


**Statement by Keith McGarrigle to The Bath Recreation
Ground Trustees meeting at The Guildhall 20th January 2010**

It was with a feeling of great relief that I read an interview in The Times newspaper (dated January 6th 2010) in which the Chief Executive of Bath RFC , Mr Nick Blofeld stated that development of The Bath Recreation Ground by the Rugby Club is no longer considered to be in the long term interests of the Club . To paraphrase the article , Mr Blofeld stated that the Rec would not be able to provide enough capacity in order that the Club could compete with the likes of Leicester whose ground will shortly have a capacity of 31,000 spectators . The possible mooted venue of part of The Western Riverside would seem much more viable in the long term for the Club .

One cause for concern is that he went on to state that the Club has as yet unspecified plans for the Recreation Ground and is hoping to negotiate a lease of 125 years duration . This cannot be allowed to happen as this would put the ownership of the freehold at risk , not only for The Rec but also for any other land held in a similar manner .

It would be helpful if the three Councillors present would inform this meeting today precisely what are the intentions with regard to any further leases to Bath RFC and how truly realistic is it that the Club will succeed in it's alleged desire to build a stadium at Western Riverside , bearing in mind the negative response from Crest Nicholson to date ?

On a final note who on earth thought that putting a cricket wicket on the East touchline of The rugby pitch , was a good idea ,the wicket is at present looking like a muddy wallow and looks to be severely in doubt as a possible playing venue not surprising when you consider the amount of people running up and down the touch line every time there is a game . To quote a well known tv ad " should have gone to Specsavers " or alternatively pop across the road to Bath Cricket Club and see what a real wicket looks like .

Signed 

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