

GXSC 2011 AGM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Introduction

This is my third and last report as I stand down at the AGM as do Grant Kirkby Treasurer, Sue Reid Secretary, and Ken Rumens all of whom have been on the committee since 2008. My thanks to them all for their contributions and work in keeping the Sports Club moving forward. All of us need to be replaced. Also many thanks to the three section chairs-Richard Graham Cricket, John Thorne Hockey and Bob Mason Tennis, for their work in running their sections but also to contributing to overall Sports Club policy development. Finally thanks also to Tim Barber, who has been a great contributor.

Background

Our Sports Club comprises three sections:

- Cricket
- Hockey
- Tennis

The Sports Club is the legal entity; it owns the assets of all three sections. It has Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status as defined by HMRC and as such has strict limitations on what can be done with its assets-see the web site www.gxsc.co.uk under AGMs 2009-revised constitution.

Our lifeblood is our membership and this year's numbers are good; ahead of 2010.

	Cricket	Hockey	Tennis	Total
Senior	17	40	190	247
Junior	184	84	125	393
U 8s	73	0	52	125
Social	0	0	11	11
Total	274	124	378	776

Cricket and Tennis are healthy and Hockey's has stabilised albeit at a much lower level than 5 years ago. Our efforts to encourage non playing members to join as social members of the Sports Club has not worked.

This year's achievements

Overall the Sports Club has continued to move forward:

Cricket

- Installation of new electronic scoreboard;
- Substantial increase in junior membership - now over 200. A new dedicated junior committee for 2012;
- Senior League sides had mixed season. Juniors more silverware;
- Ex member Alex Hales played for England T20 side against the West Indies;
- Club continues to attract the best amateur players and remains a popular choice for minor counties cricket;
- 20/20 cricket becoming increasingly popular.

Hockey

- The strength of the Hockey section is derived from the number of junior members, many of whom are playing in the adult teams;
- The juniors benefit considerably from the regular weekly coaching of John Shaw (former GB international);
- As at the end of October 2011 & after 5 matches, all 3 league sides were unbeaten & top of their groups;
- The veteran's side, now known as the 4th XI, should also benefit from new members which will increase the socialising after games at the club;
- There is a good working relationship with Beaconsfield High School although the deteriorating state of the surface of the all weather pitch, after 16 years, gives cause for concern. No sinking fund has been built.

Tennis

- Another strong year for membership numbers, now back to the levels of previous buoyant seasons;

- The new floodlights on resurfaced courts 1 & 2 completed and working well;
- Head Coach Tom Dean joined by two assistants, and with his team has worked hard in the year to extend his comprehensive and popular programme of club and private coaching;
- Tom Dean has also been involved in the allplay tennis initiative, coaching Denise Lewis;
- Considerable success with its various summer and winter teams;
- Seeking planning permission to extend the tennis patio, which if approved, it aims to complete over the winter period.

Club house manager

Regarding the running of the club house itself, we renewed John Price's operating agreement in April for a further year. As explained to members at the time of this renewal, the arrangement is that he pays all the operating costs of the club house (except major maintenance or capital items); these totalled nearly £19k in this last financial year. In return John keeps the bar and food revenues (£47.5k last year at 50% margin yielded £23.75k gross profit). However the profit generated is not nearly enough to compensate John for his 200 days a year so we pay him a subsidy (£10k).

Upward pressure on utility costs, particularly gas and electricity will make the viability of this current arrangement come under pressure.

Only if the three sections use the facilities more (and we can find more external users) will be able to maintain let alone reduce this subsidy.

The club house

We had an insurance survey done early in the year and it revealed that we needed to spend a lot of money to bring our electrics up to scratch. This cost just over £5k. In addition we spent £0.5k on work to tidy up the balcony overlooking the cricket pitch- pointing, brickwork, railings etc.

We also undertook an overall building and a specific kitchen health and safety risk assessment and developed policies accordingly; my thanks to John (and Josie) for doing this work. We have one remaining item outstanding-a fire risk assessment though we did install a new fire door at the main entrance and improved fire exit signage upstairs adjacent to the tennis balcony.

In the running costs that John pays were £1.8k for keeping the boiler going-its life is limited and we need to build up a sinking fund to prepare for when it will have to be replaced which won't be long. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank John, Jane and Josie for all their hard work this last year in what was a difficult (hard) winter and (wet) summer.

Financials

The overall consolidated Sports Club accounts which have to be available to HMRC under the CASC agreement are dealt with in Grant's report. These include the income and expenditure of the three sections and those Sports Club costs borne by us. The bar and food revenue and routine club house running costs are not consolidated as they are borne by John Price as part of his agreement.

Grant's report also summarises the 2011/12 budget for Sports Club costs.

The Challenge ahead

Whilst much has been achieved over the last three years there remain a number of challenges:

- We have yet to find a way of utilising the grass pitches in the winter to generate additional revenue. A project last year looked at junior football (there isn't room for senior football) but concluded it wouldn't generate any additional revenue.
- The clubhouse remains an underutilised asset both from a section, private member and external function perspective. We continue to need help to market the club house but this needs dedicated attention to succeed. My attempts to attract someone to do this role have failed.
- Finally we are struggling to get volunteers for the committees of each of the three sections and at SC management committee level. It tends to be the same people volunteering and few new ones have stepped forward. If this reluctance of people to step up and do all the roles that are necessary continues the future looks bleak. A break up of the club and sale of the site remains an option should we be unable to run the three sections properly and have an active SC Management Committee.

Philip Kimberley

Chairman