



Cabinet report

Date **13 JANUARY 2022**

Title **NAME CHANGE FAIRWAY ATHLETICS CENTRE**

Report of **CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Isle of Wight Athletics Club (IWAC) have made a request to consider the renaming of Fairway athletics centre in Sandown in memory of Ray Scovell who sadly passed away in 2021. Ray's dedication to the club and the track has spanned more than 30 years
2. The report sets out the background information on the track and comments on Ray's achievements over the years. It identifies the consultation and lays out the options and makes a recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

3. Cabinet to agree to the request from IWAC and to change the name to the Ray Scovell Athletics Centre in 2022.

BACKGROUND

4. The athletics track was built in 1993 and has a Spartan BS surface. It is located next to Sandown Bay Academy School and Fairway Sports Complex.
5. Ray's involvement with the track has been extensive he had been the coach of the Isle of Wight Athletics Club for more than 30 years - and founded Park Run on the Island. In 2011, Ray was the co-ordinator when the Island Games were held on the Isle of Wight. His achievements are considerable, but a few are listed below
 - He has coached several Island sporting stars, including hammer throwers Andy Frost and Paul Farley. He also coached Stephen Duff, who won gold and silver medals at the World Fire and Police Games in the US.

- He picked up Isle of Wight Radio's Volunteer of the Year award in 2014 in addition in 2017 he received Isle of Wight Sports Achievement Awards for service to sports on the Isle of Wight.
- He was best known for teaching himself field event coaching and guiding Islander Andy Frost to the Commonwealth Games and shaping the early career of Scottish international Islander Nick Percy.
- The Isle of Wight Council was fortunate to attract Ray to join the Sports Development Unit on a part-time basis in the late 1990's and Ray's inspirational character was a driving force in establishing successful projects to motivate Island people, young and old into sport and physical activity. He got thousands of Islanders turning up on Saturday mornings for the Medina parkrun before introducing junior parkrun.
- During Ray's years with the council, he was instrumental in the success of both the Primary School Island Games and the World Island Youth Games, where thousands of young people were given memories of a lifetime.
- Ray was pivotal in growing the sport scene during the last 30 years and was hugely influential in developing new initiatives. With Ray fully engaged in the athletics club and the track facility, the club soon became one of the largest in the south, which in turn resulted in many Isle of Wight athletes securing county, national and international accolades.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

6. This request meets many of the values and aspirations of the Corporate Plan 2021-2025 most specifically.

Being customer and community focused:

- *This means putting the needs of our customers and community first, being sensitive to local needs and concerns and protecting and enhancing the environment in which we all live and work.*

CONSULTATION

7. Consultation has taken place with the family and the athletics club, the main users of the track. Sandown Town Council have also been consulted and are supportive of the name change.

FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

None

CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT & UNESCO BIOSPHERE IMPACT

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As landowner of the track it is within the Isle of Wight Council's gift to consider such a name change.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

None

OPTIONS

8. Option 1
Not to change the name of the track and for it to continue to be called the Fairway Athletics Centre.
9. Option 2
To agree to the request from IWAC and to change the name to the Ray Scovell Athletics Centre in 2022

RISK MANAGEMENT

10. There are no risks to this decision. If, however members decide not to make this decision there is the danger of reputational risk.

EVALUATION

11. The options are limited but appear above. The consultation with the community has seen unanimous support to changing the name. The recommendation has the full support from all parties and clearly would celebrate the commitment made by this individual. The recommendation supports the council's values of listening to local communities.

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