



A September Special

£50,000 Funding Boost for Restoring and Increasing Facilities to the Clubhouse

It's always pleasing to be able to share good news so it's thrilling to be able to tell you of a long-term plan that has come together.

Well over 2 years ago, diver and BLCC committee member Peter Hall brought a potential source of grant funding to the committee's attention. In negotiation with Blackpool Council over new leases, SUEZ Communities Trust's application caveat that the club must hold a lease for the project site with at least 5 years remaining, was not immediately seen as a major hurdle. Little did we know it would be late May 2020 before new leases were in place and by then Covid would have locked us down!

Undeterred, Peter drafted a stage 1 application and registered the club's intent to apply. As restrictions eased earlier this year, he was able to move forward with planning. Acting Commodore Paul Collins arranged meetings with contractors to discuss proposed works and secure the three estimates required. No mean feat, given the significant demand for contractors and the SUEZ's stipulation that at a single contractor, with no involvement in the club undertake works.

The pair also met with Scott Benton, Conservative MP for Blackpool South, to outline their plans and after doing so, successfully elicited his and Councillor Christian Cox's support for the application.

With the committee in agreement on the final draft's content, Peter submitted the club's bid. SUEZ's considered response is reproduced below in part.

"I am writing with regard to your recent application to SUEZ Communities Trust for the Restoring and Increasing Facilities to the Club House. Our Board met recently and I can advise that they would like to make a provisional offer of funding of £50,000 to Blackpool Light Craft Club."

Wonderful news I'm sure you will agree and every credit to Peter and to Paul for their extensive efforts on behalf of the club.

A Word About Our Forthcoming A.G.M. and Volunteering.

The above news article underlines in small part the considerable 'behind the scenes' works that are undertaken by volunteers to progress the club.

This year marked the club's 65th summer season. A milestone thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who have served in office or on the committee and the many more who have provided ad hoc assistance.

It's the motivation of our volunteer officers and committee members that makes management of any club viable. The last 18 months has been incredibly challenging for everyone, not least the Club's volunteers. The interpretation of frequently changing Government guidelines, ongoing risk assessment, adapting our approaches to sports from the club and dealing with repeated tractor issues, has meant volunteers have had to cope with considerable uncertainty and pressure. Sadly Covid, coupled with issues arising and reported this season have sorely tested us all. We have lost volunteers and come the A.G.M. we will lose still more as terms come to an end.

The groundwork has been done and the club is poised on the cusp of a new chapter. We are a popular and certainly not short of members or new applicants. We are also financially sound and clubhouse refurbishment is imminent but it's unrealistic to expect that just a handful of volunteers can or will be prepared to take the club forward into another season.

If the BLCC is to continue we need a full complement of volunteer officers and committee members. Volunteers who are prepared to contribute their time, their ideas and will have no hesitation in addressing all challenges as they arise.

For the remainder of 2021/22 and if we are to continue into 2022/23 there remains much to do, but it's literally now over to you the membership.

If the BLCC is to continue to promote its objectives, we need a Commodore and not simply in name only. We also need willing volunteers to office and committee.

Written nominations for the offices of

Commodore

Vice Commodore

Secretary

Treasurer

Bosun

Membership Secretary

Must be received by Secretary, Mike Waddington no later than Monday 4 October 2021. Volunteers prepared to stand for up to the 10 committee seats, need only make their willingness known to Mike by the same date.

Happy to chat regarding any role.