

**Signs of Trust and Progress**

This report is an opportunity to bring Trust Members up to date on Trustees’ work with Clubs, the local community, Highgate Wood School, CREOS and London Borough of Haringey.

There is much to report. Trustees are more enthusiastic than ever and working hard as a team. It is a good time to be a Trustee especially when we have solid support from our Clubs and their Committees.

**SCT Structure and History**

Longer standing Members will know that in the early 1980s, what were then five independent groups of cricket and tennis players ‘clubbed together ‘and purchased the land now held in trust for three Members’ Clubs for £50,000.

The shared land includes the roadways from Montenotte to Park Road and up to Hanley. It also includes the system built bungalow near Brookside that the trust's predecessor, Crouch End Playing Fields Ltd, had built in 1962.

The Trustees are not the officers of a separate corporation or charity. They just comprise up to eight Club appointed Members who are the registered owners of the three Clubs' land.

So, ‘the Trust’ is just a means by which you (Hanley LTC, Highgate CLTC and NLCC) own the land where we play tennis and cricket with these three neighbouring Members Clubs and one tenant (Georgians).

Your land is protected against non-sporting development by covenants and by a deed in favour of Fields in Trust, a charity with which we are affiliated.

We have a website at <http://shepherdscottrust.org/>

Like Club committee colleagues, Trustees are unpaid volunteers, albeit ones with strict legal and Club responsibilities. We have no staff but manage our contractors and those of our neighbours in our spare time.

Georgians is not a Members Club with Rules and Members rights as a Members Club. They are your tenants through the Trust. They lease two sites: Holly Park next to Brookside, expiring 2019; and Georgians, near Hanley, expiring 2024.

In 2012 a Development Committee was set up to explore how members would like to see their Cot site develop in the near, medium and longer term. There followed in 2013 a widespread consultation, the first ever workshop with all three clubs and a survey of all members' views. Part of this process involved members considering taking back the Holly Park and Georgians leases when due so that members could control their future development. A Development Report was delivered in 2015 and published on the SCT website last year. Following agreement by Member clubs, their committees and AGMs since canvassing all clubs on these matters, we have given informal notice that we will not be renewing these leases when they become due, which we are entitled to do. Highgate CLTC wishes with Members support to take Holly Park lease in two summers’ time. Hanley LTC have been in discussion and agreement with Highgate about this and how operations will work. Hanley and Highgate will continue to be involved with discussions regarding taking back the Georgians lease in due course.

**Who are the Shepherds Cot Trustees?**

Highgate, Hanley and NLCC’s land is all owned by the three Members’ Clubs through eight Trustees. ‘The Trust’ is not a separate body: it is eight local Members of our three Clubs. Through your Trustees, you share the freehold to much of the Shepherds Cot land.

Your Trustees are:

Stephen Gardiner (stephen\_g@blueyonder.co.uk)

Stephen is a NLCC nominated Trustee whose main work for the past year has been investigating and commissioning £18k of investment into a new foul drain from NLCC to the bottom of Highgate’s Court 5. Stephen also introduced the gate now at the top of our road to Montenotte Rd., adjacent to the HWS entrance. Stephen also introduced CCTV to three areas: NLCC, Hanley and the bungalow.

Andy Jennings (andy.jennings56@gmail.com)

Andy is a highly experienced housing sector accountant and NLCC Treasurer. He is oncerned to watch Club expenditure on behalf of Clubs (cricket clubs can struggle financially compared to tennis sections). As a NLCC appointed Trustee, Andy is now working with John Newton introducing signage. We will be starting with speed and safety signs. You will see changes.

Ian Lepper (ianlepper@hotmail.com)

A former Chair of Hanley LTC, Ian is a Hanley nominated Trustee. He has helped introduce water conservation plans, development contributions and technical input on our drains and roads. Like all Hanley Members, Ian is concerned to keep plans local and has been working with Highgate Tennis on returning the Holly Park part of Georgians to the trust.

Altaf Malick (almakuk@yahoo.com)

Altaf is a civil engineer who contributes valuable expert technical advice to the Trust. After several years as a NLCC nominated Trustee he is now responsible for Trust Tree Management. In addition, Altaf has been costing possible solar power sourcing for Trustees and Clubs.

Andy Newton (newton\_andrew@hotmail.com)

Andy is the Trust’s Treasurer and has given Trustees a firmer grip on finances, an opportunity to look at our historic spending and to begin to budget and plan. Andy has a 25 year history of commitment to Highgate on the cricket field, on the tennis court and off both. Andy’s consistency, grasp of Club business finance and commitment to fairness and practicality is an invaluable asset to the Shepherds Cot.

John Newton (newtnew@gmail.com)

John is a Hanley nominated Trustee and well known Hanley and Highgate tennis Member. As our Chair, John has taken Trust work outwards, leading on initiatives like the Development Group; beginning the SCT Neighbourhood Watch; Highgate Wood School partnering; liaison with local activist and environment group, CREOS; work with Haringey on local repairs; consulting with Alexandra Palace management and communicating with Crouch End Forum. As well as goodwill, John’s work has helped generate ongoing cash contributions from HWS, further funds towards gating and improved safety work from Haringey.

Steve Reynolds (sreynaldo26@aol.com)

As the Trustees’ Secretary Steve co-ordinates, organises, advises and assists all Trustees and Clubs so as to get the best out of themselves and our land. He also tries to enforce sanctions against fly tippers, car dumpers and much else along with helping manage maintenance and just keeping Trust work co-ordinated.

He led on bringing the School Courts into fruition with Highgate in 2010 and is a former Highgate Club and Tennis Secretary. He has been a Highgate nominated Trustee since the early 2000s.

Sharon Webber (shazwebber61@gmail.com)

Thanks to Sharon’s organising work she has taken your Trust’s affiliation to the charity Fields in Trust. As a result The Trust is stronger and dedicates your fields to the Fields in Trust cause. Sharon is a senior insurance executive and arranges Trustees’ various insurances, undertakes legal work and much else. Sharon also leads on our website development and updating. Sharon is a Highgate nominated Trustee.

Vounteers

Now that we have our leaking drain fixed, Clubs will be hearing more from Trustees on water conservation, the environment and adopting greener Club and Trustee strategies. One Hanley Member, James Weeden, will be reporting with Trustees to our AGM in November on water conservation.

**What Have Trustees Been Doing?**

It is impossible in a single report to highlight all that colleagues have done. Trustees have been busy. Our work has concentrated upon:

a). Repairing potholes

b). Continuing the Shepherds Cot Neighbourhood Watch with Tim Reynolds

c). Taking enforcement action against trespassers, dumpers and minor criminals

d). Managing increased contributions from Clubs and adapting a budget prepared and negotiated by Andy Newton.

e). Completing and updating our legal documentation via Highgate Member and Trustee Sharon Webber

f). Taking steps with regard to taking back the first of Georgians two leases expiring in 2019 and preparing the terms on which Highgate may use that asset.

g). Continuing with our two maintenance and gardening workers

h). Continuing links with the School and meeting on security and anti-social behaviour

i). Tracing owners of dumped cars

j). Attempting to address Haringey’s concerns that we are liable to remove the spikes from railings adjacent to the greenway on our northern boundary and negotiating a solution

k). Continuing our affiliation with the national charity Fields In Trust

l). Updating our website

m). Planning a future Cot day

n). Continuing our insurances for Trustees and Clubs

o). Managing and investigating water supply and related issues

p). Preparing a potential plan to lock our gate at Park Road

q). Introducing a new gate to the Montenotte Road access

r). Supporting Highgate and all Members’ initiatives and concerns to improve lighting in conjunction with Highgate’s Susan Paterson

s). Repairing and renewing the sewer running from North London Cricket past Highgate Court 5 at very great cost.

t). Further work on signage and 5 mph speed limits

u). Disputing and continuing to dispute legal responsibilities with Thames Water with regard to the repaired drain and involving Catherine West MP, local Councillors (in particular Cllr Doron Natan) and Haringey’s technical staff

v). Consulting with Clubs on the future of Georgians

w). Managing trees

x). Attending the Crouch End Neighbourhood Forum AGM and arranging a consultation meeting with reference to the Localism Act

**What are our Values and Objectives?**

As Trustees, our values have to be those of the Clubs combined. At AGM 2016, Members encapsulated these into a mission statement and adopted the objectives set out below:

*To care for and improve the Cot in the best interest of our beneficiary Clubs and their Members whilst preserving its green and peaceful character*

Near term objectives for 2017

1. Facilitate increased collaboration between beneficiary Clubs so that they work together to build their activities and membership in a way that will make best use of the Cot as a whole
2. Complete and reach agreement with beneficiary clubs on a 10-year development programme for the Cot
3. Improve security on the Cot where feasible, pending major improvements envisaged in the 10-year development programme
4. Establish a preventative maintenance/repair programme for all services managed by the Trust
5. Foster and develop relationships with the Cot’s neighbours for mutual benefit

Medium term objectives for 2017 and 2018

1. Work with beneficiary Clubs to implement initial Development Programme stages
2. Implement outreach programmes with beneficiary clubs to grow membership and widen local awareness of the Cot, its facilities and its people and ensure that we have their support for and participation in its development

**Security**

Although the gate closure at Hanley Road has been a great success in curbing anti-social behaviour in Hanley Car Park, (Well done Hanley members – keep up the good regular closure work!), there has been an increase in anti-social activity on the cot elsewhere. This has been around the Brookside/Holly Park/ Bungalow areas and in NLCC car park, late at night. Steven Reynolds and Stephen Gardiner are slowly tracing miscreants and their cars; Tim Reynolds (Our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) is pressing the police on the more sinister activities and we are working with the Environmental Health Officer on enforcement. It is tedious, time consuming work but it is our priority. Tracing and finding a car dumper for example occasionally lightens the work.

Through better information flow, support from Tim Reynolds, SCT Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV we have had half a dozen or so successful or pending prosecutions of fly tippers, litterers and related anti social behaviour trespassers.

**Feedback**

Do please email either your particular club Trustees, or contact our Honorary Secretary Steve Reynolds or our Chairman John Newtonon any aspect of Trust business you would like to discuss. Alternatively, let Trustees know if there are aspects of our work you would like to contribute to. We badly need a Minute secretary and would always welcome help and assistance with organising maintenance, research, and communications.

It is not always straightforward being a Trustee. For the past year however it has been a source of much pride as teamwork has kicked in, Clubs are more supportive, real positive change is occurring and we are re-investing in what we own. You will see these positive signs emerge as we continue these improvements and debate with you what is to be done to best secure and maintain our Courts, fields and clubhouses now and for our futures.

A happy and successful season ahead to you all.

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