

## CHELMSFORD SPORTS CLUB – AGM 2025

### CHAIR'S REPORT

Once again there were no volunteers to take on the Chair role for 2024/25, 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, and a special mention to David Goddard who stepped down before Christmas after 10 years on the committee. Thank you, DG.

For the member clubs, the 2024 and 2024/25 seasons are best described as mixed. However, there were a few notable highlights, including:

- The Cricket Club's 1<sup>st</sup> XI were crowned champions in a strong league.
- The Girls section continues to grow and look strong which is great to see with the Colts numbers improving this year.
- On the Hockey Club side, the highlight were promotions for the Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Men's 4<sup>th</sup> XI, Men's 5<sup>th</sup> XI and a perfect season for the undefeated Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.
- The Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI marked their return to the National League with a fantastic 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish, delivering outstanding performances and attracting huge home crowds.
- The junior section has continued the excellent progress of the last few seasons. It has seen more players, young umpires, parent helpers, coaches qualified, and extra hockey sessions than ever before.

The socials and the associated bar takings were definitely a year of two halves. The cricket club had their annual Hundred Tournament and Family Fun Day as well as President's Day, but not many other social events, meaning the bar take during April to September was down £4k on the previous year. However, over the next six months from October to March the bar takings were almost £5k up on 23/24, due in no small part to the hockey club's Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI returning to the National League and playing on a Sunday, dedicated bar staff, as well as a wide range of successful socials, including quiz nights, pub games evenings, and the established Beer Festival, Men's Dinner, and Ladies Night.

As always both clubs are thankful to the huge number of volunteers who help on a day-to-day basis.

Within the clubhouse much remains the same, however as Tom Pegrum and David Gore (both members of the hockey club) have offered their services to support ongoing maintenance, a number of long-term jobs have now been completed, including: a new pool room door (which doesn't need a key!), fixing the rear bar door, updating the lighting and reinforcing the kitchen wall cabinets. They have also organised the much-needed sanding and varnishing of the bar.

The major project however is a complete refurbishment of the bar, including installing a drain in the chiller room, new flooring, walls, door and new beer pipes, as well as a new sink, integrated ice machine, triple fridge, shelving and storage as well as a secondary serving bar to aid the bar staff. The bar was last refurbished in full over 20 years ago, so much of the work is critical to ensure we maximise the use of the space and are able to serve the drinks we need to in a clean and safe environment. Many thanks to Tom and Dave for proposing, planning, and taking on this work, and to the hockey club for providing a loan to allow us to complete the work now.

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 Chris Chalk for their sterling work in managing and running the bar for both member clubs, without their contributions the sports club could not afford to open.

Discussions have also started with Chelmsford City Council on renewing the current lease, due to expire in 2033. The Council were very willing to extend the lease to allow us to rent the clubhouse out to non-affiliated parties, i.e. local community groups, which we cannot do now. This could bring in an invaluable income stream into the club but would require significant more management and a more professional approach, something the committee and club will need to consider going forward.

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. There is lots to do and unfortunately few willing volunteers. But thank you to the committee members who do provide support for the Sports Club.

Adrian Tuff  
Secretary (and Acting Chair), Chelmsford SC