

Naturally we are disappointed that the Charity Commission is unable to support the proposals for a new long term lease, and as a result, the extension to the East Stand lease has not been granted. The Charity Commission believe the "benefits do not out-weigh the detriments" but are willing to consider a revised proposal. Bath Rugby is grateful to the Trustees for trying very hard in difficult circumstances.

The public consultation exercise undertaken two years ago as part of the Strategic Review, clearly demonstrated the support from the people of Bath for Bath Rugby to stay and enhance the facilities on The Rec that a new arena would provide as a major community benefit. A petition supported by over 22,000 gave a clear indication of the level of support for developing The Rec. The benefits to the community are already clearly established with commercial and charitable contributions.

The Charity Commission, however, is concerned with the legal issues and judge that the benefits we have offered are insufficient.

The Trust Board with its appointed advisors are considering both the basis upon which the Commission has reached its view and what opportunities exist to either increase benefits or reduce detriment. We will participate and co-operate fully with the Trust Board in order to find a way forward that is hopefully acceptable to the Commission and Bath Rugby.

It is our intention to reach a final resolution on the matter quickly in order that we have the certainty we need to plan for the 2009/10 season. We remain hopeful that a solution can be found that ensures The Rec will continue to enjoy Premiership rugby.

Regarding the Club's current position, you are well aware from previous correspondence and discussions of the difficulty of making any progress with a major development at present in light of the financial crisis. You are also aware of the flexibility needed in order to provide the opportunity for any such development to be viable in the future.

In view of this situation, we would repeat our request that you do whatever you can to enable the Club to remain on its current footprint (including the East Stand extension) in the immediate future, in order to allow time for the financial climate to improve so that a longer term development can be realistically discussed. We also understand that the Trustees are considering ways of increasing the benefits and this process will require careful consideration.

Bob Calleja 28.1.09

