

OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX NEW DEVELOPMENTS

AGENDA ITEM No. 8

MEETING: RECREATION COMMITTEE
DATE: 4TH SEPTEMBER 2024
REPORT BY: SPORTS COMPLEX MANAGER

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on new developments relating to the Oak Leaf Sports Complex.

2.0 Previous Initiatives, Events and Staff Training Update

2.1 Set out below is an update on previous initiatives, events and staff training held in the period since the last Recreation Committee Meeting.

2.2 Staff Training

This month's training for all members of staff was an update on the bar rules and the Challenge 25 scheme.

2.3 Live Music

'Casbah', a newly formed local band played live in the bar area of the sports complex on Friday 26th July.

2.4 Bar Speaker System

A total of £1,000 was allocated from the VAT windfall resources to upgrade the speaker system in the bar and purchase a mixer and speaker system for the function room. The system shown below has now been purchased and installed within the bar area:



A mobile mixer and speakers below were also purchased along with accessories (stands, microphone) within the budget available. These will be available to hire when using the function room for parties:



3.0 Temporary Opening Times

3.1 Members will recall trial opening times were approved at the following meetings:

a) **Service Review Working Group**

The Service Review Working Group meeting on 10th January approved the following recommendation for the bar opening times (recommendation subsequently approved by the Policy and Resources Committee) :

“That the bar opening time recommendations set out in the report are agreed and the Sports Complex Manager runs a trial of opening and closing the bar half an hour earlier, subject to the bar staff being consulted on the changes.”

b) **Recreation Committee Meeting**

The Recreation Committee Meeting on 28th February agreed the following trial to the opening times for reception:

“A trial of the reception desk opening and closing 30 minutes earlier daily, be implemented alongside the previously agreed changes to the bar opening times.”

3.2 It is the view of the Sports Complex Manager that the trial is working well but it is recommended that the trial is extended through the winter months before making any permanent recommendations to the Council.

3.3 The current advertised opening times are listed below:

 **OPENING TIMES FROM 1ST APRIL 2024**
Times correct at time of publishing (4.3.24)

BUILDING	BAR	CATERING
MONDAY TO SATURDAY 08.45am - 11.00pm	MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11.15am - 10.30pm	MONDAY 12.00pm - 2.30pm 5.00pm - 7.00pm
SUNDAY 08.45am - 10.30pm	SATURDAY 11.00am - 10.30pm	TUESDAY 12.00pm - 2.30pm 5.00pm - 8.30pm
SPORTS	SUNDAY 11.00am - 10.00pm	WEDNESDAY 12.00pm - 2.30pm 5.00pm - 8.30pm
EVERY DAY	RECEPTION	THURSDAY 12.00pm - 2.30pm
9.00am - 10.00pm	EVERY DAY	FRIDAY 12.00pm - 2.30pm
	9.00am - 8.45pm	SATURDAY 12.00pm - 8.00pm
		SUNDAY 12.00pm - 6.00pm

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Newton Aycliffe
DL5 6QZ
01325 300600



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3.4 Members are requested to consider if they would like to extend the trial for the remainder of the financial year to see if the timings work as well during the winter months as they have during the summer.

3.5 If extending the trial is approved, the Sports Complex Manager will bring a detailed analysis of how the changes have impacted income at the start of 2025 so that members can consider and agree any permanent changes to the opening times ahead of the next financial year.

4.0 Live Music

4.1 A local musician (Jayden Tomlinson) will be playing in the sports complex bar on Friday 5th September and has offered to do the gig for free to gain experience.

5.0 Darlington Model Railway Exhibition

5.1 The Darlington Model Railway Exhibition will take place on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September in the OakLeaf Sports Complex. The poster for the event can be seen below:



6.0 Fantazmagoria 2024

6.1 Fantazmagoria 2024 will take place on Sunday 13th October in the Oakleaf Sports Complex. The poster for the event can be seen below:



7.0 Bar Entertainment System

7.1 The bar area currently plays music via the Sky music channels when sport is not being shown in the complex. The music channels are interrupted by adverts approximately every ten minutes. Every Tuesday evening a traditional quiz is delivered by a member of the bar staff. Most of those taking part are long term customers with the quiz rarely retaining new participants.

7.2 Earlier in the year the Sports Complex Manger investigated various options to enhance the music options and modernise the quiz in the complex. Initially a quote was sought for a modern jukebox, however this was not considered a viable option.

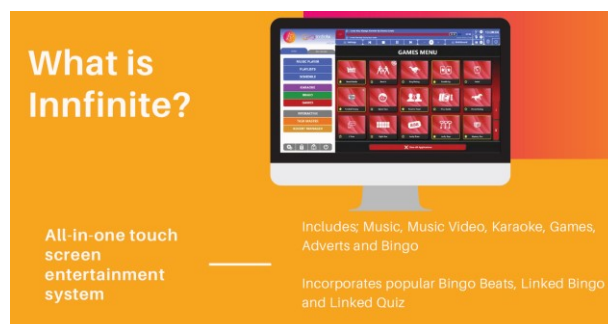
7.3 The manager therefore organised demonstrations of several entertainment systems.

7.4 A brief outline of the best two systems investigated and their websites are linked below:

- a) **Media Theme** (<https://www.mediatheme.com/>). The system includes music, karaoke, digital games (including higher or lower, raffle and deal or no deal), race nights (including horse, dog and pig races), bingo (including a music option) and traditional quizzes, and the option to use a mobile phone application.



- b) **Innfinite Entertainment System** (<https://www.innstay.co.uk/innfinite>). The system includes an excellent interactive music system with your own playlist design, digital games (including higher or lower, lucky keys, open the box), race nights and interactive quiz linked to other sites (a National Linked Quiz is coming soon).



7.5 Brochures including pictures and further details of each system are available for members to view ahead of meeting upon request, and copies will also be available to view at the meeting

7.6 Both systems look excellent and will enhance the entertainment on offer in the bar area and function room of the complex. They both provide a wide range of activities which can be displayed on the screens.

7.7 Playlists can be tailored to suit the different range and demographic of customers who use the sports complex at certain times of the day and week. Song requests can also be made via a downloadable mobile phone application. The complex management can install content and age restrictions on the music available.

- 7.8 Both systems have advertising facilities which can be displayed whilst music is being played. These could be utilised to advertise internal offers or Council events. Advertising space can be offered to local companies to generate income to contribute towards the costs of the system.



- 7.9 The cost of each system which depend on the length of the contract entered into and are listed in the table below:

	Media Theme	Infinite Entertainment System
Installation Cost	No Cost	£165 (+VAT)
Monthly Cost	£98.61 per month (+VAT) (£22.75 per week – annual contract)	£102 (+VAT) - Includes 4x4 TV Matrix (6-month special offer price)
	£118.30 per month (+VAT) (£27.30 per week – rolling monthly contract)	£147 (+VAT) - Includes 4x4 TV Matrix (Price after 6-month introduction period)
Karaoke Charge	Included in cost above	£43.33 (+ VAT) additional charge to include Karaoke

- 7.10 Members are requested to consider if they would like to install an entertainment system in the complex utilising existing Sports Complex Internal Events Budget for the remainder of the current financial year with an aim of building the system into the budget for next financial year (at no additional net cost) if it proves successful in generating additional usage and income in the bar and function room.

8.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

- 8.1 Is any personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR? **NO**

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Members:-

- i) Receive the update report.
- ii) Agree the proposal to extend the trial of the opening times until the end of the current financial year.
- iii) Consider the proposal to install an entertainment system in the Sports Complex and authorise the Sports Complex Manager to organise a second demonstration and trial during the remainder of this financial year, to confirm which system is the best option.

Sports Complex Manager