# CHELMSFORD SPORTS CLUB – AGM 2023 CHAIR’S REPORT

Unfortunately for the second year running the committee were unable to elect a Chair for 2022/23, so as Secretary I have continued to fill the role of Acting Chair. Thanks once again for the support of the other committee members over the course of the year.

With the pandemic now largely in the rear-view mirror, the focus turned to the cricket season, which kicked off in April 22. On the whole, it was a mixed season for Chelmsford Cricket Club. Rory Skepelhorn’s 3rd XI were undoubtedly the stars, eventually finishing as champions and confirming their return to the Premier Division. The side had excellent team spirit and, as in the 2nd XI, contained a number of talented youngsters who we hope will carry the teams forward for seasons to come. As always, the captains all did a great job finding the ideal balance between giving the youngsters a chance and picking the best side to win the game.

Matt Spinks performed a miracle with the 5th XI, overcoming poor availability, Saturday morning dropouts and sides without adults to prevent the side from being relegated. The spirit among the players remained outstanding regardless of results, a testament to some excellent captaincy across all of the XIs. With the top 3 sides now back where they belong in their respective premier divisions, we look forward to even more progress being made in 2023.

Hot on the heels of the cricket season came the hockey season, and again summarised as a mixed season. At the top end of the club, the Men’s 1st XI had a great season, finishing second behind promoted Ipswich, and with strong ambitions for next season given the likely university returnees. However, it was a tough season for the Ladies 1st XI who failed to retain their National League status and now drop down into the East league. The focus is now on a new coach, developing the wealth of talented youth players as well as attracting some new members ahead of a push again next season.

Across the other sides there were promotions for the Ladies 5th and 6th XI’s and a relegation for the Men’s 2nd XI after a very tough season.

The junior section has grown to around 400, with sustained growth in both the number of girls and boys . Particular success for the u12 boys team who were successful in winning the Essex in2hockey tournament and progressed through to the regional East finals. Given the growth of the junior section as a whole and the higher numbers of juniors ready to transition to senior hockey, the club is hoping to add an 8th men’s team to accommodate this growth. The club also renewed Club First accreditation and have been selected by England hockey to apply to become a Talent Centre

Off the pitch the social calendar for both clubs was strong, with crowd favourites such as the Beer Festival, President’s Day, Annual Dinners, Cocktail Night and numerous planned and impromptu take-away nights, as well as one new addition to the cricket calendar: the hugely successful Hundred Tournament Day, which now seems to be established as an annual fixture for the whole club.

Within the clubhouse there hasn’t been too many developments this season, primarily due to lack to time from volunteers to chase things through, as well as a with one eye on the accounts. There were several large one-off payments this year, including a fire risk assessment, a 5 yearly electrical test and the movement of the bar cooler unit (on the roof), and coupled with increased costs of most services and utilities, a plan for future expenditure profiling is required.

With increased costs it has been required to raise the bar prices at the beginning of each season. Huge thanks go to both Chris Pearshouse and David Gore for their work on managing and running the bar for both member clubs.

As ever the Sports Club is made up of members from both constituent clubs, and it is important for both clubs to have good representation on that committee, and for responsibilities to be shared across the members. Special thanks go to Jack Meer who is stepping down as Treasurer after 2 years, leaving the position in a much better and 21st Century state, and also to Dave Goddard and Rob Nourse for their continued support in the everyday running and maintenance of the club and clubhouse. But in summary there’s lots to do and few willing volunteers.

Adrian Tuff

Secretary (and Acting Chair), Chelmsford SC