**Holmer Green Sports Association**

**Joint Chairman’s Report for AGM – 16 December 2019**

This is the first joint report of Bob Asprey and Rob Shed. Having agreed the innovation of a joint leadership of HGSA I think we have successfully got through the year without any serious differences of opinion and prepared to continue for a further year.

**Management Changes**

This time last year we had no Chairman, no Club Manager, the Finance Manager has decided to move on, but agreed to stay on to ensure the smoothest possible handover. Many thanks to Dani Iaciofano for all her help. We were also not far away from needing a new Bar Manager.

Bob and Rob agreed to take on the Chairmanship on a shared basis and were voted in at the AGM in a spirit of club unity. This was a step into the unknown for both, but we were determined to create a new team and provide as much stability as possible as a basis to move forward.

Subsequently Laura Ripley was recruited as Club Manager, Gill Howes as Finance Manager, and Matt Gomme was appointed Bar Manager. The early days were challenging but with the benefit of hindsight a stable and energetic management team has been formed. In the course of the year Gill handed over to Sam Lewin, many thanks to Gill for seeing us through some dark days.

**Committee**

Thanks are due to all the committee members. Thank you to Matt Brades and Ali Subhan for taking over as the section representatives vacated by Bob and Rob. Thanks also to Julian Monteiro from squash who moved on and to Gill who replaced him. In the course of the year we also said goodbye to Ed Harris and Nick Brewer of Hazlemere runners. Finally, a big thank you to Paul Horseman, the Judo representative, who is moving on after many years of being the voice of reason on the HGSA committee. Thank you to all the HGSA committee members past, present and future.

**Financial Challenges**

Inherited a Club with no cash reserves

Tough first five months

Survived thanks to those people that donated and loaned money

Now have a firm grip on how every penny is spent and how essential income has to be generated

**Facility**

Car Park remains a huge concern. We have made repairs, but they can only be temporary until major funding is obtained. Meetings held to discuss with LMPC, First School and Senior School.

Efforts have been made to complete the internal redecoration, thanks to the volunteers.

Laura has led the initiative to find replacement furniture

Benching will hopefully be recovered in the New Year

Electrics, plumbing and changing facilities are all in need of investment

Security is an ongoing concern, both general access and the building itself

Tennis section will sadly close in March 2020. Looking at options for use of the area they vacate

**Events**

Beer Festival was a huge success this year despite the awful weather. Planning for next year and to maybe make it bigger – but will need more help?

Family centric events like Bingo have been a welcome fixture.

Football Club Events – Masters Tournament, Junior Tournament, Race Night & Quiz brought in valuable Bar income.

Both Football and Cricket matches encourage people to attend the Club and use the Bar.

Need volunteers to reform the social committee to generate new events.

Laura has done a great job in improving our profile so that we have a range of Club hires for events that bring in essential income. Special deal in 2020.

Dusty’s on Wednesday’s has been a real fixture and we are grateful to Ronnie Ryan for cash contributions and thirsty audiences.

**Charitable Status**

Both Cricket and Football have charitable status which has highlighted the additional funding that is available.

It remains a wish that HGSA obtain charitable status but how?

Little Missenden Parish Council (LMPC) have recently been very supportive in our dealing with Chiltern District Council (CDC) in progressing our request for an extension to our lease. 35 years extra has been proposed which would take us to 2077. In these discussions LMPC have advised that we should not expect CDC to agree to the further significant changes to our lease that the Charitable Trust proposal would require.

The potential legal costs are significant. Our own could be £7,000 and we would be required to pay LMPC and CDC costs as well. Total could be up to £15,000.

Final Challenge to us all. How do we generate more income, obtain more funding and position this Club at the centre of the local community? All essential for the future wellbeing of HGSA.

Rob Shed

Bob Asprey

16 December 2019