

ANGUS COUNCIL

CONTRACT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 30 May 2000
RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 1 June 2000

LEISURE FACILITIES' USER FIGURES APRIL 1999 - MARCH 2000

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION SERVICES &
CONTRACT SERVICES MANAGER**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the current usage levels within the various leisure facilities operated by Angus Council.

1 BACKGROUND

The respective Committees have requested that usage figures be reported on a regular basis. The period covered by this report is the financial year April 1999 to March 2000.

2 USER DETAILS

The numbers using the facilities are detailed below along with comparative figures for the previous year.

Leisure Centres	April 1998 - March 1999	April 1999 - March 2000	Variance %
Lochside Leisure Centre, Forfar	107,664	126,835	17.81%
Carnoustie Leisure Centre	115,563	118,386	2.44%
Brechin Leisure Centre	38,139	45,758	19.98%
Saltire Leisure Centre, Arbroath	82,588	88,531	7.20%
Forfar Swimming Pool	65,654	74,485	13.45%
Montrose Swimming Pool	103,845	106,998	3.04%
Brechin High School Pool	13,452	11,579	-13.92%
Carnoustie High School Pool	9,959	8,621	-13.44%
Monifieth High School Pool	not operated	4,644	N/A
Montrose Sports Centre	102,185	111,856	9.46%
Arbroath Sports Centre	255,147	264,545	3.68%
Webster's Sports Centre, Kirriemuir	165,006	192,894	16.90%
Arbroath Sports & Community Centre	37,479	44,278	18.14%
Outdoor Recreations	<u>68,716</u>	<u>77,487</u>	12.76%
TOTAL	1,165,397	1,321,175	13.37%

It should now be noted that the new Leisure Management Information System is operational at the nine major leisure facilities and that the recording of use is now standardised across the facilities. In some instances this has meant an increase in use due to the recording of attendances where an individual can be recorded as more than one attendance depending on the duration of the visit, ie. Someone attending for two hours is now recorded as two separate

attendances. This is to align with the statutory Performance Indicator of average attendance per opening hour.

There are underlying concerns for the Carnoustie area with the opening of Next Generation, the Golf Hotel and Liz McColgan's fitness facility which have had an effect on use at Carnoustie Leisure Centre and Carnoustie High School Pool.

Added to this, the Opening of Monifieth High School Pool during the summer and October holiday periods may have also led to a reduction in the number of users utilising Carnoustie High School Pool.

As far as Brechin High School Pool is concerned there were ventilation and temperature control problems that affected the number of concessionary users. These problems were addressed with the assistance of colleagues in Property Services and the Education Department and resolved as soon as possible.

Arbroath Sports & Community Centre is showing a healthy increase due to a general increase in use throughout the year and a greater uptake in block bookings of various areas of the centre.

The increase in the outdoor recreation usage is due to the marketing and promotion initiatives that were carried out during the season.

Country Parks	April 1998 - March 1999	April 1999 - March 2000	Variance %
Crombie Country Park	87,546	111,760	27.66%
Forfar Loch Country Park	142,000	163,660	15.25%
Monikie Country Park	204,040	191,911	-5.94%
Angus Glens Ranger Service	60,600	75,808	25.10%
Montrose Basin Local Nature Reserve- Visitor Centre	<u>14,060</u>	<u>11,434</u>	-18.68%
TOTAL	508,246	554,573	9.12%

Both Crombie and Monikie have new car counters which are the basis of recording user numbers and are now providing more regular and accurate information to the country parks.

The overall trend was an increase in users, although both Monikie Country Park and Montrose Basin were particularly affected by the poor weather given their more exposed environments. The operation of the Glens Ranger Service continues to develop with more and more groups requesting visits. There is now a system for the more formal recording of casual visitors.

Caravan Parks	April 1998 - March 1999	April 1999 - March 2000	Variance %
Lochside Caravan Park, Forfar	8,299	9,455	13.93%
Woodlands Caravan Park, Carnoustie	4,360	4,869	11.67%
South Links Caravan Park, Montrose	<u>2,822</u>	<u>4,112</u>	45.71%
TOTAL	15,481	18,436	19.09%

Lochside Caravan Park, Forfar usage continues to show healthy growth with the season again being extended due to the demand and interest from the client groups. Increased usage also

reflects the continuing investment to maintain and develop the Caravan Park and wider Country Park and leisure facilities.

Woodlands Caravan Park, Carnoustie and South Links Caravan Park, Montrose also show an increase in usage. Improved marketing of the sites coupled with the success of the Open Golf Championships at Carnoustie were the main factors here.

3 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and the Director of Law & Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

M P GRAHAM
CONTRACT SERVICES MANAGER

J R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF RECREATION SERVICES

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.