CHELMSFORD SPORTS CLUB; ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16TH MAY 2017

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Although the 2 member clubs did not enjoy outstanding seasons this year, they still had some considerable achievements. In the “Winter” season, Chelmsford H.C. fielded 8 mens and 7 ladies teams on Saturdays, whilst Chelmsford C.C. put out 6 Saturday teams in “Summer”. Both Clubs also fulfilled Sunday and occasional weekday fixtures. It is inevitable that results are variable, but particular successes this year were the promotions of the men’s hockey 5th and 6th XI’s and the ladies 6th XI. Whilst a number of the cricket teams achieved close runner-up positions, without quite reaching the top spot, a highlight of the season was a magnificent victory on Finals Day in the Dukes T20 competition.

If you happen to be at Chelmer Park on a Friday evening in summer or a Sunday morning in winter, it will be obvious that the junior sections of both clubs are thriving: there are literally hundreds of young people receiving coaching and/or playing in matches, which augurs well for the future. The expansion of the girls’ sections, particularly in cricket, has been enormous. Obviously coaching is key, from the youngest juniors to the oldest Evergreens (my personal thanks go to the Evergreens – people are never too old to learn!). However, both clubs also need enormous numbers of volunteers to fulfil a great variety of other tasks; it would be invidious to mention individual names, but suffice to say that many people do huge amounts of work. Without their efforts the clubs could not function, and we thank them for their contributions.

As a Committee we have continued to encourage use of the clubhouse for hockey and cricket related functions and meetings, with use of the bar when possible, as, apart from the levies from the 2 Clubs, the bar is the main source of the income needed to maintain the Clubhouse. For instance, this year there were repairs to lighting, roof, double glazing, toilets and heating, as well as the fitting of the fire doors and safety glass. We also have 5 annual maintenance contracts, costing over £1,000 and of course Sky TV which cost £2,262 this year. The clubhouse curtains received a much needed clean for the sum of £270.

Social events at the Club have generally been well supported, but of course they rely on organisation and help beforehand, at the event and afterwards, so offers of help are always welcome.

The ‘stand out’ success of the year has to be the Guinness World Record attempt which took place in early July. Hockey was played continuously for 56 hours 18 minutes and 45 seconds and a huge number of helpers were also involved. All the requirements for GWR attempts were fulfilled and Chelmsford are now formally in the record book for the longest hockey match to date. In addition, the work of many people in obtaining sponsorship resulted in £11,113 for the hockey club and £3,496 for Farleigh Hospice – a wonderful total

Finally, my personal thanks to the Sports Club committee and to Martin, Shane and Alan who, as well as discharging their statutory duties, are always willing to help. We appreciate their hard work and Chelmer Park deserves its continuing Green Flag award.

Gill Hickman, May 2017.