

HOLMER GREEN SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Co-Chairman's Report 2020-21

Bob Asprey and Rob Shed were re-elected at the 2020 AGM and despite all the challenges that seem to arise on a regular basis the appointment of co-chairs seems to have been effective. We should also thank our Club Manager, Laura and Treasurer, Sam for all their support and commitment they have shown to HGSA and their particular skills in successfully securing government funding and ensuring our finances are carefully managed.

Management

Whilst the senior management has been stable this year, the team that have been managing the Bar has seen some changes. Georgia commenced the year as manager but stepped down mid term when Mick took over. More recently, Georgia decided to resign from the team and we thank her for all her good work for HGSA over many years. We do welcome to the team two new Senior bar staff in Suzanne and Karen.

Committee

We have seen no changes to the membership of the committee this year.

Financial Challenges

We continue to endeavor to balance the books. We have been successful in securing government grants which have been very important in supporting our running costs whilst we were unable to open the Bar and hold events. As the year has ended we have been able to start generating revenue from events but still not at levels we need to ensure our running costs are met. It has been a particularly difficult time for all organisations that operate in the hospitality sector and we are not immune from the financial pressures that have arisen from the way in which we are able to run our facility.

Facilities

The interior of the clubhouse is looking really smart thanks to the new furniture, how did we tolerate those tables for so long? Laura has also cleaned the carpets so in conjunction with what was done the previous year we have great potential for encouraging people to come and use our facility for their events. We have received some very complementary comments recently and now need to push on to secure more bookings for next year.

Externally the Car Park continues to require attention, it remains work in progress. The elevation of the squash courts that faces the Car Park has had a mural painted on it by volunteers with paint donated by local companies. Our thanks to all those involved. Security of the grounds has long been a problem with casual trespassing being too easy to achieve. Thanks to a grant from the Community Board and volunteers from the Football Club and Model Engineering the perimeter of our 14.5 acres is now quite secure and we have had no further instances of unwanted entry of the grounds.

We are currently continuing to deal with a problem with the Clubs drainage. The main drain is blocked by tree roots just beyond our boundary. We are in discussion with Buckinghamshire Council who have currently not accepted liability. We have raised the matter with our local County Councilor.

Finally, a number of minor maintenance issues have this year been attended to by John Ripley on a voluntary basis. We are very grateful for his support of the Club.

Sections

Football:

A disjointed season 2019-20 has been followed by a relatively normal one in 2020-21. Both Junior and Senior sections are currently enjoying playing on a regular basis. They continue to invest in the quality of their pitches and recently purchased new grass cutting equipment. Recently a grant has been received for further turf care equipment. Grants have also enabled them to purchase further mobile goals for the youngest age groups. They have now arranged for a café to open for Saturday morning training and Sunday matches although disappointingly the Academy that started in 2020 came to an abrupt end in the middle of 2021.

Cricket:

Although Covid restrictions were in force for the whole of the 2021 season, it was great to be able to enjoy playing the full programme of league, cup and friendly matches, for the adults and the juniors. Bucks Cricket used the ground as a training hub. Big investments were again made on the square and on the outfield, which was reseeded for the first time.

Squash & Racketball:

Like most sports, the club had to close its doors in December 2020 following a brief return to regular play amongst members over the 2020 summer. It re-opened its doors, following England Squash guidelines in mid-April 2021, allowing limited play between families and 'bubbles' and by mid-May, regular squash was permitted. Come the Autumn, two teams are presently participating in the Bucks leagues, the regular internal leagues are running and a new doubles tournament was introduced. The junior section has regular coaching sessions on Tuesdays and Saturdays. We received a few small grants, particularly to encourage junior squash, the participation of women and provide funds to advertise its re-start.

Bowls:

No report submitted.

Model Engineering:

2020/2021 was not a good year with the loss of three stalwarts of the club who accumulated over 100yrs of membership. On the upside despite Covid we had three out of our normal four public running days which were well supported by the public. Our membership numbers have dropped slightly during Covid but our finances have held up thanks to members paying full fees, and public running revenue. Maintenance has been limited because of Covid and coincided with our track showing its age – over forty years old and needing major refurbishment.

Padel Tennis:

The year has seen an agreement reached with UK Padel to operate the new courts on the site of the old tennis courts. We have then watched as the new Padel Tennis courts have taken shape this year. Opened in October they currently have 40 members and judging from the late night sessions, evidenced by the floodlights, they will hopefully be a very successful new section.

Events

The year has seen far less events than normal, as we weren't allowed to hold events until April 2021. Our annual Beer & Music Festival was in August this year and apart from the drainage issues meaning we had to end the event early it was great to have people meeting once again and a reasonable amount was raised for the club. We are now looking at dates for 2022, Bank Holidays are different next year with the Platinum Jubilee.

The joint Firework Night event with HGJS and HGVS was a real success and is already scheduled for Saturday 5th November 2022 to be hosted here again and with even more tickets being made available than this year.

Our popular Family Bingo Nights have continued to be great fundraisers for HGSA and we owe much thanks to Craig Osborne for his continuing support to HGSA with these events.

Dusty's Music Club returned in the summer and their numbers are now returning to the same as before Covid19 hit. We are most grateful to Dusty and Ronnie for their hard work arranging this live music and to the great variety of bands that come to HGSA.

Our second Soul Night in October proved as successful as the first and Uche is booked in again for October 2022 as he is very well received by our guests.

We started our Foodie Friday's again in May, sadly the weather played havoc with a number of them, but we are keen to offer a food option again next summer and support local food businesses.

We were invited to run the bar at Music on the Common in July, on what was probably the hottest day of the year. We sold out of everything! It was a great event and we hope to be a part of it again in 2022.

Lease Extension

Progress towards getting the amendment to our lease finalized for the 25 year extension that has been agreed has been quite tortuous. We have had support from LMPC and our local County Councillor to try to improve progress and we are hopeful the final document will be signed early in 2022.

3G Football Pitch

The Football Club in association with HGSA have now commenced the next stage to securing a 3G (artificial grass) pitch. It will be located next to the first team pitch. Funding will be mainly provided by the Football Foundation. Design work is currently underway to be followed by a submission for planning permission. Significant input will be required from Buckinghamshire Council and work is underway to secure this. The final submission of our proposal is due at the end of 2022 with approval hopefully in April 2023 followed by commencement of construction.

Bob Asprey

Rob Shed