Scottish Government: Health and Sport Committee

Glasgow Life welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Health and Sport Committee’s call for information in relation to Gladiators Weightlifting

Glasgow Sport are fully aware of the important work that Gladiators Weightlifting Club has been delivering in Easterhouse and across Glasgow for many years and have lent support at various times in the past. For example, The Gladiators current premises were transferred to them from Glasgow Life (previously known as Cultural and Leisure Services) to provide accommodation and allow the development of their organisation. The premises were previously managed as a community facility: Auchinlea Recreation Centre.

Recent engagement levels, however, have been reduced as Glasgow Life have focussed development resources into developing and engaging with the Community Sports Hub in Easterhouse (Community Sports Hubs are a national strategy designed to engage and build capacity in communities and community organisations, build strong local networks involving clubs, schools and community organisations and attract everyone across the area into activity). The Gladiators are members of the CSH in Easterhouse but have had limited involvement.

Recently, however, there have been positive developments and Glasgow Life have met with Gladiators Weightlifting Club and have put in place a series of meetings to discuss the club’s future CSH involvement and any possible wider support that can be provided to benefit the club in the community.

Glasgow Life is confident that by creating a revised approach to the current CSH programme we can provide a set of circumstances that support greater involvement by The Gladiators and deliver benefits to the club through that involvement. The Gladiators have discussed positive visions for the local community of Easterhouse with Glasgow Life and we will soon be in a position to share this wider with other involved organisations and clubs in Easterhouse CSH. In recent years Glasgow Life has supported the Gladiators through: creating a profile for the club on ‘Club Finder’; a promotional tool for Glasgow clubs; hiring Gladiators’ inflatables for ‘Wee Sites’ during the Commonwealth Games, which generated £1,620 for the club through equipment hire by Glasgow Life; Direct Club Investment application submitted to sportscotland; funding and award nominations through the Sports Council for Glasgow and additional funding support via community awards and contribution towards international travel.

Monetary Support

To date, Glasgow Life has not provided any monetary support to Gladiators Weightlifting Club but a positive relationship with the Easterhouse Community Sports Hub will provide an opportunity to for the club to access the limited CSH budget which can be utilised for programmes/projects benefiting the local community of Easterhouse.
**Additional Support by Glasgow Life**

With a more positive set of relationships established very recently, opportunities are now being explored to see how the club can be supported to develop. As an example, Glasgow Life is assisting the club to gain access to facilities in the east end of Glasgow. The forecasted result of achieving access to new venues would support and build upon the delivery capacity for the Gladiator’s school programme. Going forward further into 2018, the Gladiators will become an influential organisation in the Easterhouse CSH through their considerable experience and knowledge of the local area. This will ultimately contribute to the hub’s sustainability, benefit the other member clubs and enhance participation opportunities for the local community. Membership of the CSH will also entitle the Gladiators to access to Officer support and to Glasgow Life resources such as CPD opportunities and promotional events.