

CHELMSFORD SPORTS CLUB – Report for CHC AGM 2024

Unfortunately for the third consecutive year the committee were unable to elect a Chair for 2023/24, 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.

For the member clubs, the 2023 and 2023/24 seasons are best described as mixed. However, there were a few notable highlights, including:

- The Cricket Club's Sunday 1st XI being crowned champions of NECL Division 2.
- The Willows Women's team finished second in the inaugural Essex Women's Premier League Division 2.
- The continued success of the now-annual Hundred Fun Day.
- The Hockey Club held a celebratory ball to commemorate their 125th year.
- The promotion back into the National League for the Men's 1st XI after an absence of some 14 seasons.
- The Junior section continuing to go from strength to strength, with over 400 juniors, as well as another couple of hundred from local schools who are coached by the club.

However, off the pitch, and particularly in relation to the use of the clubhouse, it's not quite so rosy. With the Sports Club facing increasing costs in a number of areas, for example electricity and gas costs rising by £2,500 (80%), insurance by £400 (18%) and entertainment costs (mainly Sky) by £300 (8%), there is an increased reliance on the bar to bring in the necessary income, which, with the support of bar secretaries Chris Pearshouse and Chris Chalk it does, but is still very much underused across the season(s).

In addition to an accounting issue with the creditors figure affecting the bar profits (around £1,800 worth of creditors should have appeared in last year's accounts, but were included, alongside this year's creditors, in the latest accounts, meaning the accounts took a double hit this year), we additionally had to purchase a new glasswasher (£1,140). These have led to an official fall in bar profits from £13,800 to £11,500, not an ideal situation when considering the increased costs.

The total income from bar sales was static from last year, and given the small price increase that occurred, this reflects a fall in sales, something it would be good for both clubs to look at in terms of bar openings, social events and general utilisation of the clubhouse. The Sports Club, along with representatives from both member clubs, have started discussions with the City Council in relation to renewal of the various leases, and specifically looking at whether we can get a relaxation of the lease arrangements to allow wider letting to the local community, a potential new source of income.

Overall, the Sports Club recorded a loss of £5,600 for the year to 31st March 2024. However, alongside the creditors issue and the new glasswasher, we did have to undertake some significant overdue electrical work highlighted by the recent EICR report (£4,000). Other changes within the clubhouse include new curtain rails as well as the addition of a publicly available and registered defibrillator located at the entrance to the clubhouse, this was funded by St Cedds School and is for all users of Chelmer Park, with many thanks to Rob Nourse for his work in coordinating this.

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 Dave Goddard and Rob Nourse for their continued support in the everyday running and maintenance of the club and clubhouse, and to the rest of the committee. But in summary there's lots to do and few willing volunteers.

Adrian Tuff

Secretary (and Acting Chair), Chelmsford SC