

Appendix 3 - Review of Tees Active - Consultation Responses

Clubs

- **Submission of Stockton ASC to Tees Active Review**

Tees Active Ltd. have been a great assistance to Stockton Amateur Swimming Club being the one stop shop to assist us in all our requirements.

The Management Team have always been available to meet with us and to discuss our requirements.

In every instance they have tried to assist, the restraining factor being the lack of water time, but they have always investigated ways and means of accommodating us sometimes successfully, sometimes not.

Stockton ASC is the major provider of young swimmers to The Borough of Stockton Swim Scheme (BOSSS) which is the pinnacle of swimming development within the Borough of Stockton. You will be aware of the successes at National and International level of the swimmers who have progressed from Stockton ASC via BOSSS to the GB Swim Team with successes at World Championships, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games.

The development of young swimmers who have been taught by the Tees Active Learn to Swim programme requires a great deal of water time and Stockton ASC with a membership of over 300, the majority of these being young swimmers in the training squads, is always looking for the extra few hours.

With the Government and The Amateur Swimming Association encouraging the public to take up swimming as an improvement to health and ex competitive swimmers wishing to return to a training regime for the same reason we find water time at a premium and have had to restrict membership.

The Staff at the pools are always efficient and helpful and again the management are always available to discuss any of our problems or requirements.

We trust the above will assist you in your scrutiny procedure.

- **Health Trainer Manager, Hartlepool and Stockton Teaching Primary Care Trust**

Further to the recent letter you have sent to me about the Scrutiny review of Tees Active, I would like to express my opinion of the service they provide.

I have been in post as Health Trainer Manager for Stockton PCT since October 2007. Part of the role of my team is to promote physical activity and as such we have worked alongside Tees Active. I have always found them supportive, very easy to work with and willing to work in partnership.

I have recently held a promotion event in Wellington Square with Tees Active and was very impressed with their commitment, professionalism and enthusiasm. They wholeheartedly threw their efforts into the event and we successfully engaged with many Saturday shoppers on a very cold January day!

My only concern with the work of Tees Active is the up-coming disruption to service caused by the much needed upgrade to Billingham Forum, closure of Stockton Sports Centre and alterations to Splash. However, I am sure that the staff will do their utmost to minimise disruption despite the major loss of the Forum for the duration of the alterations.

- **Tees Active Centres FORUM Five a Side League**

Many thanks for your invitation to comment on the review of Tees Active.

The league has been in operation for over 31 years since 1977 and has primarily played at The FORUM throughout it's history. Due to technical reasons we have had the odd season, or part of, played at Tilery & the former Stockton Y.M.C.A. The league is affiliated to Durham County Football Association.

Currently we have 16 teams, split into two divisions, with over 170 players currently 'signed on'. Each of the teams has formally applied to become registered as a F.A. Charter Standard club. The average age of our players is 32 ranging from 18 to 68 years all residing within the Teesside area.

The comments I would like to make on our overall relationship with Tees Active are:-

1. We have always had excellent dialogue with and access to Tees Active managers from Assistant Managers to Centre Managers to M.D. I would consider our day to day working relationship with the FORUM operational staff to be excellent.
2. There has always been a two way flexible, supportive approach to forward planning & solving/resolving unforeseen problems.
3. A 'can do' attitude exists.
4. There is recognition of the worth of the League and it's provision of organised, affiliated, football within the community. There are very few five-a-side indoor leagues, which are F.A. affiliated, currently remaining.
5. We have been consulted regarding the changes to the FORUM and have been consulted regarding improvements.
6. Tees Active have been supportive in sponsoring part of our competition over recent years.
7. In summary.. Tees Active have been good for this organisation.

- **Pavilion Senior Citizens Club**

I have been a member of the Senior Citizens club for 14 years and I would just like to let you know how very helpful all the staff are at the Pavilion, they are extremely friendly and deal with any problems our small group might have. We as a club are very grateful for the way they look after us and I hope we can continue for a good many years to come.

Schools

- **Bader Primary School**

Swimming tuition - The school pay for pupils' swimming lessons via a Service Level Agreement, however there does not appear to be enough swimming tuition staff when schools visit. Most of the time the schools take support staff on a pool visit to help out. It is frequently the case that those children who are better swimmers are taught by TAL staff, leaving those who are not as proficient to be looked after by the support staff, who are not qualified to undertake swimming lessons and so cannot provide any real tuition. The school sends the correct number of pupils per visit.

Otherwise happy with the other work that Tees Active has provided in school, including Team Combat sessions.

[via telephone]

- **Abbey Hill School**

In reply to your letter dated 31/12/09, Scrutiny Review of Tees Active. I am writing to give Abbey Hill's views on our relationship with Tees Active and Billingham Forum and how it has improved the quality of sports provision for the students at Abbey Hill.

Abbey Hill students have been using Billingham Forum's facilities for a number of years.

We started with the pool and the ice-rink, but we now use the main sports hall the soft play area and the practice hall as well. We use these facilities every Wednesday afternoon during term time. We also use one of their sports coaches to work with our children. The coach has been an invaluable addition to our staffing on a Wednesday afternoon, she, now takes a group of our more able students in a session of 'boxercise', whilst the others take part in sessions of basketball, multisports, swimming, skating, football and soft play.

We take over 90 of our students and about 20 students from our federated school, Westlands, to Billingham Forum every week. We need indoor areas for a lot of our students' sports activities and nowhere else can provide the amount of 'space' that 'The Forum' provides.

The staff at Billingham Forum, are always pleasant and helpful to our students and staff, even when some of our students are being less than co-operative. It is going to be greatly missed by our students on a Wednesday afternoon, when it closes in June.

- **Whinstone Primary School**

Whinstone Primary in Ingleby Barwick has 5 swimming sessions at Thornaby Swimming Pool.

We also go to Thornaby Pavilion for various tournaments and competitions and to Billingham Swimming Pool for a Primary swimming competition once a year.

We are very happy with all these services.

However, Teesactive also come into our school to teach a Year 2 class once a week and this has not been very good.

A different person comes to teach each week and there is no development of the lessons from week to week. There is also no planning and the children just seem to play games and not actually learn anything.

Public Comments

I would like to express my appreciation of the leisure/sporting facilities at the forum, Billingham. As a GP, nearby, I am aware that many of my patients have derived enormous benefit from the Forum's programme of activities.

Personally, I make regular use of the swimming pool, and am particularly grateful for the Saturday night late session.

Female user of both Splash and (mainly) Thornaby Pool. At Thornaby, the music is too loud and is not relaxing at all. Older users have told her that they feel the same. The music is the same even during the Women's Only sessions (which generally have an older clientele). Have reported the issue but nothing has changed, and is thinking of using private facilities.

[via telephone]

I had a heart attack on Feb 23rd 2004 which resulted in an angioplasty at James Cook and it was successful, I then had 24 weeks rehab courtesy of Stockton Council and I decided to keep up and I became a member of Active Life and have nothing but the highest praise for them.

As a qualified dance teacher (ballroom and disco) I was grateful for my recovery. It seems I owe a lot to Stockton Council, you have helped me in the past (mortgage/places for my classes) so you have '5 stars' and I have tried to pay back a little by teaching and running a disco at our xmas parties for the exercise class at Billingham and the people are grateful and enjoy it, but as you have no 'disco-cise' class it is the only time I can help them, I explained this to them, but maybe someday.

You do a great job and I am glad to be a member of Active Life. With the recent surge in dancing as exercise perhaps you might consider a class, in any case I wish you and your team every success in the future.

Older resident has been in contact in relation to the price rises for an annual pass to the gym for older people. In November 2006, it cost £175 for an annual gym pass. This increased to £225 in November 2007, and this price included 13-months access plus swimming. The gentleman was concerned as he did not want to use the pool, only the gym. The rate of increase also exceeded the increase in pension over this period.

The gentleman had been quoted £225 for his latest renewal but for a period of 12-months only, again this included swimming access.

[via telephone]

[Nb. the issue regarding paying for swimming has since been resolved in so far as due to the free swimming initiative there will be no extra charge for the swimming element of the annual pass]