

‘NXP Show their true Colours’

Closure of Sports & Social Club facilities at NXP Semiconductors Hazel Grove

In September 2006, Philips Semiconductors became a new company, NXP semiconductors, with Philips retaining a 19.9% share and the remaining 80.1% share being provided by a consortium of investors such as KKR, Bain Capital, Silver lake Partners, Apax, Alpinvest Partners NV.

NXP semiconductors proudly proclaimed that they were a 5 billion euro business worldwide and were committed to excellence. Indeed the name ‘NXP’ was supposed to represent ‘The Next Experience’

For the employees and retired employees at Hazel Grove, the ‘Next Experience’ that impacted their social lives came five months after the take-over; it was the abrupt closure of their Sports & Social Club facilities.

Pulling the Plug !

At the Sports & Social Club AGM in February the membership was advised by the management representative Mr Crispin, acting as Chairman, that the Club would have to close. This came as a complete shock to the majority of attendees, as the closure was not even an item on the agenda.

Three main reasons were given for the closure:

- 1) The Club was losing money.
- 2) Executive committee members were resigning.
- 3) The Club was not used extensively by the employees.

The responses that were brushed aside by the chairman were:

- 1) The management of the Club and its pricing policy over the last two years were the reasons why the Club was losing money. Prior to this period the Club was profitable and could easily have been made so again.
- 2) A change to the constitution would have allowed a fresh enthusiastic committee to take over.
- 3) Over the last three months more than 600 visits were made to the club by existing and retired NXP/Philips employees.

The AGM was closed with total disregard to process, and **the following day, the Social Club was closed to all members.**

You don’t need explanations!

Since the AGM, several written requests have been made by prominent Club members to meet with Mr Everke, the President of NXP at Hazel Grove, to discuss the issues leading to the closure of the Club but these have been ignored.

One has to assume that NXP at Hazel Grove has another Agenda for the property currently occupied by the Sports & Social Club and this does not include the social welfare of their employees, retired employees, and the neighbouring community.

The Demise of the Philips Bowling Club

The Philips Bowling Club at Hazel Grove was established over 40 years ago and has been an ambassador for Philips around the Stockport and Greater Manchester area for

much of that time. Recently it had over 70 members about to embark on a new season, participating in 14 teams playing in different local leagues.

At the beginning of the year, assurances were given by Mr Crispin of NXP that the bowling green and some facilities would be made available through the 2007 season.

This was restated at the February AGM.

With our long association with Philips, a company we could trust, we had no reason to doubt these assurances. However, on the 16th March, just two weeks before the start of the 2007 season, Mr Crispin of NXP informed the Chairman of the Bowling Club that bowlers would not be granted access to the club and that there was even a possibility that the company could reclaim the land, presumably meaning the bowling green.

This was a very sad day for all the members who had enjoyed bowling at Philips – a club that did have one of the best facilities in the area. There were many people who had put in considerable effort over a good number of years into maintaining and improving the green, the facilities and the good name of Philips. This is now at an end.

We are left to speculate what use NXP are going to make of this plot of land.

Peter Green

President of the Bowling Club for 15 years

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