduction, we continued to meet our loan repayments to the brewery totalling £9,548 reducing this to £55,566.

The most disappointing area of our financial performance is the level of bar takings. The "regular" use of the bar has continued to decline although the increase in outside hirings has gone some way to ensure the overall takings are not significantly lower.

### **Year Ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

We are pleased to give below the draft comparative figures for last year. Please note these figures are unaudited. During 2008, we held two major events being a music event and the fireworks which unfortunately were adversely affected by the weather resulting in an overall loss on the two events. This compares to a significant profit from the fireworks during 2007. The comparative figures are as follows:

	<b>Trust</b>	<b>Stocksfield</b>	<b>Total</b>
Turnover	150,329	116,520	266,849
Expenses	145,485	122,849	268,334
Surplus/Deficit	4,844	-6,329	-1,485

We are pleased to have been able to absorb a loss on the major events and meet our loan repayments with only a small deficit. This shows a much improved performance for the main ground activity.

### **User Clubs**

The majority of the Clubs using the Walker Ground have continued to prosper and increase their use of the facilities. We were very pleased to welcome A.C. Finchley as a significant new football user and also St Johns Arsenal who have one team playing at the ground.

We are supporting our user clubs in achieving club mark status. SSRC not only achieved this mark of excellence they were also awarded the National Club of the Year silver accreditation.

### **Staff**

The staff situation has remained stable for the past year, which has contributed to the smooth running of the ground. We are indebted to Steve Martin, Roger Hill, Pat Fineran, Lynda Colt and Steve Waters for their contribution during the year. We have had to cope with an extremely wet winter, flooding in our changing rooms and the demise of our 15 year old boiler. Despite these challenges, the ground has been available for use by our numerous users with very little interruption.

### **Ground Redevelopment**

There are no ongoing discussions with any third party developers regarding ground redevelopment. However, working with volunteers from User Clubs we are actively looking for opportunities to increase revenue in any area at the ground and this may require some development. As a minimum we are hoping to find funding to proceed with a modest redevelopment of the area behind courts 5 and 6 and the Adelaide Changing Rooms and we will report further if this project begins to take shape

### **Objects**

Our charitable objects are:

To provide for the inhabitants of Southgate and surrounding area, in the interests of social welfare and with a view to improving their conditions of life facilities of the following kind:

- (a) Playing fields for the playing of Cricket, Football, Hockey and other games or sports.
- (b) Facilities for indoor recreation and ancillary facilities.

### **Trustees**

During the year, John Martin retired, having been involved at the Walker Ground for over 40 years, as a squash player, chairman of the squash club, trustee and latterly as chairman of the trustee body. We are very grateful to John for his efforts over the years.

The following Trustees have served throughout the year:

P.C. Dodd, C.A. White, R.J. Heighton, N. Salt, G. L. Wingrove

The appointment of trustees is governed by the Trust Deed of 1907 and new Trustees are appointed by existing Trustees. As always, we would be interested in hearing from anyone who wishes to join the Trustee body.

Meanwhile, the Trustees are making great efforts to operate in a more open and transparent way. We have invited user clubs to send a representative to the regular monthly Trustee Committee meetings and several members of user clubs have attended.

In addition, we created a new position of Associate Trustee which enables enthusiastic volunteers to become more formally involved in the running of the ground without taking on the potential personal liabilities of a Trustee

### **Statement of Trustees Responsibilities**

The Trustees are required by the Charities Act 1993 to prepare financial statements for the year to give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the Trustees should follow best practice and:

- 1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- 2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- 3. State where applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

4. Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which discloses reasonable accuracy of the financial position of the charity and enables them to ensure the financial statements comply with applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Summary**

As a commercial operation, the ground would be unlikely to prosper. The costs of maintaining such a large facility cannot be recouped by charging the going rate for the hire of cricket/football/rugby pitches. This is partly a reflection of the fact that the going rate is influenced by the cost of council facilities which are subsidised by the taxpayer.

The Walker Ground therefore relies on the efforts of enthusiastic volunteers and committed ground users to ensure its survival. We are very lucky to have a small army of enthusiasts who have not only ensured the grounds survival but appear to have set it on course for a successful future.

Any comments or suggestions should be sent to the Trustees either by post to the ground or email [office@thewalkerground.co.uk](mailto:office@thewalkerground.co.uk).

### **Approval**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 and signed on their behalf.

**R. J. Heighton**  
**Chair of Trustees**