



## Swinton Moorside Cricket Club Est. 1890

The Graham Matthew's Cricket Ground, · Deansway · Swinton · Lancs · M27 0WH

24/2/13

**Dear Swinton Running Club Committee,**

Swinton Moorside Cricket Club (SMCC) is sorry to hear of your decision to move the venue of the Running Club to another club within Swinton. However it has become apparent that the message, of the need to increase fees, has been misinterpreted or misunderstood in our meetings leading up to your AGM.

The SMCC committee are not asking Running club members to provide the Cricket club with £4,000 or even £3,600 through increased subscriptions. What is being sought is a reasonable increase in fees in relation to the significant increase in costs since Running Club fees were last set in 2006, over six years ago.

In the last six years SMCC have seen *necessary running costs almost double* (not including Sky TV, Members' bar refurbishment, big screen TVs or Wi-Fi). Without consideration of the annual upkeep and maintenance costs for the club facilities, some of the increases we have not passed on are:

- Over 200% increase in electricity bills (now over £4,100 p.a.)
- Over 250% increase in water bills (now over £805 p.a.)
- Over 230% increase in rubbish collection fees (now over £1,400 p.a.)
- Over 60% increase in insurance (now over £2,680 p.a.)

In the last six years the percentage of necessary running costs shouldered by the Cricket Club has increased from 55% to around 75%, with notably fewer playing members. Parity share for the Running Club at 2006 levels would mean annual fees of over £4,500 p.a. In an ideal world we would love to pass this on, but we are also realistic.

Ideally we would like never to increase subscription fees and in these times of austerity we appreciate the difficulties many are facing with increased household expenditure over and above incomes. At the same time we are realistic that, with continually increasing costs, fee increases are inevitable. Much like the increase in England Athletics registration fees for 2013, without necessary increases the club will not survive but we strive to minimise the impact on members. As such, we are not looking for parity, what we are looking for is a reasonable increase to help the club survive in these very difficult times.

As a cricket club we have considered current economic conditions and reflected the increase in the fees members pay. In 2006 a playing member would pay annual subs of £50 and match subs of £5. In 2012 this had increased to annual subs of £65 and match subs of £7 per game. Over a season most playing members will pay over £200.

In order to decrease the burden on members across all aspects of the club (cricket, running and social), we constantly look for alternative funds to make up the difference and maintain the high quality of the members' facilities. We have undertaken a number of initiatives in recent times to help

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generate funds. Some initiatives include: grant applications, advertising boards on the side of the field; ball and kit sponsorship; club apparel supply deals (Running Club can take advantage of this); bag-packing days at local supermarkets; fundraising events such as Twenty20 / 6-a-side fun days, race nights and other social functions.

Over recent years there has been a decline in the number of functions held generally, including a significant fall in the number of functions held by the Running Club at the Cricket Club. As the Running Club has over 100 members it would help if functions can be held by the Running Club and helps to cover some of the short fall.

### Proposal from Swinton Moorside Cricket Club

To avoid any further confusion the cricket club would like to offer the following, to maintain the longstanding partnership with the Running Club;

- An annual fee of £3,000 (nominal increase of £400 or £4 per visit), with the commitment to hold 4 functions within the year.
- The functions can include the kids Christmas Party, Quiz nights etc. but it must include at least one weekend evening function held in the Function Room.
- The provision that if 4 functions are not held that the running club provide a further £150 per function not undertaken
- In order to bring the clubs closer together and foster a closer working relationship, a member of the Running Club committee to sit on the general committee and a member of the Cricket Club committee to attend the Runner's committee meetings.
- Free function room hire to any member of the Running Club (currently £70)
- Sky TV and ESPN and free Wi-Fi

Please note, we do not ask that the £400 necessarily be covered by increase in Running Club membership fees – much as we have done for the Cricket Club, we would always encourage additional fundraising initiatives to generate the income.

We hope that you find the above revised offer reasonable as we value the contribution that the Running Club makes to the success of SMCC as a community facility. We also hope that, rather than parting ways, we can strengthen the relationship between the two clubs.

Could you please respond to this letter by Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. You can respond to me by email. My email address is [peter.flatley@tfgm.com](mailto:peter.flatley@tfgm.com)

Yours sincerely,

Peter Flatley  
Secretary  
Swinton Moorside Cricket Club

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