



A PLACE TO PLAY SPORT FOREVER



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CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE



Whilst reacting and dealing with the impact of the pandemic over the last two years has been really challenging for the whole of society, it has highlighted the importance of looking after our physical and mental health.

For the Foundation it has reinforced our belief that playing fields are more important than ever to local communities. Firstly, as a means of helping people to become physically fitter and more resistant to the virus and secondly, by providing a safe and oxygen rich environment where mental health can be sustained and improved. That is why our commitment to providing, protecting and promoting playing fields in the capital must never diminish.

Ensuring that playing fields are fully used and offer communities maximum benefit is not as easy as it looks and cannot rely on a “build it and they will come” approach. It requires a real commitment to meeting the needs of our beneficiaries and constant collaboration. During the seventeen week second lockdown period in the first part of 2021 when we did not press our clubs for payment, we made preparations for the return of sport and regularly updated our football and cricket users that we would be ready for action as soon as Government guidance allowed. Fortunately, unlike in 2020, this time the football season was not terminated and was instead extended to the end of June to allow clubs to fulfil their fixtures albeit having to adhere to Government protocols which prohibited use of changing facilities. In the end, via some adroit timetabling and creative

use of our 3G pitches, the majority of our football clubs completed their 2020-21 fixtures and the 2021 cricket season took place without any interruptions. At a time when our clubs needed us most, we had to be there for them and ensure that they survived the impact of yet another protracted lockdown.

Our Green Hearts project showed how valuable having access to local, safe and affordable places to exercise was to physical and mental health especially for those people who live in built up areas. It has also inspired us to expand the project to all of our grounds and to focus our attention on those who lead sedentary lifestyles and are at risk of developing preventable illnesses and poor mental health. Reaching and motivating local people who tend to avoid the gym and more formal ways of keeping fit lies at the heart of what makes Green Hearts so effective and we will continue to work with local partners to ensure that we help non-sporty individuals to be more active.

When the pandemic struck in March 2020 similar to most charities our first instinct was to go into survival mode in order to ride out the storm. However, we always knew that the real challenge would be in sustaining the recovery once Government grants and the furlough scheme had been discontinued.

We are delighted to report that bookings are increasing and school and club activity has eclipsed pre-Covid levels.

We were also greatly relieved to witness the return of our two major fundraising events with the Quiz at The Oval being staged later than usual in July and our Gala Dinner taking place in November just before a major spike in Covid-19 infections. Both events exceeded our expectations in terms of income generated and demonstrated how fortunate we are to have such a loyal and generous band of supporters.

None of this of course could be achieved without the expertise, dedication and commitment of our staff, Trustees and volunteers who once again have gone that extra mile in ensuring that this great charity prevails. So we would like to publicly thank them now.



W. Cadogan

HON WILLIAM CADOGAN
Chairman



Alex Welsh

ALEX WELSH
Chief Executive

WHAT WE DO

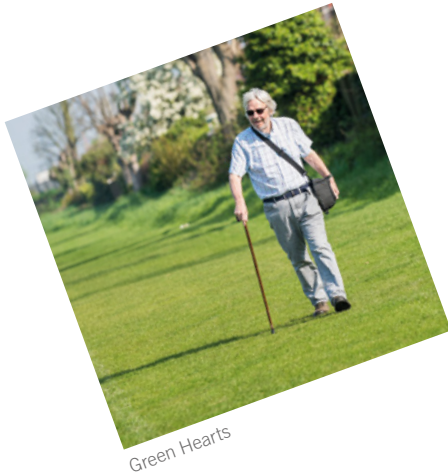
Our vision is to create a happier, healthier, more cohesive London by encouraging more people to play sport and be physically active. We provide affordable, accessible and attractive playing fields that are more than just green spaces. They are places where lives can be improved physically, mentally and socially.

OUR PLAYING FIELDS

Usually sport is played continuously on our grounds by schools, colleges, universities and clubs but with the second protracted lockdown causing a temporary suspension of the football season we quickly reassured our clubs that we would not be pressing them for payment and would be preparing our pitches for action the minute Government directives allowed. With the season extended, our clubs were able to complete their fixtures without causing any disruption to the cricket season which had started on time.

Once again Government guidance for outdoor sport meant that every club had to write a Covid-19 risk assessment and each of our grounds had a set of strict protocols that prohibited the use of changing and refreshment facilities. In spite of these stringent measures, the clubs felt that these restrictions were a small price to pay to play the sport they loved. Sharing a dogged determination to get sport played again helped us to forge stronger relationships with our clubs as we realised that we both needed each other to fulfil our goals. We relied on them to help us deliver our charitable objectives of increasing and sustaining participation and they depended on us to provide the pitches on which to play.

By the start of the new football season the Covid-19 restrictions were lifted and some kind of normality returned and we were delighted to report that as a result



of our sympathetic approach to their needs none of our clubs had been forced to fold.

OUR PROJECTS

In addition to providing places for schools and clubs to play and practise, we continued to develop a wide programme of sport-based social inclusion activities at our grounds that address the main barriers to participation in sport and are free of charge. These include the Green Hearts project which provides flexible access to informal walking, jogging and running. Throughout the time when our grounds were closed for organised sport we extended Green Hearts and left our gates open so that local residents could use our fields to exercise on a regular and socially distanced basis. This was gratefully appreciated by local people some of whom described it as a “life saver”.

The other project that continued throughout the year was the ground-breaking Coping Through Football, a partnership with the NHS and Leyton Orient Trust that provides a service with a difference in helping people with mental health issues get their lives back on track. During the four-month lockdown period, telephone and online contact was maintained with service users to ensure that their health and well being were not being too adversely affected by having to stay at home. Then as soon as Government guidance allowed, the Coping Through Football practical sessions resumed albeit adhering to group sizes of six people and strict Covid-19 protocols. All of our participants were delighted when they were allowed “back on the pitch” proving once again the therapeutic value of the project.

Saturday Morning Soccer, a project designed to increase activity levels in children who are not currently in teams and might otherwise have been sitting at home, recommenced following the end of lockdown. It provides a fulfilling weekly football experience for primary school girls and boys who have historically not been involved in organised football. Staffed by FA qualified coaches from one of our partner clubs LOASS, these Saturday morning sessions on our 3G pitch at Douglas Eyre Sports Centre have proved extremely popular.



OUR PITCH PROTECTION

The Foundation is the first port of call when people are concerned about the loss of a playing field. Once a playing field is lost, it is lost forever so when it comes to protection our mantra is **no net loss of pitches** and if they are lost to development they should be replaced. We know that the public health and social value of playing fields to local communities is huge and that is why we are committed to opposing the current and future loss of playing fields in London.

We have therefore continued to fulfil our strategic role as the leading body throughout Greater London in the protection of playing fields and their promotion as a means of creating healthier, more active local communities. Our ‘Fields at Risk Register’ provides an early warning system for fields under imminent threat of sale or development and over the last two decades has helped save over twenty grounds. In order to focus minds, we have produced a Charter for Playing Fields in London which is a call to action for the Greater London Authority, local authorities and sporting bodies to adopt a long-term view of the contribution playing fields make to improving and enriching the lives of Londoners.

WHY WE DO IT

Playing fields are more than just parcels of open space. Managed and used appropriately, they can help people to be more physically active so that their physical, mental and social health is enhanced and, by becoming more accessible, they can contribute to community safety and community cohesion.

Without a pitch to play on there can be no sport. Accessing the opportunity to play sport in London is different to any other part of the country and we need to protect the long-term future of playing fields as places where participation in grassroots sport is widened, increased and sustained. London is home to 13% of the UK population, however Londoners have half the number of leisure facilities per 100,000 people, compared to elsewhere in the UK and only 8% of the nation’s playing fields.

In addition to the provision of facilities, there are barriers and inequalities around access and participation at existing facilities. At present, 38% of adults in London do not meet the Chief Medical Officer physical activity guidelines. There are also significant inequalities within London. The city has the second and third most inactive local authorities in the UK, but it also has the second and third least inactive local authorities.

We passionately believe that playing fields and the activities played on them can help to address these health inequalities. Recent research provides a compelling case for the protection and provision of green space in the capital:

- London’s public green space has a gross asset value of more than **£91 billion**, providing services valued at **£5 billion** per year
- For each **£1** spent by local authorities and their partners on public green space, Londoners enjoy at least **£27** in value
- Londoners avoid **£950 million** per year in health costs due to public green space
- The value of recreational activities is estimated to be **£926 million** per year
- For the average household in London, the monetary value of being near a green space is over **£900** per year

Active people are 14% more likely to report good health than the inactive. Inactivity places people at higher risk of chronic disease, premature death and lower quality of life. Additionally, in terms of mental health, physical activity reduces the likelihood of people being affected by certain conditions. In the case of depression, it reduces this likelihood by around 30%.

SUPPORTING SCHOOL SPORT

Inter school sport was hit hard by the pandemic and, whilst some schools still used LPFF fields for PE lessons, there were no inter school cricket matches during the summer term. We therefore faced the 2021-2022 schools football season with some uncertainty.

Neil Barratt, Secretary of the Waltham Forest Secondary Schools Football and Cricket Association admitted that he too was very concerned when Covid-19 arrived as he had noticed that even before the pandemic fewer pupils were playing sport outside school, for a number of reasons:

- Dwindling enthusiasm from teachers to take school teams
- Transport difficulties as a result of older school minibuses racking up ULEZ charges
- Pupils becoming increasingly reluctant to play sport out of school
- Head Teachers not giving sufficient backing to school sport
- Only three schools in Waltham Forest have their own facilities so are reliant on Council and other pitch providers.

However, our fears were allayed when bookings started to come back and before the end of the year we hosted:-

76	4
Waltham Forest Secondary School League Football Matches	Girls' leagues for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10
11	18
Hackney and Inner London Schools matches	Redbridge, Havering and Newham District football matches
19	
Essex County Schools fixtures	

Neil attributes much of this revival to the Foundation's willingness to go the extra mile to stage school matches, finals and festivals and at a "very fair price".

Roy Gerbaldi and Dave Agass of Newham Schools said that LPFF facilities were the exception and credit the Foundation as the main reason why district football is still alive in that part of the county. Phil Sammons Secretary of Essex Schools Football Association, commended LPFF for the excellent standard of facilities and said:

"We regularly use LPFF for our National and Regional, Inter County fixture programme involving both boys and girls. We are always provided with high quality playing surfaces and a similar level of off field service and facilities. In times of declining facility provision, it is very difficult to find a venue where we can call upon three pitches of the highest standard to stage our matches."



Essex County Schools FA



“
THE LAST TWO YEARS
HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY
CHALLENGING FOR SPORT,
BUT WITH YOUR HELP
AND SUPPORT WE HAVE
COME THROUGH, AND ALL
OF US ARE SINCERELY
GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL.

Aztecs Cricket Club

LPFF IN 2021

IN 2021 OUR GROUNDS WERE HOME TO:

- 621

Football teams
- 63

Cricket teams
- 13

Softball teams
- 10

School sports days
- 1

Rugby club
- 1

Ultimate frisbee team
- 1

Gaelic football team
- 1

Weekly parkrun



Football at Peter May Sports Centre

Our grounds also provided space for:

358

Green Hearts members to walk safely around Douglas Eyre Sports Centre

143

adults and 20 young people attend **Coping Through Football**

25

members of a **Nordic Walking Group**

ACTIVITY ON OUR FIELDS:



Football spectators at Peter May Sports Centre

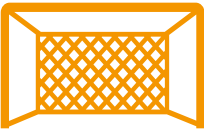
479

cricket matches were played on LPFF pitches, an average of **24 games** each weekend.



2,402

football matches were played on our grounds, an average of **86 matches** per week.



553

junior football teams played **1,172 small-sided matches** in the SELKent League at LMPF Greenwich.



73%

of all football played on LPFF grounds caters for schools, youth and junior development.



An average of

1,008

people per week use our Artificial Turf Pitches for training and matches during the football season.



92

youth cricket matches took place at Fairlop Oak Playing Field in the Essex Met colts' competition.



EMMA HAYES MADE IN LONDON

One of the highlights of the Gala Dinner was the captivating interview that Martin Bayfield conducted with Emma Hayes winner of the 2021 LPFF Made in London Award.

The Made in London Award was the first of three awards Emma won at the end of the year, sitting alongside her OBE and the FIFA Women's Coach of the Year Award. All in all, 2021 was a very good year for her as she was also voted WSL Manager of the Season having led Chelsea Women to another league title, the Continental League Cup the FA Cup and Champions League Final.

During the summer she cemented her fame further with her outstanding appearances as an ITV pundit during the European Football Championships. The viewing public warmed immediately to her knowledge, insight and the brilliant way she simplified the team tactics on display.



Despite all her achievements and her indisputable status as a trailblazer for the women's and men's game, Emma remains remarkably grounded and humble. Following the Made in London Award we caught up with Emma and asked her a few questions:



Gala Dinner 2021

What does it mean to you to win the LPFF Made in London Award?

It was a huge honour for me and my family. Being a Londoner, born and bred in Camden, I am proud of my city and the experiences that I had growing up.

What is your past connection with LPFF?

Having returned from the USA with all my American coaching qualifications, I then had to gain my Uefa coaching badges and took the Uefa B Licence at Douglas Eyre Sports Centre, one of the Foundation's grounds.

How are you enjoying your broadcasting career?

I absolutely love doing something different to coaching. I get a whole new perspective on how sports are reported and I enjoy the process behind the scenes.

Having blazed a trail for women in the game what advice would you give to those coming behind you?


Keep telling yourself that you're good enough to be there.

Where do you see the women's game in 5-10 years' time and what are the biggest challenges?

Is the stadium infrastructure ready for the next steps? Are players equipped to deal with the growing demands on them and the social media scrutiny.

How important are playing fields to the overall development of the game?

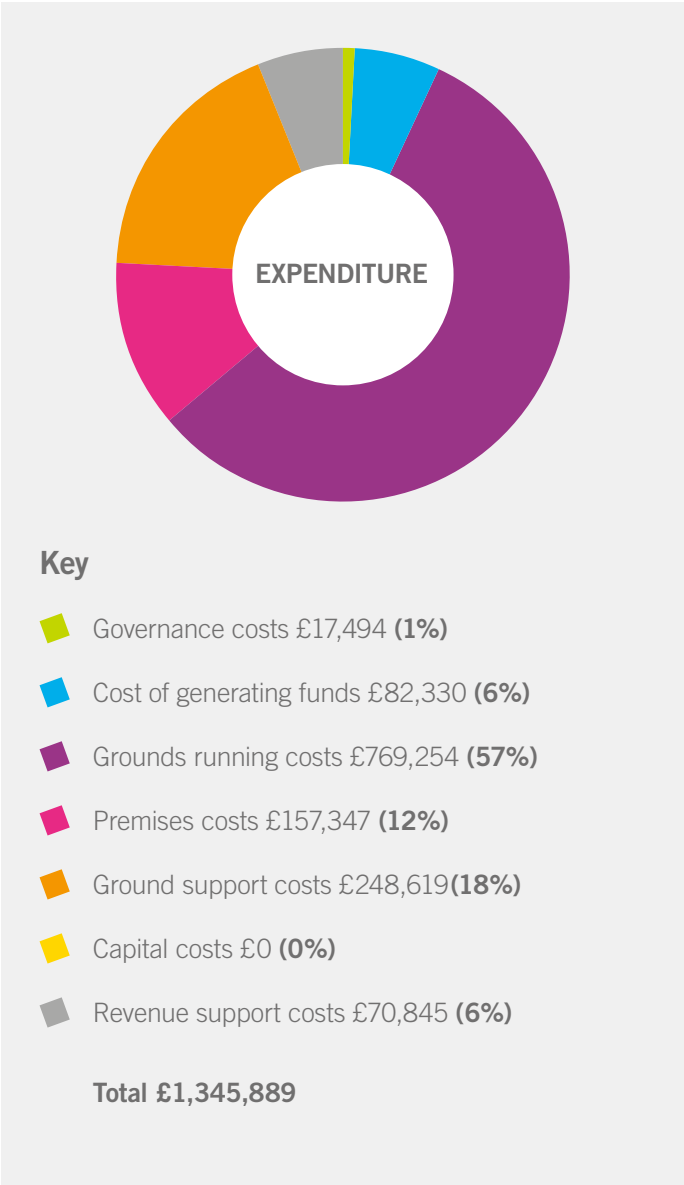
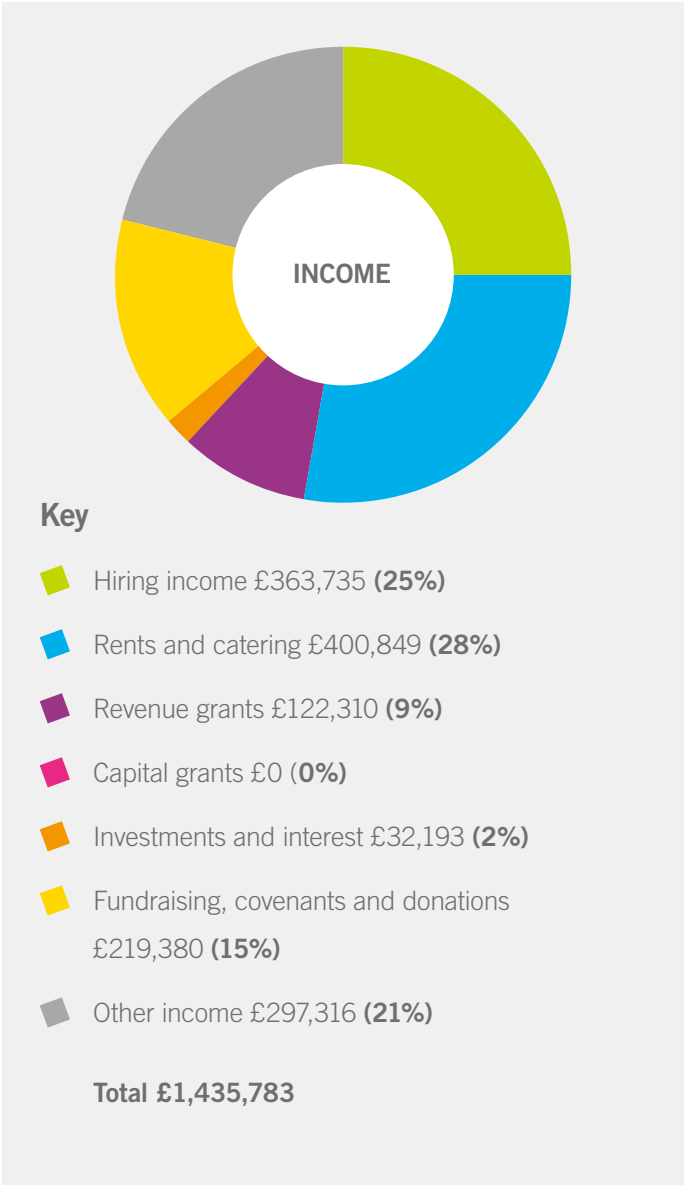
They are so vital. Having grown up and fuelled my love for the game playing on the pitches at Regents Park, we can't take them for granted. And as I'm often reminded, once you lose a playing space to a new housing development it is lost forever.



“IT’S A PRIVILEGE TO PLAY AT SOME OF THE BEST STADIUMS IN THE WORLD BUT PETER MAY SPORTS CENTRE IS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN FOR ME – WHERE I LEARNED TO PLAY FOOTBALL AND RECEIVED MY FIRST COACHING. I HAVE GREAT MEMORIES OF SCORING GOALS ON THOSE PITCHES AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE EXPERIENCE HAS HELPED ME TO BECOME WHO I AM TODAY.

Harry Kane MBE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2021



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS, DONORS AND OUR PEOPLE

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- The Langton Trust
- The Rockley Charity
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Thank you to all companies and individuals who donate to our Quiz and Gala Dinner events.

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