

CHELMSFORD SPORTS CLUB

Report for Chelmsford Hockey Club AGM, 29th June 2022

Following the resignation of Gill Hickman at the 2021 AGM after many years of service to the Sports Club, the committee were not able to elect a Chair for 2021/22, so as Secretary I have filled the role of Acting Chair. Thanks for the support of the other committee members over the course of the year.

After a difficult year or two for both clubs on the pitch(es) due to the pandemic, and the obvious effects that had on the ability to use the pavilion (and income), this year has been a remarkable “return to form” across both Summer and Winter seasons.

Despite the potential for intermittent lockdowns the cricket season turned out to be one of the club’s best in recent years, with both the 1st & 2nd XI crowned League Champions. Both the Colts and Willows (Women and Girls) sections have flourished and maintain a good supply of young players into the adult sides. Changes in the committee saw long-standing members and contributors Shirley Bailey and Maureen Green step down, but also the election of Chris Pearshouse as Bar Secretary.

Following a very successful cricket season the hockey section had a hard act to follow, however despite some early setbacks with the Ladies 1st XI losing several key personnel (coach, GK) just before the season started, 2021/22 turned out to be extremely successful. The Ladies 1st XI fielding a very young and inexperienced side retained their National League status, building for next season, and the Men’s 1st XI finished 4th, their highest finish since dropping from the National League over 10 years ago. Elsewhere in the club saw 4 promotions, 1 relegation and our masters sides progressing to national semifinals and finals. The youth section continued to expand, with around 300 children regularly training on Sunday mornings and throughout the week.

Off the pitch the social calendar was a bit slow to get going during the cricket season, but was fully reinstated and a roaring success over the winter, with the annual beer festival returning, cocktail night, beach party, take-away nights, quiz and the various end of season events including Club Day, which saw the culmination of the fantastic intra-club mixed tournament involving ~170 members from across the teams as well as a mixed junior tournament, BBQ, music and awards. Topped off by a “joint social” with the cricketers in the clubhouse afterwards, hopefully a glimpse of more cross club socials in the future.

The idea has been mooted of Sports Club socials at the handover point between the two clubs, April and September, to potentially boost cross-club interaction (and obviously bar profits). The impromptu joint social was a good start.

Turning to the clubhouse: the refurbished toilets and clubroom have been well received, the larger TV has also been a success, as well as the innovations behind the bar, including a digital display and a Guinness pump. Thoughts are now focusing on how to best develop the kitchen facilities to support both clubs, however that is likely to be an expensive and longer-term project, and will need input and commitment from both member clubs in due course.

The financial position is fairly healthy. At the beginning of the year the Sports Club received the last of 3 covid-19 grants, adding £8k to the final total of around £29.5k; these grants, along with contributions from both clubs, have funded the toilet refurbishment as well as the clubhouse renovations. The £14k deficit for the 2021/21 year was primarily an accounting issue of paying for

those developments within this year. At 31st March 2022 the Sports Club had cash assets of around £20k, a healthy position for any contingencies as well as future developments.

The bar takings for the year were just over £30k which is very encouraging, however when taking into account all overheads the profit was just above break-even, which emphasises the importance of organised social events and continued activity in the clubhouse and sales through the bar. On average each week (across the entire year) the bar needs to turnover around £550 to break-even.

Thanks go, as usual, to Martin (who has now mostly retired, except for a bit of cricket pitch prep), Shane and Terry for keeping the grounds in excellent condition. Thanks also to the many club members from both clubs who have given their time and expertise over the season to support the sports club, although as ever additional support is always welcomed.

Adrian Tuff
Secretary (and Acting Chair), Chelmsford SC