Rocks Lane Sports Strategy

A summary of Rocks Lane’s commitment to sport in the community is set out below:

Sports Development and School’s activity

* Promoting the facility as a venue to play individual primary school league fixtures – at no cost
* Promoting the facility as a venue to play a round robin of primary school league fixtures  - at no cost if off peak (afternoons)
* Consideration of using the venue for both primary and secondary school tournaments across, netball, football and tennis
* Liaising with Maggie Morrell (School Sport Partnership Manager) in terms of using the site more for School Games – at no cost
* Liaising with Maggie around cluster school activity for Primary Schools – Lowther, Barnes, St Osmund’s and St Mary Magdalens
* Promote padel to all schools
* Look to develop a relationship with local Secondary School – Richmond Park Academy
* Look to promote the venue more widely to state secondary schools across the Borough
* Liaising with Dan Hayden (Sports Development Officer) in terms of using the facility for London Youth Games training sessions – at no cost
* Consideration of supporting walking sports such as Football and Netball
* Rocks Lane will support any initiative focused on Women and Girls through both facilities and coaching
* Rocks Lane will adopt the Borough’s concessions policy with regards to charges
* W&G - actively recruit female coaches, officials & personnel. Achieve an overall balanced workforce.
* Build on NGB initiatives.
* Female teams in all sports - padel is a great opportunity with current participation close to 50/50.
* Rocks Lane offers to host and train London Youth Games Squads in partnership with the borough for free and for School Games activity.

The above high level sports development plan is in response to the Richmond sports strategy will be monitored and reviewed annually.

Rocks Lane Padel & Tennis Participation and Utilisation Report

The accompanying Participation and Utilisation Report clearly shows that tennis has stabilised over the past year at a level that is sustainable on two tennis courts at Rocks Lane with a utilisation of just 17.71% over 4 courts during floodlit hours.

Whereas the recently installed ( May 2024 ) 4 padel courts have shown significant demand during floodlit hours with utilisation rates of 91.67%.

These padel court utilisation rates have led to a significant increase in female participation with 37% of the 784 regular weekly padel players at Rocks Lane being female.

We have also seen 45 new girls introduced to sport at Rocks Lane over the past 5 months through the introduction of padel and we believe the one of the first Muslim Female Padel Coach’s in the UK who is working at Rocks Lane.

This goes a long way to meeting the objectives of the LB of Richmond’s and Rocks Lane’s aim to increase sporting participation among women and girls.

Therefore, we believe that now is the time to build on this remarkable success and to install 4 more padel courts and meet the demand for women and girls to participate more in sport through the medium of padel which is proving to be both accessible and inclusive which will lead to the most important aspect of sports development - increased participation across the whole of the local community leading to a healthier and happier population.

This has been witnessed in our centre in the borough of Hounslow where we have the most successful padel centre in the UK in terms of inclusive participation and sporting excellence and being recognised by the LTA for our Outstanding Contribution to British Tennis in the form of our trailblazing community development of Padel.

The provision of 4 more padel courts at Rocks Lane will enable us to replicate the success of our centre in the LB Hounslow at Rocks Lane and will also enable Rocks lane to provide schools with the capabilities to bring whole classes of children to the centre and introduce more children to sport at Rocks Lane.