

## **MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITION**

### **AGENDA ITEM No. 10**

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**MEETING: COUNCIL**

**DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**

**REPORT BY: LEISURE MANAGER**

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#### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to request members to approve officers to further investigate and approve the use of the sports hall for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fight competitions.

#### **2.0 Background**

2.1 Officers have been approached by a local club Viper, based in Newton Aycliffe to hold a MMA fight night in the Sports Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

2.2 The Club hold 2 large competitions a year and are currently using Spectrum Leisure Centre in Willington to host the club nights, they would like to host the events at a venue in Newton Aycliffe as the club have a big following on the town and a number of the fighters are local.

#### **3.0 Current Situation**

3.1 The Leisure Manager was recently approached by the Club who requested to use the Oak Leaf Sports Hall for their next event.

3.2 Following a meeting with the club it has been established the event organisers would:-

- Control the sale of tickets up to maximum capacity of the sports hall premises license.
- Ensure security staff are in place throughout the event.
- Have doctors and first aiders at the ring side for medical emergencies.
- Provide public liability insurance, risk assessments and will complete all events paperwork.
- Provide all associated equipment needed, apart from seating and tables.
- Undertake the setting up and taking down of the equipment.

3.3 A bar would be provided by the OakLeaf sports complex, with a projected income of £4,000-£6,000.

3.4 The sports hall is not well used on a Saturday evening, income loss would be in the region of £35, however income would be approximately £200 for sports hall usage.

3.5 Participation in traditional sport is declining, yet the participation in martial Arts increasing. The sports hall could generate additional income being hired out for a multitude of different uses other than traditional sports.

3.6 Matthew Clark, the new tender winner to supply the Oak Leaf bar, would be willing to assist with the temporary bar and sale or return of the stock.

#### 4.0 **Impact on Great Aycliffe Town Council.**

4.1 The Oak Leaf Sports Complex could provide a 'home' venue for competitions for a Newton Aycliffe based club, which may also lead to a greater use of the sports hall and increased bar takings.

4.2 A bond would be needed to cover any damages, therefore covering any losses incurred

4.3 The windows of the viewing area into the sports hall from the bar would be covered enabling the event in the hall to be a totally private, self-contained, ticketed event and will not disturb any regular bar users.

#### 5.0 **Policy Implications**

5.1 Conforms to assisting the delivery of the following council aims and targets.

Aim 1 "To provide good quality governance and management of the Council".

Aim 2 "To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner".

Aim 3 "To provide accessible, affordable leisure facilities and opportunities".

Aim 6 "To facilitate and encourage partnership working to improve the services and facilities for the residents of Great Aycliffe"

#### 6.0 **Staffing Implications**

6.1 None.

#### 7.0 **Financial Implications**

7.1 Increased income for sports hall usage and bar as set out in point 3.3

7.2 Seating would need to be hired in for the event but bar prices and hall hire would help offset this cost.

#### 8.0 **Crime and Disorder Implications**

8.1 The event organisers will provide security for the event to minimise crime and disorder.

#### 9.0 **Equal Opportunities Implications**

9.1 None

10.0 **Environmental Implications**

10.1 None.

11.0 **Risk Assessment**

11.1 Due to the arrangements set out about this would be considered a private event and would have their own risk assessments, method statements and security arrangements in place.

11.2 Therefore, it is not considered that the matters contained in this report pose a risk to health and safety of staff or to the financial or public standing of the Council to a degree that a risk assessment should be appended to this report.

12.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that:-

12.1 Members consider the information provided in the report.

12.2 Members consider allowing Officers to bring the event to the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

**Contact Officer: Judith Thexton  
Leisure Manager**