



**BLACKHEATH & BROMLEY HARRIERS AC**  
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## **Blackheath & Bromley Harriers AC (BBHAC) – Alan Pickering’s Easter message**

Commenting upon the altruistic public response to the current crisis, the Prime Minister said that this proves that Society really does exist. Within BBHAC, this is no surprise. Our Club is famous for the community spirit within it and for the positive way in which our members interact with the wider community. It is this reputation which finds expression in our desire to move our spiritual heart and home from Bourne Way to Norman Park, uniting it with the track that has come to represent the Club’s achievements in competitive track and field athletics and in promoting sport in the community. A successful relocation will also offer the once in a lifetime opportunity to build dramatically improved facilities, which would serve as a busy hub of Club and community activity, providing athletes with valuable indoor space, and allowing members of the public to mingle with, and be inspired by our athletes, coaches and officials.

Observing stay at home and keep your distance principles, the Trustee Board held a ‘virtual’ meeting on 7 April. An important item on the agenda was the impact of the current crisis upon the planned relocation and the development at Norman Park. Having carefully considered the matter and acknowledged the seriousness of the crisis, the Board came to the conclusion that the move to Norman Park remains a prudent, valuable and achievable objective. In advancing the project, we will, however, have to take account of the changing economic climate and the restrictions on movement that might be with us yet awhile. Accordingly, the Board will, during the coming weeks, engage with its various contractors, Bromley Council and other authorities to take stock. Our team of consultants will also continue to progress the detailed design, update the cost estimate and identify how and where cost reductions may be achieved. At the very least, this may have an impact on the timing of the project.

The Board will meet again in late May to review the outcome of this external engagement and of the consultants’ work. We will also consider the impact on fundraising that the financial challenges facing corporate management and others might have. Even the most generous providers of financial support may themselves be reviewing their priorities.

As we have previously explained, while some significant funds are or will become available to the Club from investments, reserves and the sale of the Clubhouse, we do need to raise additional funds to bridge the gap. It is encouraging, therefore, that Club members have made generous contributions in response to our recent fundraising appeal. 21 donations have been made to date by Club members, totalling £28,280 and an extra £6,792 will be added to the total via the Inland Revenue’s gift aid scheme. This is much appreciated. When we meet as a Board in May, we will be able to determine the gap between the funds that we then have and the funds we need. We will write to you again once we have undertaken this essential analysis, with proposals as to how that gap may realistically be closed.

I know how frustrating the current lockdown must be for those active athletes of all abilities who were looking forward to a busy and successful year. I am sure that, once we emerge from these troubling times, BBHAC will continue to enjoy its justified reputation for being a positive influence on its members and the wider community with which those members interact.

I am sorry that I was not given the opportunity to meet many of you on 28 March when we should have been holding our AGM. I am delighted that Nic Corry is our new President and that we were able to “announce” this on the Club’s website that day. I am also pleased to let you know that Simon Kerr, who is the Chairman of Norman Park Track Management, has kindly agreed to join the Trustee Board in place of John Baldwin. In closing, I would like to thank John on behalf of everyone, not only for his work with the Trustees but also for his unparalleled contribution, in all the many other roles he has held over many years, to our Club and the wider sporting community.

*Alan Pickering*

Alan Pickering CBE  
Chair of the Trustees