



Survey of Edinburgh Sports Clubs
October to November 2008

www.clubsportedinburgh.org

Introduction

Following a decision at the Annual General Meeting of **ClubSport**Edinburgh it was agreed to conduct a survey across all Edinburgh Sports Clubs to identify their strengths and requirements and attempt to compile information to assist in future developments of facilities across the city.

In order to maximise response it was decided to keep the survey as simply as possible and it was produced using an online survey form with the link open between 8th October and 26th November 2008. In an effort to contact as many clubs as possible the link to the survey was sent to the following:

- Over 600 email contacts representing 417 clubs through City of Edinburgh Council
- 35 local sporting governing bodies/leagues for distribution to member clubs
- Link posted on **ClubSport**Edinburgh and Local Heroes websites

Response

Question 1

Clubs were initially requested to supply their name, sport played and if they were affiliated to ClubSportEdinburgh

92 clubs responded from 417 directly contacted that produced a return of 22.1%

This compares favourably with a previous club survey carried out by **sportscotland** across all of Scotland (*The Sustainability of Local Sports Clubs in Scotland – February 2006*).

This received a response rate of 28% that was considered “excellent” but employed considerably more financial and human resources than were available for this survey.

It is estimated that perhaps an additional 10% of Edinburgh clubs would not have received the survey by direct email link but it is hoped several of these clubs may have accessed the survey through their local association or the web site links.

The table below shows a breakdown by sports of clubs who were contacted. Assuming the average of 22.1% returned it highlights that of the most popular sports, Football was slightly under represented (18.4%), Martial Arts well below average (9.1%) whilst Rugby (76.2%) and Swimming (45.5%) were very strongly represented.

Of 49 sports contacted it was most encouraging to receive responses from 31 (63.6%) that ensured a balanced opinion across all activities.

| Sport | Sent | Ret | % | Sport | Sent | Ret | % |
|---------------------|------|-----|-------|------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Australian Football | 1 | 0 | - | Lacrosse | 3 | 0 | - |
| American Football | 2 | 1 | 50.0 | Lifesaving | 2 | 2 | 100.0 |
| Athletics/Running | 11 | 1 | 9.1 | Martial Arts | 55 | 5 | 9.1 |
| Archery | 1 | 0 | - | Netball | 8 | 4 | 50.0 |
| Baseball | 1 | 1 | 100.0 | Orienteering | 2 | 2 | 100.0 |
| Basketball | 16 | 1 | 6.3 | Petanque | 1 | 0 | - |
| Badminton | 14 | 0 | - | Rugby | 21 | 16 | 76.2 |
| Bowling | 11 | 0 | - | Sailing/Canoeing | 10 | 1 | 10.0 |
| Boxing | 2 | 1 | 50.0 | Shinty | 1 | 1 | 100.0 |
| Cricket | 19 | 4 | 21.1 | Snowsports | 1 | 1 | 100.0 |
| Climbing | 1 | 0 | - | Speedway – Cycle | 1 | 0 | - |
| Croquet | 2 | 0 | - | Speedway – Motor | 1 | 1 | 100.0 |
| Curling | 13 | 1 | 7.6 | Sub Aqua | 3 | 1 | 33.3 |
| Cycling | 6 | 2 | 33.3 | Swimming | 11 | 5 | 45.5 |
| Diving | 1 | 0 | - | Syncro Swimming | 2 | 0 | - |
| Fencing | 2 | 0 | - | Table Tennis | 5 | 1 | 20.0 |
| Football | 98 | 18 | 18.4 | Trampoline | 2 | 2 | 100.0 |
| Gaelic Football | 1 | 0 | - | Tennis/Squash | 20 | 5 | 25 |
| Gliding | 1 | 1 | 100.0 | Triathlon | 3 | 1 | 33.3 |
| Golf | 19 | 3 | 15.8 | Ultimate Frisbee | 1 | 1 | 100.0 |
| Gymnastics | 6 | 2 | 33.3 | U/Water Hockey | 1 | 1 | 100.0 |
| Handball | 2 | 0 | - | Unihoc | 1 | 0 | - |
| Hockey | 15 | 3 | 20.0 | Volleyball | 9 | 2 | 22.2 |
| Ice Hockey | 5 | 0 | - | Water Polo | 1 | 0 | - |
| Korfball | 2 | 1 | 50.0 | Totals | 417 | 92 | 22.1 |

ClubSportEdinburgh affiliation

Prior to the survey there were currently 56 clubs affiliated to **ClubSportEdinburgh** of which 30 (53.6%) completed this survey giving the following percentages:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Clubs affiliated to ClubSportEdinburgh who completed the survey | 30 |
| Clubs not affiliated to ClubSportEdinburgh who completed the survey | 62 |
| % of Clubs affiliated to ClubSportEdinburgh | 32.6% |

Following the survey an additional six clubs have now affiliated with several more expressing interest.

Question 2

Clubs were asked to rate their performance on a scale of 1 (excellent) to 4 on their ability to deliver a range of activities.

The survey applies an average weighting across the scales with the following results:

(The lower the weighting the higher the club rated their ability to perform)

| | Activity | Weighting |
|-----------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Child Protection | 2.05 |
| 2 | General Administration | 2.17 |
| 3 | Coach Development/Training | 2.21 |
| 4 | Attracting Members | 2.23 |
| 5 | Youth Development | 2.26 |
| 6= | Volunteer recruitment/retention | 2.44 |
| 6= | Qualified First Aiders | 2.44 |
| 8 | Create Good School Links | 2.59 |
| 9 | Fundraising/Sponsorship | 2.70 |
| 10 | Media/Marketing | 2.82 |

It was encouraging to note that many clubs placed Child Protection amongst their strongest points however it was disappointing that the creation of school links appeared one of the weaker areas within club development despite Edinburgh's large Active School programme.

Question 3

Clubs were requested to prioritise a range of activities from 1 (most important) to 9 that they felt they could be offered support to improve the quality of their programmes.

The survey applies an average weighting across the scales with the following results:

(The lower the weighting the higher the priority)

| | Activity | Weighting |
|----------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Fundraising & Sponsorship | 3.07 |
| 2 | Increasing Membership | 3.76 |
| 3 | Coach Development | 4.59 |
| 4 | Volunteer Recruitment & Retention | 5.09 |
| 5 | Improving Media & Marketing | 5.37 |
| 6 | First Aid Courses | 5.49 |
| 7 | Improving School Links | 5.57 |
| 8 | Improving Administration | 5.71 |
| 9 | Child Protection | 6.37 |

Unsurprisingly most clubs felt in need for greater support in improving access to additional financial and increasing membership although support in improving school links appears a lower priority despite being a perceived weakness in Question 2.

Question 4

Clubs were asked what sports related areas across the city they felt required greatest investment.

(The lower the weighting the higher the overall priority)

| | Activity | Weighting |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Sports Pitches | 4.16 |
| 2 | Financial Support | 4.23 |
| 3 | Indoor Sports Halls | 4.64 |
| 4 | Youth Development | 5.12 |
| 5 | Sports Pavilions | 5.36 |
| 6 | Improved access to schools | 5.84 |
| 7 | Coach Development | 5.88 |
| 8 | Volunteer Recruitment / Development | 6.75 |
| 9 | Swimming Pools | 6.88 |
| 10 | Centralised Booking System | 7.63 |
| 11 | Outdoor Aquatic Facilities | 8.67 |

Clubs own interests heavily influenced their initial priorities e.g. Football clubs prioritised pitches & pavilions whilst swim clubs looked for increased aquatic facilities but again strongly highlighted is greater financial investment in recognition of the invaluable contribution made by sports clubs and their volunteer network to the quality of life in Edinburgh.

Clubs were also invited to leave comments on other facility issues not already covered and this received the following responses:

- *Requirement for floodlights around the city to maximise pitches/training areas*
- *In terms of investment the biggest issue is lack of grass/synthetic pitches to train on.*
- *Pool time restricted for swimmers (in clubs)*
- *Meggetland with 2 available rugby pitches supporting a club of 300+ players, plus 4 high schools etc is not very good*
- *Investment in the standard of equipment supplied at venues*
- *New squash courts and serious upgrading/promotion of existing squash courts*
- *Prohibitive hire charges for weekend school halls and outdoor winter floodlight facilities*
- *Reward/support those who help deliver part of COE's key targets around young people and who are active creating links with schools*
- *There is a critical shortage of floodlight heavy use pitches for evening weekday training. Several floodlight full size indoor pitches like Riccarton would be useful.*
- *Adequate facilities for athletics – including track, jumps and throws. Currently Edinburgh has very poor facilities for the number of athletes wanting to use them. Costs of facilities are also increasing.*
- *Being granted permission to develop facilities*
- *A roof on Meadowbank Velodrome would be probably the cheapest single investment Edinburgh could make to win more Commonwealth/Olympic medals*
- *Quality of road surfaces. As a sports club that has to use local roads for training, quality of the road surface and increased protection to cyclists on roads (cycle paths are not appropriate) would be very helpful to us particularly novices.*
- *Our principal requirement is for cycling specific facilities. These include a velodrome and traffic free race and training circuits for road and mountain biking.*
- *Training facilities are a nightmare for a new club. We want to expand our youth groups but they have nowhere to train or play. Established clubs have a monopoly on all public parks.*
- *Current pavilions do not meet minimum standards for Health & Safety, Child Protection and Equal Opportunities.*
- *Discounted access for indoor facilities for Edinburgh clubs*
- *More Synthetic pitches with floodlights*

Question 5

Clubs were asked to identify the type of facility they used to train and play with many clubs using a variety of different facilities

The results listed below show the percentage of clubs using each group.

| | Facility Owned /Managed | % |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | City of Edinburgh Council/School | 45.7 |
| 2 | Edinburgh Leisure | 43.5 |
| 3 | Private Club or School | 32.6 |
| 4 | Clubs Own Facility | 22.8 |
| 5 | University | 19.6 |
| 6 | Other | 16.3 |

Question 6

ClubSportEdinburgh is considering producing a strategy in an attempt to influence club, sport and facility development in the city and clubs were asked if they would be interested in becoming involved in the process and to identify any areas they felt strongly about

43 clubs (65.2%) of clubs expressed an interest in developing a Strategy and 23 individuals from within the clubs provided contact details indicating a desire to be involved in any future consultations.

There was also wide range of comments that included:

- *Acquisition of grants to support development of club grounds*
- *Sustainable development*
- *A more fair way of teams using public facilities.*
- *Access to full sized netball courts. Reducing Hire costs – this is our biggest expense during the year with even council facilities costing up to £95 per hour.*
- *A clear environmental impact assessment, carbon assessment and reduction criteria and sustainable development policy.*
- *Strategies just waste time ticking political boxes that could be spent on acting on the above, funding is the real issue.*
- *Liaison with professional bodies and Clubs*
- *Facilities for athletics required*
- *Provision of more all weather pitches. Better sports changing facilities*
- *Possibly, orienteering has a 'partnership' member for Scottish Orienteering*
- *We find it difficult to hire out deep pools (3m) around Edinburgh for our training. Each year we hire out the pool for a few hours on 4 Saturdays in the first semester, and a few hours on 2 Saturdays in the second semester. In the second semester this year, we may not be able to train our students because we have not been able to book a pool as of yet, none are available. Any advice on how to improve our chances of hiring out the pool in these circumstances would be appreciated.*
- *Need more good quality pitches available for general city centre use also better care taken of the meadows where many clubs do training. (inc us)*
- *Long term lets (should they go to one club only?) - Should NGB's reduce the cost of coaching qualifications at grass roots level?*
- *Improvement and retention of facilities in conjunction with clubs, i.e. install a number of clubs at specific grounds with a view to creating multi-sport clubs*
- *Involving the community, junior recruitment, and most importantly the improvement of facilities, which are an embarrassment, compared too many other UK cities.*
- *UKCC roll out to all sports*

- *After Gorgie Curling Club was knocked down, Murrayfield Curling Club has been over-booked and very busy, funding cannot be found for a new curling rink, although planning permission has been granted.*
- *Increasing golf club membership for 20 to 40 year olds in Edinburgh*
- *Coach development would be beneficial to our club. Being linked with schools would also be a priority in order to entice a) support for our club b) coming to Edinburgh as a university c) help the profile and development of the sport as a whole in Edinburgh*
- *Aspiration for Sport in Edinburgh (unlimited by funding or space), Constraints Alignment of aspirations with national body policies priorities for Edinburgh funding sources how can we improve facilities with out giving up land?*
- *School/club youth rugby integration*
- *Some strategy to stop constant clashes between club and school rugby when aspiring rugby players reach 5th year. They are expected to play school rugby in the morning for their senior team then colts rugby in the afternoon for their club. At our club/school, neither is willing to back down and suggest playing on a Sunday, like all club rugby is UNTIL they reach colts.*
- *It would be better for all to support sporting initiatives*
- *Financial structure that goes according to guidelines for Direct Debit*
- *There has to be a more holistic approach to sport and leisure in the City. At the moment The City does not provide facilities, which would reflect well on a Capital city in a developed country in the 21st century. Whoever is involved should be aware of the budget and control of this budget should be divested from Council Officials and Politicians. A separate but accountable body could be formed through which to prioritise and manage sport development.*
- *Outdoor sports facility provision*
- *Facility development (in particular swimming pools)*
- *Developing minority sports i.e. not football and rugby*
- *Development of swimming pool facilities to allow more club time*
- *Use of schools. How the development strategy is meeting needs of diverse group (for example, how is it meeting 'public sector duties' in relation to promoting sport to minority ethnic groups and LGBT community)*
- *Unlike most rugby clubs we are a specifically gay & bisexual-friendly club and promote ourselves as such. Our unique position means our membership is predominantly gay men and all of our playing members have been adults when they joined. A very large number of our members have either never played rugby before or haven't done since high school, which can be up to 25 years ago. And unlike other clubs we do not benefit from a school/college/uni feed-in with younger players and do not have a youth section. This means we do not "qualify" as a developing club and therefore are unable to receive the benefits that developing clubs do (e.g. subsidised coaching courses). Just because we don't engage with young people doesn't mean to say we're not a developing club and we'd very much like to see that qualification changed. We've also been trying to hire CEC funded sports facilities, but have found it very difficult to do so (e.g., finding contact details for venues, emails and phones not answered)*

Question 7

In an attempt to gain a more accurate assessment of the numbers involved in organised sports across the city clubs were asked to list their current membership levels. This was an optional question however almost 95% of clubs submitted figures and conservative estimates were entered for the remainder of the clubs based on website research, number of teams etc that produced the following:

| Category | Total | Av per Club |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Youth (Under 18) | 5104 | 55 |
| Adults | 8569 | 93 |
| Coaches | 739 | 8 |
| Committee/Volunteers | 894 | 10 |
| Total | 15306 | 166 |

There was a very wide range in the size of clubs completing this survey with the smallest consisting of 9 members and largest 859.

Based on the average figures supplied above and a conservative estimate of 450 active clubs in the city it is estimated that in excess of 75,000 individuals are members of sports clubs within Edinburgh that is over 16% of the population.

Question 8

This was another optional question requesting other club information such as actual training and playing facilities, number of teams and other club information.

Over 80 % of clubs supplied information, which has provided useful data on the community/area clubs are based and also how widely spread many clubs, are across the city using a large variety of facilities.

Question 9

Finally clubs were asked to leave comments and suggestions on any other areas they felt important and these are listed below:

- *Our club could easily expand to accommodate many times the numbers we currently have. This would include children, youth and adult participants and club members. The limiting factor is restricted access to suitable swimming pools*
- *The rising cost of facilities, particularly through Edinburgh Leisure, is a cause for great concern. Most clubs strive to offer affordable, active lifestyles, particularly to young people, through volunteers giving up thousands of hours per week to coach, transport and fundraise, yet on occasions face costs in excess of £50 per hour to deliver their programmes. Edinburgh's sports clubs deserve considerable more support through improved resource and increased affordable access to facilities if the city realistically hopes to achieve its long-term sports and physical activity targets.*
- *Small scale grant support would be a good boost to local sport efforts*
- *It seems pointless spending employee's time devising strategies when what is really needed is funding for all sports clubs, if priorities change would be more willing to be involved in consultation.*
- *It was difficult to complete this survey for our orienteering club, as the questions did not really fit our set up. Orienteering is very much an individual sport and we use suitable areas inside the city and in the surrounding hills.*
- *Have greatly appreciated help in starting our child's programme with advice esp. child protection document online. Things going well and feeling confident we have all the "important stuff" in place!!!!*
- *Our club could easily expand to accommodate many times the numbers we currently have. This would include children, youth and adult participants and club members. The limiting factor is restricted access to suitable swimming pools*
- *Small scale grant support would be a good boost to local sport efforts*
- *Our Club have had to find an alternative training venue outwith the City, due to costs of hall-hire (Edinburgh Leisure) and poor, outdated equipment. We had hoped to retain our base in the City at the Craggs (as the only Competitive Trampoline Club in Edinburgh) but they are unable to accommodate us at any of the times we would require, partly due to lack of Centre staff required to set up & dismantle the trampolines.*
- *Survey not entirely appropriate to a professional speedway club outwith Edinburgh, though our roots are still Edinburgh. Our greatest wish is for a training venue.*

Summary

The **ClubSport**Edinburgh Committee would like to take the opportunity of thanking all the clubs who completed the survey.

The ClubSportEdinburgh committee has reviewed the results in an attempt to pull together the responses, and to see where we can help to address some of the issues raised by the survey. We have summarised these discussions below. However, these are only our views, and we would encourage you to get back to us with your own comments about how **ClubSport**Edinburgh, and the club fraternity in general, can work together to move sport forward within the city.

1. Facility Access

This was probably the main issue coming out from the survey, both in terms of availability of facilities for individual sports clubs, and the costs associated with facility hire. The second point regarding how facility access is paid for is addressed in the next section.

The survey showed that the main sources of facility access were schools controlled by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), and leisure facilities controlled by Edinburgh Leisure (EL). Our feeling is that we need to make a collective representation to those who control the facilities that the clubs use. This will be addressed by **Action Point A**.

2. Funding

Club finances are always at the front of sports committees' minds, especially as the large majority of sports have to hire time from various agencies around the city. However, addressing this issue can be addressed using two strategies, namely,

- Increasing funding to clubs;
- Decreasing the cost of running a club, mainly in terms of reducing the cost of facility access.

Action Points A and B will address this.

3. Membership

The importance of increasing and retaining club membership was highlighted in the survey. Several initiatives have been discussed resulting in **Action Points C, D & E**.

4. Volunteering

The skill sets for required for different sports vary significantly, and each club usually requires different types of volunteer e.g. one might require a coach while another needs a treasurer. Additionally, coach training is usually undertaken by the governing body of the sport and Coaching Edinburgh also offers a programme of coaching awards and workshops

What we intend to do here is publish a guide that will help clubs to attract, retain and reward volunteers. See **Action Point F**.

Action Points

- A. Prepare and make formal representation to City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Leisure and other agencies that control and manage facilities to advise on the collective opinions as to club needs in terms of facility access and affordable hire costs.**

- B. Organise a presentation workshop by agencies that are able to provide funding and financial / in kind support to sports clubs to identify what support is available and how to apply for funds.**

- C. In partnership with the Active Schools programme discuss developing school to club links through a series of events across the city that would also offer opportunities to increase membership and strengthen links with local communities.**

- D. Organise a second seminar on increasing club membership. (by Sven Elkjaer)**

- E. Consider organising a “Festival of Sport” with clubs invited to open up regular training sessions and stage special events to attract new members, coaches and volunteers.**

- F. Prepare and publish a document advising on recruiting, retaining and rewarding volunteers.**

In putting together the above action points, we took into account not just the weightings for each survey question, but also the comments that clubs made where applicable. As always, these are very enlightening. Whereas there will always be the exception, the clubs indicated that, in large, they seemed to have the other issues covered that were highlighted in the survey.

We have highlighted what we see as the four main areas of concern, and have suggested some actions to address them. However, these are only our views. Please get back to us with your opinions and what you think should be done.

On behalf of the
ClubSportEdinburgh Executive Committee

A copy of this report can also be downloaded at www.clubsportedinburgh.org and if you are interested in discussing it further please contact any of the following:

ClubSportEdinburgh

Douglas Adamson
Chairperson
gm@edinburghwolves.com

City of Edinburgh Council

Colin Mackay
Club Development Officer
c.mackay@edinburgh.gov.uk

Edinburgh Leisure

Kevin Fish
Club Development Officer
kevinfish@edinburghleisure.co.uk

