**Sports Club AGM 2021**

**Chairman’s Report**

This is my last report as Chairman of the Sports Club as I have decided it’s time to retire. It has been very satisfying and pleasurable to be involved with the Sports Club and the hockey and cricket clubs for many years. I hope and believe the club facilities have improved over the years and, with the works just completed, are in good order and in good hands for the future. Whilst I thank all members of the Sports Club Committee for their work, I must give my, and I’m sure your, grateful thanks to Brian Poole who is also standing down this year. Brian has been a stalwart member who has been Treasurer for longer than most of us can remember, but has taken on many of the tasks of keeping the club house functioning. He has done so much we need at least 2 to take on his roles!

In a difficult year because of the Covid Pandemic it looked as if we would not be playing cricket at all but on 18th July 2020 the season began at Chelmer Park.  The first XI had two losses to start their campaign and were bottom of the Gooch division (the leagues were divided into local area groups).  Eventually things improved and there were some notable performances from individuals and teams.  The second XI were crowned champions of the “Ten Doeschate” division, a fantastic achievement which demonstrated the strength in depth throughout the club.

Colts’ cricket was limited but it was impossible to run the usual Friday training sessions due to Covid restrictions but age group teams managed to play some cricket.

Once it became possible, the Committee worked hard to enable matches to be played at short notice and we were able to run the bar on Saturdays which led to a great social atmosphere in the Clubhouse despite the restrictions.

In order for the plastering and decorating in the clubhouse to be brought forward the cricket club decided they could fund this work for which we are very grateful. The toilet refurbishment is being funded by the 3 clubs.

The hockey season for all teams ended with the last games being played on 5th December 2020, which meant for most sides a maximum of only 8 of the 22 possible matches were played. Following several false starts in March, England Hockey and its affiliate leagues declared the season null and void. The overall structure of the English league system will change in the coming season, so for the majority of the leagues the lack of clear promotions and relegations is less problematic.

No indoor hockey was possible for the 20/21 season.

During the short season, the club fielded 17 adult squads to participate in local and regional leagues, the junior section was also busy competing in interclub games when possible. .

As well as stopping all league hockey at Chelmer Park the Covid lockdown ensured that all off pitch events were also cancelled, including the bi-yearly Zevenbergen junior tour (for 2021 we were to be hosts), both Ladies and Men’s sections presentation dinners, the annual beer festival and several junior training camps.

There is however some good news, with local matches and training now permitted, the club has over 100 participants in a new mixed tournament running every Saturday throughout May and both men’s and ladies’ summer leagues are underway.