

Dear Ms Buchanan

Please find below the response on behalf of the British Speedway Promoters' Association to the latest consultation regarding Brandon Stadium.

I hope you will understand we have delayed our response until after the completion of key meetings to establish the format and structure of British Speedway for the 2019 season.

We can confirm that the Coventry Bees will not be competing in the 2019 season at any level.

The formation of a National League team racing under the Bees name at Leicester this year was agreed by the Members for the 2018 season only, in an effort to keep the name of the club alive whilst the current issues at Brandon prevent them from racing in or close to their long established location. This was never intended to be a long-term solution, and we would therefore strongly contest any suggestion that the Bees racing at Leicester (or elsewhere in the Midlands), at whatever level, on a more permanent basis would be an acceptable outcome.

It is not for the Association to comment on individual club issues other than to say that track-sharing in our sport is very rarely successful commercially, as the majority of a speedway attendance comes from supporters of the home team, who are rarely willing to travel out of their area on a regular basis.

It is the position of the Association that every club should be given the opportunity to flourish, and it is abundantly clear that the history, and existing fan-base, of the Coventry Bees means the current position is wholly unsatisfactory.

We would also consider several statements elsewhere in the documents pertaining to Speedway racing are unhelpful and inaccurate. These are challenging times for many sports but the quality of our stadia are perfectly adequate for the events they are hosting, and the comment regarding a lack of FIM International meetings staged here simply cannot be backed up. In 2019 three of the biggest events outside of the Grand Prix series will be staged at Belle Vue (two) and Glasgow, in addition to the British Grand Prix which will be staged at the Principality Stadium Cardiff.

The conclusion reached in paragraph 5.5, stating that the industry will not be unduly harmed by the closure of the stadium, is reached without foundation and is one which we would totally dispute. The presence of other venues within 60 minutes driving distance is irrelevant as speedway supporters follow their local team.

In summary we feel the reports are poorly researched and there is no case whatsoever for Brandon Stadium being surplus to requirements. This is one of our most established and successful clubs and the current absence of the Coventry Bees from competition has caused distress to several thousand supporters and is a major blow for the industry as a whole.

Our position is that the Planning Application must be rejected and every effort should be made to restore Speedway to the area as quickly as possible.