

Appendix C: Letters of Support

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JAMES PAICE, M.P.
(South East Cambridgeshire)



31 MAY 2005

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

M Garroway Esq.
Director of Resource Development
Cambridge Sport Lakes
Murdoch House, Second Floor
Station Road
CAMBRIDGE CB1 2RS

25th May 2005

Dear Mr Garroway

Further to my letter of 19th April, I am pleased to have been returned as the Member of Parliament for South East Cambridgeshire again and I am, therefore, happy to write in support of the Cambridge Support Lakes project.

The lakes will provide sporting facilities for a wide range of people at all levels of skill and will not be restricted to traditional rowing activities but will provide a venue for many other active leisure pursuits. I very much hope that the lakes would also provide the opportunities for schools, clubs and community groups to work with the Trust in developing their sport and leisure activities as part of their overall pursuit of healthier lifestyles. It also goes without saying that because of its proximity to the Milton Country Park it will provide a significant increase to the range of wildlife habitats as well as leisure provision and I, therefore, hope that the much-awaited project is able to go ahead.

Yours sincerely


James Paice, MP

Email: paicejet@parliament.uk
www.jimpaice.com

11 JUL 2005



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Michael L Garroway
Director of Resource Development
Cambridge Rowing Trust
Murdoch House, Second Floor
Station Road
CAMBRIDGE
CB1 2RS

8th July 2005

Dear Michael,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to see and discuss with you the detailed planning application for Cambridge Sport Lakes.

As a Patron of the Cambridge Rowing Trust I warmly welcome the proposed Cambridge Sport Lakes, which will greatly enhance sporting and recreational facilities in the area. In addition, as Shadow Secretary of State for Health, I particularly welcome the opportunity the Lakes will offer for young people and community groups to participate in sports, educational and leisure pursuits, and the safe training facilities which will be available there.

I applaud the Cambridge Rowing Trust for its efforts to develop the proposed scheme; I am pleased to be able to write in support of this planning application.

Yours truly,
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lansley'.

Andrew Lansley

13 MAY 2005



Jonathan Djanogly MP
Member of Parliament for Huntingdon
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Michael L Garroway Esq
Cambridge Sport Lakes
Murdoch House
Station Road
Cambridge CB1 2RS

Dear Michael

Thank you for your update on the preparatory work that is continuing as regards the proposed Cambridge Sport Lakes. I was delighted to see how far this excellent project has developed to date, and can certainly confirm my support for what I believe to be an exciting development for rowing and other water sports in Cambridgeshire.

I was particularly pleased to hear of the arrangements to enter into partnership with schools, clubs and community groups.

I wish the project continued success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Djanogly', written in a cursive style.

Tel: 020 7219 2367
Email: djanoglyj@parliament.uk
www.jonathandjanogly.com



British Triathlon Association Ltd, P.O. Box 25, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3WX
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www.britishtriathlon.org

22 September 2003

Mr C Dalley Chairman
Cambridge Rowing Trust
P O Box 849
Waterbeach
Cambridge CB5 9HW

Dear Mr Dalley

The British Triathlon Association understands that progress is being made with plans to build the Cambridge Rowing Lake.

The sport of Triathlon has a strong participation base in the Cambridge area including one of the UK's strongest Triathlon clubs. The proposed development of the Cambridge Rowing Lake is strongly welcomed by the sport as a potential competition and training venue for the sport. Other rowing developments at Eton and Nottingham have strong associations with the sport of Triathlon which have proved to be complimentary to other users of these facilities.

The British Triathlon Association would therefore wish to record its support of the proposed development.

If we can be of any assistance in supporting your plans please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

Norman D Brook

Norman D Brook
Chief Executive

cc: Don Hutchinson ✓
Toby King



ORCA



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ASSOCIATION

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Company No. 2995438

19 APR 2005



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Her Majesty the Queen

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From the Chairman,
Henley Royal Regatta.
Regatta Headquarters,
Henley On Thames,
RG9 2LY.

15th April 2005

Michael L Garroway, Esq.,
Cambridge Sport Lakes,
Murdoch House,
Second Floor,
Station Road,
Cambridge,
CB1 2RS

Dear Michael,

Cambridge Sport Lakes

I am delighted to be able to add my support to the development of the Cambridge Sport Lakes. This is a really excellent multi-sports and recreational project which will bring tremendous benefits to the whole of Cambridgeshire and, in particular, to Cambridge itself.

As an undergraduate of St. John's College back in the sixties I fully understand the improvements that the Lakes would bring to the local facilities for rowing. The River Cam was busy enough in my days but my more recent visits to the Cam have shown that the congestion has increased exponentially! The new Lakes would provide a safe haven for training and racing that would enormously improve the safety and enjoyment of all concerned – from junior rower to senior official.

From 1989 to 2004 I was the Chairman of the Events Commission for FISA (the World Rowing Council) and was responsible for the creation of new rowing courses around the world. I was also responsible for the development of existing rowing courses. I have, therefore, seen at first hand the benefits that can be achieved when a partnership of sports, recreations, local authorities, educational establishments, private companies and individuals can all get together to create an expanse of parkland, lakes and support facilities that correspond with the interests and aspirations of the regional community. The rowing courses that have struggled to succeed have been the ones that have been developed in isolation, as single sport facilities.

The proposals for the Cambridge Sport Lakes appear to fulfill all the necessary requirements of a major, successful regional facility. The integration of so many different sports and activities into one, coherent plan are to be applauded. Needless to say, with my background, I am totally convinced of the value of sports for young people – the earlier that they can be given an interest then the better (and more healthy) citizens they will turn out to be in later life.

I full support the Cambridge Sport Lakes project – the sooner that it can be completed, the better!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Sweeney". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that extends across the width of the signature.

Mike Sweeney,
Chairman of the Committee of Management.

Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum



01 JUN 2005

Chairman: Mr Alan Sidell
Secretary: Mrs L G Stoehr
30 West Drive
Highfields Caldecote
Cambridge
CB3 7NY

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Email: office@lgs-services.co.uk

Michael Garroway
Director of Resource Development
Murdoch House, Second Floor
Station Road
Cambridge
CB1 2RS

27 May 2005

Dear Mr Garroway

Re: Cambridge Lakes Planning Application

Thank you for your letter. I apologise for the delay in replying. Cambridgeshire Local Access Forum is pleased to support your Cambridge Sports Lakes application. This is with the understanding that public access will be generally available for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders as detailed when you came to discuss the project with members last year.

The 200 acre site will be a welcome addition to preserved open space in this rapidly developing area.

The sport and recreation activities that will occur at the Lakes will enhance sporting experiences at all levels, for all parts of the community.

The site will offer opportunities for health and sports wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Stoehr".

Mrs Gail Stoehr
Secretary

Cambridgeshire Rowing Association

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4 Parr Close
Impington
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CB4 9YH

20th April 2005

Michael L. Garroway
Director of Resource Development
Cambridge Rowing Trust
Murdoch House, 2nd Floor
Station Road
Cambridge CB1 2RS

Dear Michael

Cambridge Sports Lakes

On behalf of the Cambridge "Town" Rowing Clubs I would like to offer support for the Cambridge Sports Lake which I believe will be an enormous benefit to local rowing.

I have been actively rowing on the Cam for over 40 years and have witnessed at first hand the many changes that have taken place in the sport.

As in all sports these days training has become extremely important to achieve success at the highest level. As an ageing veteran I derive some comfort in being able to take advantage of unscheduled stops due to congestion but for most crews (and the one in with which I row) the lack of a clear long stretch of water on which to train is becoming a real problem.

The number of local crews has increased enormously in the last few years due partly to the increased age that people continue to participate and the large influx of women that now take part.

What Cambridge now lacks is elite crews who do require long stretches of uninterrupted water on which to train and the Cambridge Sports Lake would fulfil this requirement admirably.

The other area that Cambridge has never catered for properly is young people, particularly those that attend local schools. The River Cam is not a very safe place to introduce these people to the sport and the safe haven of a sports lake would result in an enormous growth in junior rowing and as a consequence improve the general quality of rowing.

The other most encouraging aspect of the scheme is that it is designed for a variety of sports and so becomes a very real benefit to the whole community not just to rowing which unfortunately has the reputation of being an elitist sport which it is not.

I therefore wish the Cambridge Rowing Trust every success in bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

Yours sincerely



Bill Key
President, Cambridgeshire Rowing Association.



Affiliated to:

Cycle track usage.

Date:

6th January 2004

Reply to:

Dear Tim,

Thank you for the details of the opportunity presented by the Cambridge Rowing Lake in developing an additional cycling facility. The matter was raised at the committee meeting on the 5th January 2004 and met with keen approval.

We discussed how we might contribute to the use of the facility – the initial question you posed in order to put some quantitative data to the case for the project. Naturally we have to guess at this stage but there are several ways we would definitely make use of it. It could be incorporated into our time trial series in the summer and would probably be used around four times – matching the way we use the current road sites. It was felt we would want regular access for training rides – both for track skills, racing skills and fitness. It would be an excellent opportunity to promote a series of races – and at a guess there would be several of these a season.


If there were a usable and friendly club room/refreshment area this would make it attractive for use as a club base – no doubt it would promote more mixing with other cyclists in the area as well. If there were shared facilities for lectures and classroom based coaching this would also provide a new venue for new activities.

We cannot be sure in terms of specific numbers of times per week we would use it but use it we would. This, in combination with the other clubs and cycling disciplines in the area, would provide a good deal of regular use for the facility. It would be easy to imagine it being used every day in the summer months and frequently in the winter especially at weekends.

There are other specialist groups who might like to use it as the public road becomes less acceptable. Peter Underwood of CCC is also a veteran bike club stalwart and some of the rallies he organises might well use the track on an occasional basis. He has the details of your site and may well contact you.

We hope there is a real groundswell of favourable opinion for this excellent project to provide a high quality track for cycle sport.

Yours sincerely


General Secretary
Cambridge Cycling Club

Lucy Rutter
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Oldbury House
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Mr Michael L Garroway
Director of Resource Development
Cambridge Rowing Trust
Murdoch House, 2nd Floor
Station Road
Cambridge CB1 2RS

14 April 2005

Dear Mr. Garroway,

Re: Cambridge Sports Lakes.

I'm writing on behalf of the Cambridge Triathlon Club in support of the plans to build the Cambridge Sports Lakes.

The purpose of the Club, as stated in our constitution, is "... to encourage and co-ordinate the participation in, and the promotion of, all aspects of triathlon and related multi-sport events and the training for, and coaching of, each and all of the individual disciplines of swimming, running and cycling."

The existence of the Cambridge Sports Lakes, a purpose built triathlon facility, will enable us to do this to a degree that we are currently unable.

There are two particular aspects of the Club's activities which will be transformed, both of which will enable us to take triathlon to a wider number of participants.

1) Promoting races. At the moment we promote three races every year. Each is a major organizational undertaking requiring much preparation and over 50 race-day marshals. The number of participants is limited by the space available at the venues and our choice of venue is limited. The number of races is limited by the demands that each promotion makes on our membership. Last year our races attracted a total of some 750 competitors and all were sold out. Our two senior events, for those over 18, take place on the open road so we have to find the quietest time which means early on Sunday mornings. This in turn means that everyone involved has a very early start and competitors from further a-field are faced with accommodation costs. The Cambridge Sports Lakes would enable us to promote more frequently as the requirement for creating a course and marshalling will be much reduced. With more races, at more times (including weekday evenings), we will be able to cater for a much wider range of participants. In addition to 'regular triathletes' we will be able to promote for novices and youngsters. We'll also be able to promote for larger numbers and to stage multiple events on the same day. Though we are not a profit making organization (our races are amongst the cheapest on the calendar) the income from races supports all of our other club activities – facility hire, coaching, coach education, equipment purchase and maintenance. More opportunities to promote will enable us to expand our activities.

2) Triathlon for Children. Two years ago we started a Junior Club with weekly sessions for 10 to 16 year olds. We now have 40 regular members. Our ability to support the Junior Club is severely restricted by the complete lack of anywhere suitable for cycle training or racing. The

Cambridge Sports Lakes would enable us to provide a safe, traffic free environment for children to learn to cycle, to train and to race.

We also promote a Children's Triathlon each year at Impington Village College which attracted over 150 participants last year. Because the cycling takes place on grass, however, it is not suitable for the 15 & 16 year (Youth) age group. In fact, triathlon for the Youth age group is severely limited nationwide due to the lack of suitable venues. The Cambridge Sports Lakes would enable us to provide top quality racing for 15 & 16 year olds locally, regionally and nationally.

As you may be aware, Triathlon is one of the Government's top-10 sports due to its accessibility, its health benefits and its Olympic profile. It truly is a sport for all with competition structured for all ages and abilities, no requirement to find a team, and very low start up costs. At the top level Britain is one of the foremost Triathlon nations boasting several world champions over the last 15 years. Cambridge itself, and the Cambridge Triathlon Club, has strong traditions too boasting several international triathletes, national champions and some of the most experienced coaches in the country. We currently have five youngsters on the World Class Programme including multiple world junior medalist Will Clarke who lives right by the Cambridge Sports Lakes site in Waterbeach.

We have around 160 members of which 40 are under 16 and we run 10 training sessions a week (12 during the summer).

The Cambridge Sports Lakes offers massive scope for the expansion of Triathlon in the Cambridge area, especially Triathlon for children and novices, and the Cambridge Triathlon Club is in the perfect position to make sure that it is realised.

Yours sincerely



Moira Burgham
Cambridge Triathlon Club Secretary

From The Chairman
Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs
9 Fen End
Willingham
Cambridge CB4 5LH

18 April 2005

Cambridge Sport Lakes

I am writing in my capacity as Chairman of the Cambridge University Combined Boat Clubs (CUCBC) to give my full and enthusiastic support of the Cambridge Rowing Trust proposals to construct a new multisports facility, including an international standard rowing lake, with direct access to the River Cam. It is very pleasing to be able to support proposals which will concurrently encourage participation in several different sports, at all levels from the novice to the highest level of competition and all ages from schoolchildren through to veteran. The proposals will also secure a considerable area of open space for the general use of local communities, a factor I see to be of great importance and balance in the context of considerable actual and planned development in the greater Cambridge region over the next few years and decades.

The CUCBC is the organisation responsible for regulating College and University Club rowing on the River Cam, and attempts to maximize the efficiency with which the river is used by these Clubs within students' academic timetable constraints. As an organisation the CUCBC represents a varying number of active rowers throughout the year, with peaks of about 2-2,500 active oarsmen and women during the peak period of novice rowing in November and the "May Bumps" during the summer term. Although in writing this letter I am formally representing the CUCBC, I believe the views expressed and benefits to be gained from the proposed facilities and river connection will be identical both for CUCBC, the various town clubs under the umbrella of the CRA, with which we share use of the river, and of the other sporting and recreational communities with which I do not have direct connection. I should also note that I am separately a University-nominated member of the local river authority (the River Cam Conservancy), as well as having almost 25 years' continuous experience and involvement with activities on the Cam.

It is an undeniable fact that the Cam is often too overcrowded to allow any useful form of planned training, or even technical coaching, to take place. Of the available river, the section from Jesus Lock to Chesterton Footbridge houses the club boathouses and is too narrow, winding and considerably obstructed by moored motor vessels to allow anything other than a slow procession of rowing boats to travel to the more open section between Chesterton and Bait's Bite Lock. This lower section is also winding in places, but allows a maximum length of training piece of c. 2,800 m to be completed. The sheer number of crews attempting to train on this section often means that it is impossible to complete even a 500 m training piece without obstruction, and disruption to longer pieces is the norm rather than the exception. These restrictions are only likely to increase, as there is already considerably increased motor traffic on the river itself, associated with an unprecedented and continuing expansion in the number of long-term moored vessels.

Laudable attempts to follow properly planned training programmes aimed at developing the fitness and technical competence of crews are, frankly, a waste of time in the current environment. Although the CUCBC has a remit to maximise opportunities for participation in the sport of rowing, we are unable to do so both because of the practical constraint of river overcrowding, and the associated safety issues. The proposed facilities would obviously alleviate many of the problems currently experienced. Indeed, we are actually in the invidious position of being forced to restrict and discourage participation, particularly by new novice rowers, in order to try and control the overcrowding issues existing currently – this at the time when rowing as a sport is probably receiving its highest ever level of public interest and international success in the UK, and directly contradictory to the aims of the sport's national governing organization, the Amateur Rowing Association. The dedicated training lanes and space of the new facility would allow efficient completion of planned training by many crews, at the same time removing them from the Cam itself thus allowing increased space for crews not using the lake to train more effectively.

The current plans provide two options for rowing crews planning to use the lake – either by keeping some boats racked at the facility, or by rowing onto the facility via a new cut from the Cam. I believe that both options are desirable, as being both practicable and the most likely means to ensure that CUCBC and CRA crews are attracted to using the lake for a significant proportion of their training.

The CUCBC is already heavily involved in the regulation of rowing traffic on the Cam, with a detailed set of rules as a foundation. When the new facilities come into use, these rules will require limited modification to allow access to/from the "cut". The Rowing Trust has already given thought to the sort of rules that may be required. Some discussion between the Trust, CUCBC and CRA will be required to finalise any rules adopted but, in my view, very few changes will be required from the rules currently applied by the CUCBC.

I hope that the opinions expressed above are of some use in your deliberations, and am happy to give further specific advice wherever appropriate.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Convey', written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Dr Peter Convey

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WEST MIDLANDS B93 8PT
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13th April 2005

South Cambridgeshire District Council
c/o Director of Resource Development
Cambridge Sport Lakes

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my full support for the Cambridge Sport Lakes Project in connection with their latest planning application.

I am impressed by the opportunities which this important project will offer to a wide range of members of the community by giving them the chance to try their hand at a number of outside activities for the first time. It is widely accepted that we need to encourage as many people as possible to embrace an active lifestyle. The Sport Lakes Project, when completed, will attract people from the region to make the most of the varied activities which will be accessible on a single site.

I think it is especially important to enable people who have not had the chance to engage in the activities which will be available at the Sport Lakes Project to do so in a safe and supervised way. The Project also offers opportunities for those who might be excluded from these activities, because of handicaps of one kind or another, nevertheless to take part in them.

Completion of the Project will provide a remarkable amenity for those living in the Cambridge region and I do hope that it will receive the enthusiastic support which it merits from the District Council.

Yours truly,

Adrian Cadbury
(Sir Adrian Cadbury)

29 APR 2005

Matchtight Ltd
PO Box 2729
Bath
BA2 6ER

27 April 2005

Mr M. L. Garroway
Cambridge Rowing Trust
Murdoch House, Second Floor
Station Road
Cambridge
CB1 2RS

Dear Mr Garroway,

I am writing in support of the proposed construction of the Cambridge Sport Lakes complex. I believe that this project provides a fantastic opportunity to develop not only a top level sporting venue but also recreational facilities available for the whole community.

In the current political climate it is important that schools and clubs have access to such facilities to encourage the young people of Cambridgeshire to develop and maintain an interest in sport and physical leisure activities to promote healthy well being. The 220 acre site will also ensure the preservation of green spaces in an area undergoing rapid development.

I wish you and your team every success in your endeavour to bring such a wonderful opportunity to fruition.

Yours sincerely



Dr Stephanie Cook MBE
Patron of Cambridge Sport Lakes
Olympic Gold Medallist in Modern Pentathlon