



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

To members and supporters

Making the best of it

I'm not sure that even the World Wars caused such a complete shutdown of Vallis Way, where sport has been played since the 1890's. Even the stray bomb which hit what is now the Pavilion carpark would not have bothered them much as few people had a car and the use of private cars was forbidden anyway. Distributor caps had to be labelled and taken to the local police station for the duration.

Never mind, in the here and now we were again all in it together and the response by all has been heartening. Starting with me all Senior Executives in Trailfinders Ltd, ET.PRM Ltd and TFSC Ltd have gracefully accepted pay cuts.

The Mike Gooley Trailfinders Charity suspended the £130,000pa rent normally paid by TFSC for the lease of the venue. TFSC in turn suspended or reduced the rents for standard venue hire costs to ET.PRM, the London Broncos and other smaller patrons.

TF is of course the source of all investment and sponsorship and has been able to rely on the War Chest I have built up over years of prudent savings and this has enabled Trailfinders to continue much as normal and keeping up the Sponsorship.

Just as well as we have been down £2 million a week for months now. I am sure I can count on your support in future especially as no other Travel Company looks after you better.

Many of us used the lockdown to clear out the back of all our cupboards and it has been the same at TFSC with the management overhauling all our office systems, especially the database. The grass has had a holiday, the artificial pitches recertified by the RFU and RFL, extensive redecoration carried out and much else. The venue is at its best ever. Our thanks especially to Anett and Reuben inside, with Paul and Howard working the outside.

The facilities continue to benefit with new features added. The Giant Screen was ready for its exciting debut on 14 March but Yorkshire Carnegie pleaded COVID-19 and so it never had its moment of glory. YC saved the journey to what the form promised was to be a cricket score loss for them.

The building of an All Weather Pavilion costing over £3 million is the centrepiece of our latest development and something that has not been held back by the plague. It is with the planners now. A multi-purpose covered pitch, with ancillary offices and rare indoor cricket nets in addition. We hope to have it in service within a year.

Ealing Trailfinders Cricket Club is now turning out three cricket sides and the Junior section booming. We'd still like to see more of the Rugby Minis taking advantage of this excellent cricket coaching.

Our Rugby Amateurs are in the best shape for years, while the Professional squad look very formidable for the season we hope will soon start.

The TF Rugby Academy has taken off under Ben Wards enthusiastic and superb management. When he said to me a year or so back he wanted it to be the best rugby academy in the world I was taken aback, but that so lofty ambition now looks quite achievable.

ET.PRM, ETCC and TFSC came together to help provide donations to the Ealing food bank between April and July, in total they donated over 3 tonnes of food, thank you to all those involved with this community project.

We all so look forward to getting back to enjoying such good times at TFSC.

no *better* venue

Mike Gooley CBE

CHAIRMAN & FOUNDER – Trailfinders Ltd
MANAGING DIRECTOR – Trailfinders Sports Club Ltd
FOUNDER TRUSTEE – The Mike Gooley Trailfinders Charity



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**TRAILFINDERS HAS A
100/100 CREDIT RATING**



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OF THE YEAR**

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Readers of The Times, The Sunday Times & The Sunday Times Travel Magazine for **7 consecutive years**

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

Readers of National Geographic Traveller

MOST TRUSTED TRAVEL BRAND

Readers of The Guardian & Observer

TOUR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

Readers of Food & Travel Magazine