

Southdown Sports Club

Governance Working Group



GOVERNANCE UPDATE STATEMENT – prepared 17th February

Dear Members,

Following our recent meetings, we would like to share a further update on the Governance Working Group's progress.

As discussions have developed, the Group has been examining how the club currently operates from a governance perspective — including where responsibilities sit, how decisions are made, and how risk is managed across a club of our size and complexity.

A number of themes are emerging.

Firstly, Southdown is now a significant multi-sport organisation with substantial facilities, staff responsibilities, financial turnover and over 700 members. The environment in which clubs operate has changed considerably over recent years, particularly in relation to legal exposure, regulatory expectations and the responsibilities carried by volunteers.

Secondly, some areas of our current framework lack clarity. In places, strategic oversight and day-to-day operational matters overlap. Certain responsibilities are assumed rather than formally defined. Whilst this has often been navigated successfully through goodwill and experience, it does not always provide the level of protection or transparency that a modern members' club should expect.

The Group is therefore carefully reviewing how roles, accountability and governance documents can best provide clarity — both to protect individual volunteers and to safeguard the club as a whole.

It is important to stress that this work is not about altering the character of the club. It is about ensuring that Southdown remains member-led, protected and thriving for the next 40 years.

No conclusions have yet been reached. We are continuing to test options, review external guidance and examine how comparable clubs structure themselves in order to reduce risk while preserving member voice.

Further updates will follow as our work progresses.

Kind regards,

Governance Working Group
Southdown Sports Club