



Commonwealth Games Legacy – HOCKEY

Hockey is one of the fortunate sports that will be the beneficiary of the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast Hockey Community will be the beneficiary of a brand new playing facility at Runaway Bay along with a new clubhouse, new field and a re-laid surface at the Gold Coast Hockey Association (GCHA) headquarters at Hunt Park Labrador. We are extremely fortunate and appreciative of this legacy and the opportunities it presents to assist with promoting the sport that we all love. One of the biggest benefits this sport provides is the ability to attract and provide participation to any person irrespective of age, gender or orientation.

Gold Coast Hockey Association has run its competition as a six participant club sport for many years on its artificial Turf facility at Hunt Park Labrador and Labrador Hockey Club (LHC) field at the same location. As part of the preparation for the Commonwealth Games, the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee required a third artificial turf field to be built to provide the training facility for the Games. This facility is now situated at Runaway Bay Sports Centre. This means that Gold Coast will soon have three artificial turf fields, which is long overdue for the expanding sport. This is a welcome addition to our competition, which is bursting at the seams with only two artificial turf fields today.

Hunt Park has served a dual purpose for many years in that there are adjoining fields for both GCHA and Labrador Hockey Club. As part of the redevelopment the existing, tired and out dated Labrador field and clubrooms were earmarked for demolition to make way for the new facilities. It was not possible to utilise the tired, old Labrador facilities, as, apart from the fact they not capable of handling such an event, the field runs in an East - West direction which is not compliant with hockey federation rules. Fields must run North – South to avoid looking into raising or setting suns.

The game of hockey has changed over the last twenty years with the advent of artificial turf fields. This resulted in many clubs having to give up their traditional homes, which have been built over generations with the generous donations of their members, and relocate to the GCHA turf facility at Hunt Park. Fortunately for Labrador Hockey Club they did not need to relocate as their facility already adjoined that of the GCHA. Labrador Hockey Club have been the beneficiary of income for many years from the GCHA due to the fact of their close proximity to the GCHA Fields where all other five clubs now play out of.

Today, GCHA pay Labrador \$70,000 per annum to utilise their turf, which results in Labrador Hockey Club holding an unfair advantage over the five other clubs in the association. GCHA did not project for construction of another turf, as there was the obvious legacy of the Commonwealth Games imminent and therefore strategically saw fit to maintain its relationship with Labrador in an effort to maintain low fees for its members including Labrador Hockey Club.

GCCC Require a sustainable business model to be put forward as the lessee of the new facility. This has resulted in the two existing lessees at Hunt Park, "GCHA" and "LHC" now competing to secure the lease over the new facility.

GCHA are in a strong financial position and have the support of the five other clubs. These clubs believe the money paid to Labrador via the association for rental of its turf as contributing to imbalance of the association that has made Labrador so powerful. A strong balanced competition cannot be maintained whilst one club benefits to the detriment of all others.

GCCC have stated that they will only provide one lease to manage the facility for the hockey precinct including the two fields and clubhouse.

As a consequence of this redevelopment at Hunt Park, Labrador Hockey Club believe they, as the most powerful club within the Gold Coast Hockey Association have a right above all other clubs to

procure the lease from the council to run the new facility, or at the very least own the lease to the new field and clubhouse as compensation for the loss of their field.

It is the proposal of the GCHA that the new facility be leased and managed by a body that has the interests of ALL its participating clubs at heart. Not the self interests of just one club.

The Gold Coast Hockey Association manage the competition of hockey on the Gold Coast, and should maintain the lease of the facility which all its clubs operates at, for ALL the participating clubs, of which Labrador Hockey Club is just one of those six.

Labrador currently have an old and tired clubhouse and field which cannot be used for international matches, which was secured by funding from both private and Government donations and grants. Labrador believe it is their right to have a new turf and clubhouse to replace their existing very old and tired facilities. There are a lot of precedence for other clubs forfeiting their facilities for the good of the game, Labrador will be no exception to this. From LHC's perspective, they believe that their asset should be replaced new for old, no matter how dilapidated old and tired it is. They believe that the hard work their members put in to building their club is more important than the hard work members of other clubs put in before losing their facilities. As other hockey clubs in our association have found out to their detriment, when you invest private and Government funded capital into Crown land, it is at your own risk. Labrador believe that their, proud 48 year history will be lost. This is not the case, Labrador will continue to be a force in gold Coast Hockey, their old clubrooms will be gone but their proud history will be in tact.

Labrador Hockey Club wish to secure a lease from the GCCC so they can manage 1 x synthetic turf and 1 x existing clubhouse for its own use, whilst the GCHA maintain the lease over the other turf field and clubhouse for use by ALL other five clubs. One club holding 50% of the lease assets is quite obviously not in the interests of the majority of the competing clubs.

Labrador Hockey Clubs proposal would result in to two leases – 1 x GCHA and 1 x LHC, which is contrary to how council have advised they wish the facility to operate.

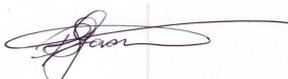
To resolve this question as to who will assume the new lease, GCCC have directed that a new body, Gold Coast Hockey Management Group (GCHMG) be formed to manage the process, to provide the most suitable business model. This group comprises two GCHA representatives, two LHC representatives and three representatives from Hockey Queensland. GCHMG have provided a business model whereby it runs the business of hockey and consequently secures the lease for the new facility. At the completion of the Commonwealth Games the GCHMG will revert to just four representatives (two from GCHA and two from LHC). With this structure LHC will have a significant say in the operations of the new facility. This model has the support of the majority of the members, approx. 65%, and more importantly this model provides equal access and usage of the turf fields and clubhouse for every hockey player.

All five clubs, apart from Labrador Hockey Club support this model, which provides equal opportunity for all clubs and hockey players irrespective of which club they play for.

The most sustainable solution for the betterment of the sport and every hockey player on the Gold Coast is to lease the new facility to the organisation that will provide equal opportunities for all clubs, is financially viable for the long term and has the support of five out of the six member clubs.

Despite the rhetoric of Labrador Hockey Club they are still yet to produce a financial business model that is cost effective to support their proposal.

Yours Faithfully



Paul Gasmier

President GCHA