

Poynton Sports Club

Chairman's Report

November 2020

It goes without saying that 2020 has proved to be a far from normal year and that all sections of the club have been disrupted during the course of Covid-19 events and will continue to be so for the rest of this year and early into next. The news that there appears to be several successful trials of a vaccine is tremendous however, the need to remain vigilant and follow the rules and guidance set by government is paramount as we steer through the winter period and the first quarter of next year, prior to things hopefully returning to some sense of normality (always assuming this timeframe remains true).

My thanks once again go to the Officer team for their help, support and hard work during the year. All have gone above and beyond in the comprehension of, coordination of response to, communication of relevant government announcements and implementation of the Covid-19 protocols and procedures needed to be put in place from a club perspective. Also, thanks must go to all the section chairmen and their committees in responding to the guidance and protocol procedures issued by their various governing bodies and successfully enabling sport to take place. The effectiveness and professionalism shown to enable sports participation to the extent that there has been is testament to these teams' endeavours.

As always it would be remiss of me not to thank the Friday Gang, Stuart Daniels and other volunteers who provide so much support and assistance in all areas. I know the Friday Gang's work has been curtailed somewhat during the year due to the requirement to self-isolate and through illness but I also know that, whenever they have been able, they are down at the club providing much needed maintenance and 'rectification' works – many thanks to you all. If anyone has some free time and an inclination, I'm sure this merry band of skilled craftsmen would very much appreciate it!

I shall of course allow David to run through in detail the current financial position of the club during what has been a particularly difficult and testing period but would like to take this opportunity to express mine and the committees heartfelt thanks to all those members who, when offered the chance, supported the club through the donation of their membership subscriptions when it was unclear as to when, or indeed if, any sport would be able to be played. It is gratifying to know that there is such a groundswell of the membership who were willing to support the continued operation of the club during such uncertainty. Many thanks to you all.

In terms of the club's relocation project, I reported last year that negotiations were underway to amend the current option agreement the club has with Jones Homes. This agreement, as it stands, works for neither party and it was therefore agreed to amend this to enable the next stages of the project to take place. These negotiations have proved to be both difficult and protracted due to an unwillingness of the Development Committee to relinquish control of certain important aspects of the design and development process to Jones Homes that were felt to place the club in a potentially vulnerable position. Covid-19 restrictions have also not helped this process with the unavailability of key people at key times and there has also recently been a change in personnel at Jones Homes in relation to our main contact there. We have picked-up with our new contact the areas of concern the club has over these main contractual points and are assured that these are accepted, taken onboard and will be reflected in updated agreements going forward. We remain confident and hopeful that this is the case and that a revisit to design plans and layouts for section members is not too distant a dream! Whilst the work of the Development team has been very largely been unseen as of late due to the protracted legal negotiations underway, this does not mean that a significant amount of time and effort has not been spent on this project. I would like to express my thanks to all members of the Development Committee for their dedication and support in this area and for their willingness to stand firm in our commitment to provide a new club development containing the infrastructure and facilities the members, and the wider Poynton community, can be proud of.

The current Officer team continues to recognise that there has been a significant lack of investment in club infrastructure in recent years. This has largely been based on the argument that there is not a sufficiently beneficial impact in completing these works if the club is going to relocate – at some point. To address this there have been a number of projects completed and further required works either underway or planned. Some of these are to improve the overall look and feel of the club facilities, some out of necessity due to ‘patches on patches’ no longer being a viable solution and a number in order to comply with Covid-19 guidance or compliance with legal health and safety regulations. Some of these include: -

- Tree survey. Due to the fact that a branch from one of the trees on club land broke and fell onto a resident adjoining property it was deemed a requirement that the club undertake a complete survey of all trees on club land. This survey has been completed and the resultant output requires that tree surgery works are required on a number of diseased or dangerous trees. Quotes for these works are currently being obtained.
- Replacement of mains water pipe. There was a leak on a mains water pipe that runs under the outfield near the clubhouse into the club itself. This is not the first time this pipe has leaked and rather than trying to repair – again – the decision was taken to replace the complete length. The resultant benefit of this has been, not just that there will hopefully be no more leaks, but an increase in water pressure within the clubhouse.
- The main club hall area has been completely redecorated. This area is somewhat like the Forth Bridge! The roof design when the clubhouse was extended many moons ago was completely inadequate and means that any blockage of the guttering that runs in between the two roofs above this area results in leaks and damage to the main hall... our thanks to the ground chairman and the Friday gang for their continued monitoring and cleaning of these difficult to reach gutters areas!
- Refurbishment to entrance toilet facilities – originally plans were drawn up to upgrade and enhance the toilet facilities both at the club main entrance and in the changing area. Prior to this work commencing a leak was discovered that had damaged both the main entrance toilet areas and the downstairs kitchen units. Work is currently underway, now the leak has been found and repaired, to replace and refurbish both these areas. Whilst some of this work is covered under the club insurance there is still substantial outlay to the club to complete the refurbishment of the entrance toilet facilities and downstairs kitchen area.
- Replacement of bar cellar equipment and bar pumps – undertaken as part of the agreement with Marston’s and will certainly present a better customer experience – if we’re ever allowed any!
- Replacement and upgrade of kitchen cooker – there are plans, currently on hold for obvious reasons, to engage and / or find someone willing to pick up on the catering front at the club. It would be great to see someone pickup this area and be able to once again offer food as well as beverage at the club. The kitchen cooker was upgraded to enhance this proposition.
- Thorough deep clean of the complete clubhouse – required as part of the Covid-19 protocols to enable the re-opening of the clubhouse post the initial full lockdown. There has also been a requirement for increased day to day cleaning as part of these protocols as well. Our thanks go to Zak for the management of these and all other Covid-19 additional requirement and for his efforts to ensure a safe yet welcoming environment for all during these testing times. Cheers Zak.
- Replacement flat roof – again the patchwork quilt that is the flat roof of the club has sprung a leak and has caused significant damage to the football changing room area. Inspection of the roof has concluded that the time for additional stop gap fixes has long since passed and

we are left with a requirement to replace the whole roof. Quotes for doing this work are currently being obtained, however it must be said that this is easier said than done currently! Roofers are either too busy or not inclined to undertake this work and even those that have provided significant time delays before they will commit to commence. It is also an expensive proposition with quotes varying widely depending on the contractors recommended solution and specification – some at circa £26k.

- Refurbishment of football changing area – this will be required due to the damage caused by the leaking flat roof. There may well be other areas that, as the current roof is removed and a new one installed, are damaged and therefore require refurbishment of some description. This includes the toilet facilities in the changing area – a project which although currently on hold is still very much in the pipeline.
- Stairs by the front entrance – these were deemed to be insecure and unsafe and are being repaired and reinforced.
- Carpet replacement in the main club and bar area – mainly for aesthetic and hygiene purposes but also through wear and tear and damage caused by replacing the stairs.

2020 and the events surrounding Covid-19 have of course put the club in the same position as so many other clubs, venues, businesses and charities in that hugely important fund raising events have not been able to take place. This includes the Music Festival, which had such a promising start in 2019 and was set to grow substantially from these beginnings. At present we are unsure whether the event will take place in 2021 or not given current uncertainty in relation to the virus and whether Pitch Promotions (the event organisers) will be in a position to resume next year. Plans to run the event, if deemed appropriate, will need to commence shortly if this is to happen. The football led Beer Festival was also cancelled although plans to continue this event are currently underway to resume in 2021. As always, the club are ready and available to provide assistance in the planning and running of this excellent event. This year the club were set to play a more extensive role in the planning, running and management of the Rotary Club's 'Party in the Park' extravaganza. This would have substantially built on the financial benefit the club has received from this event in previous years and provided a further forum to advertise to a wider community the benefits the sports club provides. Plans for the holding of this event in 2021 are currently uncertain but it is hoped that, should the event take place, the club will continue to provide assistance to the Rotary Club and ensure financial reward and exposure to the club in doing so.

It is always interesting to note, with some frustration, that it is increasingly difficult to obtain 'buy in' and meaningful input from virtually all sections in the running of what are deemed 'club' events. Virtually all requiring or demanding a 'pound of flesh' to their sections out of the proceeds of running the event prior to any sort of participation. I feel the need to point out that it is not the club Officers 'club' but that it belongs to each and every member of every section and it is the collective responsibility and in the best interests of every member from all sections to support these 'club' events to ensure the maintenance, running and where required upgrade of the members facilities. For those that do not know and have asked the question in relation to 'where do my / my members club contributions go?' I will explain. Each year the Ground Chairman sits with representative from every section and a ground budget is drawn up and agreed (more on ground shortly). The ground budget is then apportioned across sections based on their requirements and usage. This value then becomes the 'club' contribution paid by each member. Therefore, all monies contributed by members cover purely the costs involved in the day to day running and maintenance of the playing surfaces they use. There is nothing contributed in terms of the running and maintenance of the clubhouse, verges, hedgerows, paths etc. etc. It therefore goes without saying that funds required to continue running, maintaining and improving these areas needs to be obtained from the profits

made from the bar and monies raised from holding fund raising events. It is my personal view that, if there is not a collective change from sections, the current situation we find ourselves in will continue to lead to a downwards financial and aesthetic spiral for the club i.e. a continued reduction and lack of funds to provide a suitable environment people want and enjoy coming to, a further reduction in sections willingness to host and support fund-raising events due to the run-down nature of the environment and ultimately an inevitable pressure in sections ability to maintain or increase membership due to the above... Just my view...

On to ground matters. It is with great sadness that I see that Keith Davis, our current Ground Chairman, is standing down. His commitment and support for the groundsman and to sections during his tenure and particularly in this most difficult of years has been absolutely brilliant and very much appreciated. I know that his reasons for standing down are indicated as being for personal reasons and to spend more time with his family. I (and others) also know that there are other factors involved in his decision not to stand again this year (and reflect closely the views of previous well qualified and hardworking ground chairman prior to Keith who decided not to re-stand) . The club has now sadly lost three Ground Chairman in the space of 4 / 5 years? and In relation to this there are a number of points I would like to make regarding ground and the current position we find ourselves in.

Firstly, it was not this committee's decision to reduce the groundsman's role to that of a part time nature. That decision was made and agreed some considerable time ago by all the then chairman of every section. I know not why or how this decision was come to and agreed – but it was - and we are where we are; namely that there are not enough contractual hours worked by the groundsman to cover the ever-increasing workload required of him. We are therefore perpetually left in a position of trying to fit a quart into a pint pot. Now, it does not matter how loudly people shout, point accusations towards or demand of the Ground Chairman or others – he still cannot and will never be able to fit a quart into said pint pot, whatever his best intentions and efforts. Since taking up the chairmanship, myself and the committee have always acknowledged this shortfall and supported many meetings to discuss and try and address the issue. We have also requested on numerous occasions for suggestions from sections on how this problem could / should be addressed. To date nothing of any substance has been forthcoming. In order to try and move things forwards on this issue we are putting together detailed, costed proposals for a number of suggested solutions and these will be presented as a basis for discussion with all sections once ready. It should be noted though, that all these proposals (other than one to continue with the current setup) will require additional funding and any agreement reached in the implementation of alternate arrangements will also include the need for an agreed, sustainable method of ensuring this funding. We will reach out to all section chairman when these proposals are finalised.

As many of you may be aware, I will not be standing for the Club Chairman's role again this year due to business and work pressures. As with all clubs that rely on the time and support given by volunteers there are occasions when for personal reasons or pressures, they are not able to devote the time and efforts their particular roles require. It is therefore only right that I stand down, although like Keith, I am more than happy to complete the projects that are underway and to provide as much support as is required for anyone wishing to pick up the reigns of chairmanship. From the start I have always tried to espouse the value that 'We are all in this together' and that a co-ordinated team working towards a common goal is a far stronger proposition than the sum of its constituent parts acting independently. As can be inferred from the words in this report it would appear that this message has clearly not been put across succinctly enough, or maybe that this strategy is not one that all agree with. So, maybe its actually the right time to step down and let

someone else steer the club through what are still uncertain times and into hopefully clearer waters further down the line. I am also aware that, through the generalised nature of these words, I involuntarily include those who don't deserve tarring with the same brush. I can assure those individuals that I / we know who they are, have very much appreciated their continued support and apologise if their inclusion offends in any way.

As is customary the financial, membership, house and bar, ground and all section chairman's reports are included below. Read and enjoy.

Tony Berzins

Poynton Sports Club Chairman

POYNTON SPORTS CLUB

TREASURER'S REPORT For the financial year ending:

31st MARCH 2020

Headline results in this financial year:

Total Income for the club fell by 0.6% to £297,950 (£299,678 in 2019)

Total overhead expenditure excluding depreciation increased by 16.0% to £237,327 (£204,483 in 2019)

A Deficit was incurred during the year of £1,025 (Surplus -£29,830 in 2019)

Factors affecting our performance:

Sections (See Page 3):

Match fees and subscription income were 4.8% higher than last year.

Donations sponsorship and fund raising were 16.2% higher than last year's figure.

Overall Income from sections was 8.2% higher – £181,180 (£167,501 in 2019).

Sections expenditure, excluding transfers to the main club and depreciation, increased by 22.7% to £102,489 (£83,493).

Cricket, Snr. Football and Lacrosse sections made deficits. Lacrosse section made a large deficit this year (£6,259).

Overall Sections made a deficit of £1,310 (Surplus -£1,606 in 2019)

Main Club (See Page 5):

Bar trading income was 17.1% lower at £90,261 (£108,838 in 2019).

Our margin on bar sales dropped at 53.2% (58.3%) giving a Gross Profit of £48,062 (£63,462 in 2019).

House Income continued to improve at £13,922 (£12,082).

Overall, income fell by 9% compared with last year at £145,143 (£159,556 in 2019).

Costs for the main Club (excluding depreciation) increased by 11.8% to £134,838 (£120,590 in 2019). Festival costs £7,438 (see note 12) mainly represent disbursement of income to the sections and third parties. Income from the festival is included in bar takings and House income.

The Main Club made a Surplus for the year of £285 (£28,224 in 2019).

Balance Sheet (See Page 1):

The Balance sheet net worth of the Club reduced slightly to £279,365 (£280,390).

Additions to club assets are detailed in note 4.

External loans have been fully repaid during the year. Loans to Cricket and Snr. Football section have been granted from the club's Development account.

Development Account (see Note 11)

Income from the all- weather surface was lower at £10,055 (£12,339).

Hire income from Poynton Fitness improved to £8,354 (£7,880)

The balance including the Vernon Building Society deposit was £102,088 (£101,772) at the date of these accounts plus £5,025 balance owed from the section loans.

200 Club

Our thanks again go to Barbara Holt who has maintained the number of contributors. The bank balance currently has over £6,000 available towards any worthwhile projects.

Summary

The year under review has not been as successful as the previous one from a financial perspective. We were blessed with very good weather in the summer of 2018 coupled with England's success in the Football World Cup and these factors helped to produce an exceptional financial outcome.

We welcomed Zak Watson as our new Club Manager in the Spring of 2019. New to the job Zak had a baptism of fire walking straight into organising the logistics for the music festival which he coped with admirably. The festival was a steep learning curve for all of us. Overall, it was successful financially and we were able to distribute the surplus to support Ollies Army and the club's sports sections.

All our lives have changed this year with the coronavirus pandemic. Although this did not have any significant financial effect on the year under review, it has certainly impacted the situation subsequently. We have been fortunate in receiving substantial grants from the government and Sport England in the Spring but at the time of writing there is no clear picture how long the virus will continue to affect us all. We therefore need to be cautious with our financial strategy but also recognising that there are projects that need attention at the club to ensure its future wellbeing.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all club members who have supported us through these difficult times.

D N Holt
Hon.Treasurer

CLUB MEMBERSHIP 2019 - 2020

The table below summarises the membership numbers of the six individual sports sections that constitute the Poynton Sports Club, the membership is classified into eight main subscription categories.

This year the individual membership of the club has shown an overall **5%** increase of **42** from **846** to **888** (this being mainly due to the increase in the Senior, Junior & Junior U9 membership categories) with **72** of all members playing more than one sport, thus giving a combined Section Membership total of **960** which is the highest it has been probably in the Club's history.

The table below summarises the current membership numbers together with those of the previous six years. The Junior U9 membership has increased by **25** from **161** to **186** following a similar increase the previous year. Junior membership has also increased from by **17** from **253** to **270**. It is encouraging to see that overall, these numbers are being maintained as it is hoped that they will in subsequent years continue to support & remain active members of the Club.

This year the Intermediate membership has decreased by **20** from **103** to **83** though apart from last year, it is still higher than the previous five years. The continued efforts put in by the officers & coaches & also parents of the respective Junior/Intermediate sections must not be overlooked as it involves considerable organisation & supervision by these people.

The overall Senior membership has this year increased considerably by **11%**, an rise of **30** from **265** to **295**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	Year 2019/20	Year 2018/19	Year 2017/18	Year 2016/17	Year 2015/16	Year 2014/15	Year 2013/14
Junior U9	186	161	133	121	113	119	81
Junior	270	253	268	260	266	241	245
Intermediate	83	103	48	65	43	64	51
Senior	295	265	275	275	280	254	250
Patron	35	45	31	20	19	21	19
Social	3	4	4	0	0	3	0
Club Life	13	12	11	15	17	17	17
Others	3	3	3	3	1	3	2
Total Individual members	888	846	733	759	739	722	665
Total (all sections)	960	904	820	807	795	783	738

The above table is only small but it summarises a considerable input of data. All membership data is held on a central database that without the invaluable help & assistance of the individual membership section secretaries would render it a near impossible task as each section sets its own subscription which includes the relevant capitation fee to the main club. Should a member join more than one

section then the capitation fee is discounted from the subscription to any subsequent section in the same financial year ending on the 31 March. i.e. it does not extend over the financial year end.

The data provided has proved valuable in assisting in setting the main Club subscription levels at the annual budget and members e-mail addresses provide an efficient & time saving method of contacting Section &/or Club members. I would, however, request once again, that members write their e-mail addresses **clearly & legibly** as some are very difficult to interpret, especially where hyphens & underscores are involved.

Simon Piggott

Club Membership Secretary

POYNTON SPORTS CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

HOUSE AND BAR REPORT

2020 has been one of the most challenging years the bar and the club has faced and most likely will ever face. On Friday 20th March 2020 the Prime Minister announced that all Pubs, Bars and Restaurants must close till further notice at the end of the evening. This meant us as a club also, which meant all sport stopped and the bar was effectively closed. Myself as the club manager along with my colleague's bar staff and cleaners were all placed on the government furlough scheme to help preserve club finances during the uncertain times. We like all licenced premises were given the advanced warning of our reopening date (4th July 2020) subsequently I was taken off furlough on the 15th June 2020 to coordinate getting the club professionally cleaned and making it COVID-19 safe for our customers and implementing all government guidelines in time for our reopening.

On the 4th July we reopened, and all our staff were taken off furlough. Since reopening some of our products have changed on the bar this is since during the pandemic and the national lockdown Marston's our supplier, sold 60% of the company to Carlsberg so some of Marston's own brand products we're discontinued and swap for Carlsberg products. Since reopening although sales are down on this time last year we have been very well supported. We would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us during these difficult times and trusted us to be a safe venue to come and socialise in.

The bar underwent a refurbishment on Monday 28th September. We had all new cellar equipment installed and new taps on the bar. Which gives it a more modern look this was done by Marston's as a part of our new agreement.

During the first lockdown we also had a leak in the bowls pavilion, which led to extensive damage in the kitchen in that area and the toilets to the front of the club. We put in an insurance claim to help us finance the repair, the kitchen has now been completed and the toilets are not far off being completed, hopefully in time for our reopening in the coming week.

As you are all aware, we were placed into another national lockdown on Thursday 5th November due to a second wave of corona virus and we plan to be reopened when given the go ahead in early December we hope to see you all during this time to celebrate the festive period safely together!

Projects / upgrades completed or planned for 2021

The club house was deep cleaned throughout including all changing rooms before we reopened after first lockdown.

In the main kitchen we upgraded and purchased a new cooker.

The hall area has been redecorated whilst being closed for business, thus creating a more welcoming feel for visitors and club members. Therefore, aiding us in hiring this out as a venue for use of the hall and outside functions arranged. Along with having this available for use by all the sections.

The toilets situated at the front door entrance, have been taken out action during closure

and are now fully refurbished.

Due to the previously mentioned water leak the kitchen area in the bowls hut has been fully refurbished and a new kitchen installed.

The players entrance door was always slamming so we have changed the closure system on this for it to close more slowly and fitted a bolt at the bottom of the door allowing the door to be kept open fully in a safe manner.

We purchased two new picnic benches during the summer period to assist with the governments social distancing requirements and have seating areas outside that were Covid-19 safe.

Projects happening at the moment

We are currently looking to replace the lounge/bar carpeted area in the club house – we are currently obtaining costs for this, and most suitable options, for example tiles versus actual carpet etc.

Due to the roof collapse in the football changing room area, we are currently seeking contractors and quotes for these repairs to take place at the earliest opportunity.

Once some other projects completed above, then we will be looking to obtain quotes and pricing in order to refurbish the toilets in the front changing rooms area.

Zak Watson Club Manager and Jane Williams House and Bar Chair

Poynton Sports Club AGM Ground Report 20th November 2020

For the period October 2019 to October 2020.

General

At the risk of repeating other authors, a review of the last twelve months cannot be complete without reference to Covid-19 and lockdowns.

Covid-19 has been disruptive to every sporting activity at the club and to ground maintenance, as experienced by every section management and player. During Lock Down in March, the Groundsman agreed not to be furloughed to ensure that playing surfaces could be maintained at a level that would enable the surfaces to be brought back to full playing condition in a timely manner, when restrictions were lifted by the Government and the various Sporting Bodies. Each section prepared their own set of Covid-19 Protocols to allow them to resume play in a Covid-19 safe manner, when Lock Down was lifted.

The weather from October through November 2019 was a disruptive influence on the end of season work, which was delayed, but eventually completed. Several clubs in the area did not get their end of season work completed. The early spring was again wet this year followed by a prolonged period of good weather, ideal for sport, but lockdown continued to impact. Then, typically, when Lock Down was lifted, the weather broke. Things did not continue to improve and the protocol of Tier 1 to Tier 3 for Covid-19 was introduced. This disrupted fixtures as Tier 3 players and teams could not play teams in the lower Tier 2 and Tier 1. Whilst this report was in preparation, we had another Lock Down period of at least 4 weeks until 2nd December 2020

Bowls

During the closed season, the bowling green received light maintenance. This consisted of scarification, by the groundsman, tipping, and weekly drag brushing to remove worm casts and leaves.

The bowling green received the Air2G2 treatment, 29th November 2019 to reduce compaction and increase the oxygen availability to the root system. This was performed by FTS. It was much delayed due to the weather.

The green was prepared for the start of the season, only for Covid-19 to create the need for a Lock Down in mid-March.

The various bowling leagues cancelled their fixture programmes. Advice was sought from Bowls Governing Body (BCGGA) on green maintenance during the bowling season. They advised to allow the green to rest but keep it at a level that would enable the green to be brought back into match condition within a short time frame. When the lockdown was lifted, only limited social play was allowed. Match fixtures were not re-instated. The green maintenance reflected this level of play.

One improvement in green maintenance was the introduction of regular spiking. This was attempted using the hand pulled sorrel spiker but was found to be hard work by the volunteers. The powered spiker which had not been used for several years, if at all on the green, was pulled out from the back of the container. Its engine had been serviced previously. Further remedial work was undertaken by the volunteers to get the machine to function properly. The bowls volunteer, Mr. Mike Ridgeway, agreed to drive it. The process taking some 3 hours. In a normal fixture laden

season, it may be difficult to find a 3-hour weekly slot. Something to discuss further for next season, when fixtures are reinstated.

Cricket.

During the closed season cricket volunteers repaired the ends 23rd October 2019. The square was loamed and seeded 24th October 2019 by FTS. The square received the Air2G2 treatment as, Bowls, on 29th Nov 2019.

The square was prepared for the start of the season, only for Covid-19 to create the need for a Lock Down in mid-March.

As occurred with Bowls, the ECB cancelled all cricket fixture programmes. Cricket understood that they would not be playing any fixtures in 2019, and social cricket would not be possible. Advice was sought from the GMA on maintenance during the suspended cricket season. Their advice was similar to bowls, to allow the square to rest but keep it at a level that would enable it to be brought back into match condition within a two-week time frame. When the lockdown was lifted, only limited training was allowed. However, within, a short, space of time, Senior and Junior fixtures were reinstated which were compressed into the shortened season. The Juniors, who usually stopped play at the start of the summer holidays, now played in the summer holidays increasing the demand for wickets and their preparation. The Groundsman struggled to cover and sometimes failed to meet the increased level of work this entailed. The shortfall needed to be covered by the few ardent cricket volunteers. Poor weather in the summer, together with. part-time working is a poor combination.

The section has taken possession of an additional set of covers and a set of sight screens.

Football.

The level of ground maintenance has gradually been increasing over the last 2 years to try to mitigate the poor drainage and improve the playing surface. This has taken the form of increased application of sand and seed supported by twice yearly verti-draining. We also contracted out the grass cutting in the summer months when the availability of our volunteer(s) was suddenly reduced.

There has been dialogue with the Football Foundation this year, which resulted in a pitch condition inspection and a resultant report by their appointed inspector. Based on the report, the section has been awarded a FF grant towards continued and increased ground maintenance over a six-year period. The next target is to apply for a machinery grant to enable the purchase of additional equipment to improve grass cutting and pitch preparation during the playing season. This was recommended by the pitch inspector.

The pitch has suffered occasions of the usual flooding in the south west corner. This was handled using the donated water pump, and the purchase of sufficient hose to transfer the water to the wooded area away from playing surfaces.

Whenever conditions have been suitable, the pitch has been slit and harrow chained.

The pitch has not received the usual wear tear due to the cancelation of fixtures caused by Covid-19, so the additional maintenance has not been tested.

Lacrosse.

The Lacrosse season ended prematurely in the spring and has been severely disrupted at the start of their season in October, due to Covid-19. Both Lacrosse pitches (cricket outfield) have received similar increased maintenance to the football pitch, sand seed and verti-draining.

Tennis.

The tennis blue courts were cleaned and repainted Sept/Oct 2019 due to the increased slipperiness of the surfaces, the deterioration in the surface and the fading colour. Whilst the work was organised and supervised by ground, the cost of the works was covered directly by tennis and did not come out of the ground budget. Work was undertaken on leaf and debris clearing and spraying the area for weeds.

All-Weather.

The surface was reported to be ponding and slippery in January/February 2020. The decision was taken to refurbish the surface by removing the contaminated sand, pressure washing the surface and re-sanding. Tennis approached the previous contractor for a quote and the work was supervised by ground. The work was completed in March 2020.

Stop boards have continued to be replaced as required with new, appropriately painted. There are still more to do. A bit like the Forth Road Bridge.

The flood lights on Court 1 have been replaced with new LEDS. But there is now another one to be replaced on Court 3/4.

Friday Gang.

They have continued to undertake works on the Club House and Grounds. However, their impact has been significantly curtailed by Covid-19.

Their work and efforts are much appreciated.

If anyone would like to join, I am sure you would be most welcome.

Community Service Workers.

Again Covid-19 has impacted on their attendance. However, when they are able to attend, their contribution is significant.

Refuse and Recycling.

Needs further effort to keep the Grounds tidy.

Water Main.

We suffered our second burst pipe of the year in October. The decision was taken to replace the entire length from the water meter to the club house. This has had the added benefit of slightly increasing the water pressure within the Club.

Development.

A ground survey meeting was held with Jones Holmes to confirm location of existing manholes against published maps and for them to propose locations of boreholes for a survey. They produced a drawing showing the location of 16 proposed boreholes. These were reviewed by Football and

Lacrosse (Friday Gang) on Friday 29/11/19. JH were informed that their bore locations were acceptable.

The work was carried out in early December 2019.

RK Davies
Ground Chairman

Bowls Report to Club AGM 2020

I would usually have started our report with how our teams have fared during the season, but as I am sure all the club membership is aware, following the start of the COVID19 epidemic in March, all competitive bowls, leagues and associated league competitions and county competitions were postponed and eventually abandoned altogether for 2020. At the start of June, following easing of restrictions, we were able to start to open the green for non-competitive, practice sessions, in accordance with protocols provided to us by our sports regulators, the Cheshire County Bowling Association and British Crown Green Bowling. Over the course of the summer, restrictions were gradually eased, allowing us to run a couple of internal competitions on our green at the end of the season.

Following a request from our chairman Gaz Roberts to our membership, to ask them to support the section and club by paying full membership on time, we were overwhelmed by their support. The vast majority paid their membership in full, despite not knowing if they would have any play during the year. We are pleased to have agreed with the club a reduced membership for 2021 to those members, to reflect the two months that they were unable to use the green in 2020 and thank them for their loyal support. Thanks to our members and a grant from Sports England the section remains in a decent financial state. A thank you must go to Neil Carmichael for his help gaining the Sports England grant. I believe we are not the only section to gain from his knowledge and experience in these matters.

I think it would be difficult for us not to mention the green and ground maintenance. At the end of the 2019 season, following a difficult season for the green and various problems with our current mowers, it was agreed that these mowers were no longer fit for purpose. Following a proposal made on our behalf, to the officers by Keith Davies, it was agreed that a new Dennis mower would be purchased at substantial cost for use on the bowling green. This would enable the green to be cut to a higher standard, previously gained by the older mowers, including the ability to verti-cut the green, which we were told would be carried out on a 3-4-week basis. As far as we can tell, this new equipment has not been used and equipment we were told was going to be backup and not fit for regular use, has continued to be used throughout 2020. As a section we are becoming frustrated with what we believe to be an increasingly obstructive groundsman and the lack of use of equipment that the club has made a substantial investment in to try and improve our green and return it to the extremely high standard that has been achieved in years gone by. We will be looking to discuss this further with the officers in the not-too-distant future to see how we can improve the situation going forward. I would like to finish on ground by sending our thanks to Keith Davies for his hard work during his time as ground chairman. Big improvements were seen in the green towards the end of 2019 thanks to his hard work, testing soils and sourcing correct treatments for the surface. We have no doubt he has tried his hardest to implement green maintenance in 2020 with the new equipment purchased by the club, but sadly, through no fault of his own, this has not worked out.

Looking forward to 2021, we hope to have a more normal season, and continue where we left off in 2019 with another successful bowling season. I would like to send thanks, on behalf of all in our section, to the officers who have steered the club through this unprecedented and difficult period. We all need to remember that our club and section officials are volunteers and did not volunteer for what has happened in 2020. Thank you for all your hard work. Let us hope for a more normal 2021, with all sections playing full seasons of sport.

Thank you

Chris Wood
Bowls Section Secretary

Cricket Report 2020

It's fair to say the agility of all those involved has allowed cricket to take place across all age groups in 2020. The flexibility to adapt in a safe Covid-19 environment was at the heart of everything and I'm delighted that NECCC successfully achieved its collective goal.

2020 saw the launch of the Mini Jets, the introduction to cricket for our very youngest age group starting their cricketing journey. Despite Storm Francis and a few schedule changes, nearly 30 children joined the family, embracing the game in a safe and fun environment. These sessions wouldn't have been possible without the collective support of the junior coaching team who put to one side their own age group to offer the very best experience for all. We look forward to welcoming back our Mini Jets in 2021.

Unable to run our flagship Friday nights, our Juniors moved to individual age group sessions throughout the summer. Whilst disappointing to lose Friday evenings, it's fair to say the position evolved and cricket was constant across both grounds and it was wonderful to see so many games running simultaneously providing the perfect summer's evening for all involved. We concur with PSC around the increased use of the pitch for Junior matches through the summer in future years and the challenges this will present around ground preparation.

The Seniors continue to evolve & thrive. Consistent high numbers attending training, the seamless integration of new players across all ages all whilst remaining committed the original goal of offering cricket to all abilities, was testament to the commitment of all involved. It's always great to see success on the pitch as we congratulate the 2s on becoming 2020 League Champions for the second year in a row.

Whilst the Over 40s only managed friendly fixtures, it continues to be NECCC's commitment to offer social cricket on a Wednesday evening and I take the opportunity to thank Eddy for his support over the past two years as he steps down as captain.

Our girls continue to grow; seeing all girls teams take to the field is a fantastic achievement for all those involved. Women's membership was a little down on last year's figures with facilities at the club and Covid cited as being the main reasons mentioned for not signing up. We remain committed to developing Women & Girls' cricket within the club, working closely with Cheshire Cricket Board and other local clubs so we look forward to seeing the section continue to grow and thrive in the coming years. To enable this, the Cricket Exec will consider drop-in sessions in 2021 in an effort to encourage women and girls in to the club, hopefully leading to membership uptake in subsequent seasons. I would like to take this opportunity to request that PSC to consider our commitment to women and girls' cricket when planned refurbishment of the cricket/lacrosse changing room area takes place.

As we move into the close season, we continue to build on our success. The financial decisions taken proved tactically correct, coupled with our ability to fundraise. It's with delight we welcome Hickory's as a key sponsor despite the current challenges they've faced as business in 2020.

Our strategy to offer affordable cricket and engage the local community continues. The Cricket Exec. has agreed funding for further coach development, the purchase of the club's T20 kit, and the purchase of our women's kit ahead of the 2021 season.

It is no secret the section continues to have challenges around Ground and, for the record, is disappointed at the inability to hold open dialogue with PSC during the season since our initial request to meet in July (noted in the PSC Exec Minutes of 13 Aug 2020 and the Officers' Meeting of 16 Sep 2020). This matter has again been raised to the PSC Exec. w/c 2nd November 2020. It is NECCC's belief that the current offering is broken and needs to be addressed urgently however, Cricket has suggested that a solution to increase cost solely back to the sections & membership would be short sighted and PSC Exec. need to start to generate a greater source of revenue from the overall facility, even ahead of any proposed move.

The NECCC Exec. continue to look to discuss the ground, membership fee payments and the general facility offered at Poynton Sports Club. The clubhouse, especially at this time, we believe offers a sub-standard approach to cleanliness with repairs make-shift at best.

We thank everyone for who recently completed the survey, the results will be shared across the membership and with the PSC Officers allowing us to take the learning from the comments shared.

NECCC would like to thank the PSC Officers for their hard work during a very challenging year, this doesn't go un-noticed and is appreciated. However, the Officers shouldn't be fearful of challenge; we need to move away from a landlord-tenant relationship and remove the defensive nature of communication. Whilst Cricket supports PSC's long-term vision for the Sports Club, it's felt we have lost sight of the short-term needs.

Chris Waddington
Chairman – NECCC (inc Poynton Junior Cricket Club)

Additional Reports

2020 Treasurer's Report – Andrew Gregory

A difficult year for obvious reasons; we wondered how we would get through it. With the financial impact on every individual's personal finances, supporting the cricket club would no doubt not be high on a lot of people's priorities but the response and support from everybody was amazing, meaning we are still here and looking forward to much brighter times.

Various fundraising projects ran, all resulting in small profits coming back into the club, but the main initiative was to increase numbers in the 100 Club; we felt that asking members and supporters to join a monthly prize draw was more acceptable and palatable than asking for donations. On the 1st January 2020 we had 39 100 Club members, today we have 135 members. This brings in extra revenue per annum and is the difference between still being in operation today and, for future years, giving us the springboard to invest substantial amounts back into the club to make noticeable differences.

Next year, we face further challenges. It's an issue that hopefully, we as a collective, can solve especially as we're in a better situation now than of previous seasons; the playing side goes from strength to strength with the Junior section buoyant now backed up with an enthused and dedicated Senior section. If we can add strong successful fundraising to this then we have all the ingredients for growing into one of the most successful clubs in Cheshire.

Finance wise, the accounts to year end 5th April 2020 showed a loss due to heavy reinvestment back into the club, with the seven months to October 2020 showing a profit, largely due to the huge increase in 100 Club membership.

2020 Director of Cricket's Report – Damien Mullany

With hindsight, was it worth playing only half a season with no promotion and relegation, restrictive playing guidelines and unable to fully enjoy the social side of the game? ABSOLUTELY!

The 41 games played plus the twice weekly net session were really important to the physical, mental and social wellbeing for the Jets in a difficult period. We were also to build on the outstanding success of the first season following the merger.

The games played were broken down by each team as follows:

Team	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied
1st XI	11	5	1	5	0
2nd XI	9	9	0	0	0
3rd XI	9	6	3	0	0
4th XI	8	4	3	0	1
U19	5	1	4	0	0

The outstanding team result was the 2ndXI who continue to prove to the league that they are playing at the wrong standard with a 100% record. The 1stXI had some great days particularly beating Macc, 3 leagues above and were able to give some U19s some valuable exposure to 1stXI cricket. The 3rd and 4thXI won and lost some in similar measure creating memories whilst allowing opportunities for juniors to play senior cricket.

I believe that since the merger, the players have created a positive culture which is welcoming to new players and allows a smooth transition for juniors to enter senior cricket in all four teams. This is best demonstrated at nets with a large turn-out, well organised by Toby.

As we hope for a better 2021, we remain ambitious and hope to build on the first two seasons. The 2ndXI needs to be playing at the correct level; a letter will go to the league imploring them that, despite a season of no promotion/relegation, we should be moved up. We need the 1stXI to be playing Cheshire County cricket and the recruitment of an overseas player is part of that plan along with a coach. We will also continue to push for an improvement of the playing and club facilities which will help attract new players as well as create a better experience for the membership.

My thanks to the captains for their support and cooperation. A special mention to Owen who steps down this year but should be proud of the job he has done as 3rdXI skipper. Thanks also to the Committee who worked hard to make cricket possible in a Covid environment and who take the battle to the Sports Club over the facilities.

1st XI Season review – Jake Reynolds

2020 was a season of experimentation and experience for the 1stXI; the curtailed league calendar with no promotion and relegation affording the opportunity to welcome new players into the team. A total of six U19s contributed to the 1stXI this summer, these games hopefully providing vital experience for these players when called upon in a competitive league next year. Valuable experience was added to the squad as well with players finding their feet again after spells away from 1stXI cricket.

Season highlights included an excellent total defence at Hawk Green, demolitions of Bredbury St Marks and Stockport Trinity at home, and a thrilling cup victory against Macclesfield.

Key areas for improvement were highlighted in the loss of focus and resilience in key moments - proving our undoing against Ashley, while batting depth was exposed in heavy losses to Cheadle and Stockport Trinity.

However, when the group hit the highs, and all three phases of the game came together, the Jets were too much for anyone as displayed by racking up 267 as a highest team total, and

skittling the eventual champions for 46. Becoming greedy, consistent performers has to be the goal of every player moving forward.

On balance the 1stXI played a lot of good cricket this summer, boding well for 2021 where the challenge will be stiffer. The squad of youth and experience is gelling well, filling me with confidence that, if we stick together and compete hard for places, we will push for promotion in the summer ahead.

2nd XI Season review – Alex Dyson

On the face of it, the 2s had another frustrating season where the standard of the opposition resulted in largely one-sided games. On the whole, the team's bowling and fielding was exceptional, and far too good for the vast majority of the batsmen we faced. The batting side was less consistent, with the top order finding it difficult to get in on a regular basis.

We started with a nine wicket win against Trafford MV, and a 71 run win at Brooklands, where we controlled the games from start to finish. Knutsford's visit to PSC was the first of a few instances where the middle order had to dig us out of hole as the top order had failed to see off the new ball in tricky conditions. Back to back fixtures at Mellor resulted in an eight wicket win and a 67 run win.

One of the toughest games of the season was at home to CH Ladybridge in awful conditions. Another top order collapse had us 5-3, rescued again by the middle order. Langley's visit was more routine, a total over 120 at PSC being easily enough to defend.

The trip to Timperley, with a much-changed side, resulted in us needing to chase 229 in much more favourable batting conditions that we'd seen all season. The value of the top order setting a platform was shown. We finished away to bottom side Cheadle Hulme, with both sides justifying their league places.

Overall, a very enjoyable season in the circumstances. We've shown flashes of our capabilities a side but we need to work on being more consistent as we look to progress through the leagues.

3rd XI Season review – Owen Johnson

There were ups and downs this season and I'd say and some personal milestones as well, from losing to Styal twice to beating top of the league Over Peover. There was a lot of mixing around which benefited us which gave us more options each week.

Overall a year to remember especially for me as this was my last season skipping the 3s and to end with a bang being the leading wicket taker in the whole club isn't too shabby to say the least but on a serious note, it's been a great two years leading this team and I will miss it greatly.

4th XI Season review – Damien Mullaney

The Sunday 1stXI had a successful and enjoyable half season. This represents success as we found the right level of cricket following promotion last year. All of the games were at a competitive standard, at some point we could have won or lost all 8 games. This standard allowed us to continue applying the formula of integrating juniors alongside more seasoned cricketers.

The batting was generally a team effort with people chipping in with 20s and 30s and the bowling was accurate and economical.

The champagne moment of the season was against Stockport who need one run to win with four wickets in hand. A wicket maiden in the penultimate over followed by three wickets in four balls provided an unlikely tied game and great entertainment.

My thanks to the juniors whose maturity and enthusiasm made their integration smooth and to those seasoned cricketers: Rob, Fran and Scott, for their support and finally to the

committee who in the background allowed any cricket to take place at all. This was so important to everybody's wellbeing at a difficult time.

2020 Women's Season Review – Heather Mukherjee

Following the trend of major female sports teams, we rebranded ourselves as NECCC Women; we had trained indoors all over the winter with a focus on fun and fitness alongside those all-important cricket skills.

Commitment to the shortened 2020 season proved difficult for several potential members and the initial confinement to the nets wasn't the most attractive offer but the later opportunities to use the pitch for some fun drills and practice matches certainly proved that this should be the focus going forward. Covid-19 has limited our season in other ways, particularly around coaches.

One success of the season was our 'red ball' partnership with Stockport Georgians: the U14 girls playing alongside the Georgians U15s in the girls' league; three of our players also represented Stockport Georgians 2nd XI during the summer.

With the ongoing Covid situation, we don't know what opportunities 2021 will bring us but there are plans for a new soft ball division within the Cheshire Women's Cricket League structure and our partnership with Stockport Georgians will continue. It would be great to be able to offer a more flexible structure to women's cricket membership at the club which we believe would attract more female interest.

We are always on the lookout for new ladies and girls who are looking to play cricket and will welcome all potential players, no matter what their experience.

2020 Junior Chair's Report – Huw Ricketts

It is fair to say that this season has been like no other. At one point in April, we were all fearing the worst that we may not be in a position to offer any cricket to our junior membership. It is testament to the dedication and hard work of the executive members, coaches and parents that we have been able to offer cricket to over one hundred and fifty children over a fourteen-week summer.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone at the cricket club for their hard work: translating the ECB COVID-19 safety guidance into a framework that kept everyone safe; only the support of members cutting pitches on the square and outfield that enabled junior teams to play every week. Of course, nothing is possible without our junior coaches - this year we had seventeen coaches taking training sessions and matches every day of the week. All of our coaches should be very proud of what they have done for the community at a time when we were all struggling with uncertainty and fear.

As a result of COVID-19, we had to change the way we delivered our training sessions. Smaller group sizes were needed, which meant splitting the junior training onto different days of the week. We have been able to offer: U14/U15s on Monday evenings; dedicated girls training on Wednesdays; U12/U13s on Fridays; U10s/ U11s on Saturday mornings; and U8s/U9s on Sunday mornings. We must learn the lessons from this year's sessions which proved to be a huge success; splitting training days and times allows for better sessions for the players and coaches.

Our thirteen junior sides played more than eighty matches, winning approximately one third of the games played - I am proud that we can offer cricket to all levels of ability and commitment. We do need to make sure we continue this, and cater for those players who just want to have fun and those players who want to win and progress their cricket.

It was extremely pleasing to see many of the U15s start to play senior cricket in the 4thXI. We have a clear pathway from junior to senior cricket, which needs to be maintained and built on. It is the responsibility of the Junior section to feed the senior cricket sides so that we can continue to grow our club.

With this in mind, we finally managed to offer our entry level cricketers a week of cricket as we launched the Mini Jets for U6 and U7s. It was great to see the children enjoying cricket and thanks to all the coaches who gave up their time to support the Mini Jets. We hope to expand our relationship with Hickory's next year so that we can offer Mini Jets cricket to more children in Poynton, and crucially in Disley.

We are in a good position to continue to offer great cricketing opportunities however, we must learn the lessons of this challenging season. We can't rely on Chris and Harrison to create junior pitches so we need to engage and partner with our friends at Poynton Sports Club so that we can access the best junior facilities. We need to learn that splitting training days and times can improve cricket outcomes for the juniors and make the coaches' lives easier. During the 2021 season we will maintain and grow the Friday night cricket, but will move some age groups to other days. Girls' cricket will continue to be a focus and we must provide extra support to girls to allow them to access hard ball cricket more easily.

Growing the Friday evening social cricket offering will be a priority with the aim of offering cricket to more children and building revenue for the Sports Club through bar sales. More parents getting involved in the running of the Junior section will be critical; we need more helpers for matches and we need to have more fundraising activities underway.

Once again, thank you to everyone involved in getting this season on for the Juniors. We should all be very proud of what we have achieved. I'm excited about the new season and what we can do for our children.

2020 End of Season Survey – Heather Mukherjee

Thank you to all our members for taking the time to complete the club's end of season survey. The responses received have been collated and the data will be assessed by the relevant sections when planning the 2021 season.

Across the club, there is a huge consensus that the Poynton-Disley merger to create North East Cheshire CC has been a huge success.

This positivity is not replicated in the responses to the questions around the playing and clubhouse facilities at Poynton Sports Club. Unfortunately, these issues are beyond Cricket's control but we will share the results with the PSC Officers and put pressure on the main club to make some changes, wherever possible.

The responses around the club's 'greatest strength' are very encouraging with most responses being around the people at the club. There were also a number of responses around the family/community feel within the club and about the Sports Club's central location in the town.

In terms of where people see the need for development within the club, these are issues the outgoing Executive Committee are aware of and we hope the new committee in 2021 will continue to work on these points. In addition, 43% of responses around development mentioned the facilities at Poynton Sports Club.

Lacrosse report 2020

Like all of the sections at Poynton Sports Club, Lacrosse has been hit hard by the current pandemic, which has been compounded further with the resignation of Simon Crowther as Chair.

Our U12's and U16's junior teams are still waiting to play their respective cup finals from the 2019/20 season.

Although the 2020/21 season eventually started with many restrictions for the seniors, we weren't able to get the juniors underway.

Our U13's girls team really need a season where they can play games, especially at home to help them strengthen a community identity.

The Sport England Grant was suspended before our application went in so we were not able to get funding. I think we are probably the only section not to get a Sport England Grant unfortunately.

We usually have a strong fund raising push as a section, but again due to lockdown we haven't been able to do any.

On a positive note, we had just embarked on a significant development programme delivering in local schools which we were partially funding when COVID-19 started.

All activity has now ceased until at the earliest January '21, we need to bolster our numbers throughout junior teams.

Our junior membership is likely to be down this year as we have quite a few players who are not playing at the moment.

Despite the lower numbers we are investing in coach development, with senior players coaching the various teams, as well as us recruiting 3 new officials through the senior section to support our junior teams.

Glyn Warrington
Lacrosse Chairman

Senior Football - 2020

It is difficult to give a report based on a season of games that were not completed due to our good friend COVID-19.

When the season was curtailed at the end of March the 1st Team had only played 15 games out of 28 that were due to be played .

The season had already been a difficult one for the 1st Team dropping to 9th out of 15 teams. This was a very a very disappointing position considering that for large periods of the season we were in the top six and even reached 4th position at one stage.

The season started to decline following three cup defeats in a row against teams we should really have been beating.

Availability and injury were key to these defeats.

The reserves finished their curtailed season in 5th out of 10 teams having only played 6 out of 18 fixtures.

A top 3 position was very much on the cards if the league/season hadn't been curtailed.

The highlight of the season was an incredible game played in the Mid-Cheshire Cup a Quarter Final against Lostock Gralam from the Cheshire Football League Premier Division.

Whist the team was beaten on penalties following the scores being level after 90 mins.

My endearing memory will be that of an incredibly good chance in the final seconds of the 90 minutes.

Off the pitch we had to cancel our main fund raiser the 2020 Beer Festival which would have been the 10th year of running the Festival.

It was a great shame as the event promised to be our most successful to date.

We do continue to thrive as a section due to hard work of the few!

Hopefully, the grants we have been successful in obtaining will enable us not only to survive these difficult times but also help develop and improve in all areas.

Hopefully, the dialogue we are having with the Junior Section will ultimately lead to an even stronger section.

Mark Warburton

Snr Football Chairman

Junior Football - 2020

Well what a strange season it was! Over the close season we grew the club with more new teams at the lower end of the age groups this is down to the continued hard work by all at 8by8 .

The section now has a full Exec committee removing a lot of work from myself which has been a massive help.

On the playing side of the section a great year was starting to unfold with teams in the running for league titles and cup final places secured. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the season was cut short and deemed null and void, so no honours gained.

The Exec committee didn't let this disrupt our plans so we started planning for the new season earlier than normal firstly by setting up a new online registration system to save a lot of time and hard work by all involved trying to register players for the new season, so far this has been a massive success.

Yet again over the summer we have grown in size yet again this can only be a promising sign and we must be doing something right.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the club for all the hard work over the last few months considering the pressures we have all been under in these difficult times.

Jason Lees

Jnr Football Chairman

POYNTON SPORTS CLUB. TENNIS SECTION - 2020

1. Introduction

The year has been dominated by Corona Virus. Every one of our Club activities and plans have been controlled by our necessary response to the Virus. So with no League tennis possible and no Summer Tournament this Report is considerably shorter than normal.

2. Membership

With the first full lockdown starting on 23rd March our build up to the start of the Season on 1st April was dealt a real body blow. However, I am delighted to say that our Members response to our plea for cash flow was generous. With no prospect of when any tennis at all would be possible, we still had a pleasing number of members paying in full by the end of March on the basis of a future discount at that time unknown.

At the end of May however renewals were still lagging well behind previous years. Gradually through the Summer as more play became possible, members did return. By the end of October we were gratified to see that our total membership was almost the same as at the end of the previous year. Although adult membership was down by about 10% , we had an increase in Intermediates, Juniors and Minis that brought the total up to last years. We have been pleased to welcome 12 new Adult members and over 20 new Juniors.

3. Finance

With the reduction in Adult members and the CV discount allowed, total membership income was down by about 10%. In addition, we had a dramatic fall in visitor fees and both Sponsorship and Fund-Raising income has been hit hard. Reduced spending will help but by the year end in March 2021 we are likely to have a significantly worse year than normal. Fortunately, we had savings in the bank and no borrowings so we can cope with that this year. For the Financial Year to End March 2020 the full results were given to the Club for Audit and are now incorporated into the Main Club Finance Report.

4. Match Reports

The Winter 2019/20 League had to be cut short at Mid-March, with two weeks of the League remaining. This scuppered our 2nd Teams chance of promotion having done well to be in a really good position when CV struck.

The entire Summer League season was cancelled both Senior and Junior. Likewise, the Club Summer Tournaments and Rosebowl competitions went the same way.

The Winter 2020/21 League started well but in Mid-October the second wave of CV caused problems because matches between Cheshire (Tier 2) and Manchester (Tier 3) Clubs were not allowed. A few matches in the LTA Winter League were played but at the End of October the 2nd Lockdown arrived, and this will, at best, postpone all November matches by one month. After that? Only time will tell. !!

5. Coaching

This year the coaching programme has continued to provide coaching for all standards of juniors and adults. We continue to provide tennis programs at Lower Park, Worth, Disley, Lostock Hall and Adlington Primary Schools. Earlier this year we also setup a link with St Pauls. We hope to develop this when restrictions allow us to do so. The schools program involves nearly 150 children attending either before or after school clubs on the school playgrounds every week. Currently we aren't able to go into any of the schools we have links with other than Lostock Hall, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The full programme consists of the following:

Adult coaching groups x 3
Adult cardio tennis x 1
Tiny tots x 2
8 and under x 5
9 and under x 4
10 and under x 4
Junior coaching sessions x 7
Club morning sessions x 2
Girls only coaching session x 3

The coaching program at the club is attended by nearly 150 people throughout the week.

We continue to run LTA tournament and match play events throughout the year. At the start of the year we were given a record number of events to run by the LTA due to the quality of the events we previously held.

Over the last few months we have had another two of our members attend their level one qualifications, Kia Gerami and Tom Wright. We have another two attending currently, Brad Melville and Anna Jones.

Perhaps the biggest news with regards to coaching this year is the appointment of Tom Wright as the club's assistant coach. Tom has done fantastically well in his first few months at the club with great feedback from everyone.

6. Juniors

After last year's 10 league titles from a possible 13, it was always going to be a tough act to follow for our fantastic juniors. Unfortunately, due to covid they were never able to start their matches properly. We are currently in the middle of another lockdown so this year's winter league matches are again affected.

One thing we can celebrate is the number of junior teams we entered into this year's winter league, 16. We were able to enter an A and a B team into almost every age group which means pretty much all of our juniors can play team tennis if they wish to.

Special mention to the juniors who travel around the region to compete in local competitions. Notable performance coming from Joe Knightley who has played and won several tournaments over the last year. He won the grade 3 regional Liverpool Open for 8 and unders

7. Ground and Equipment

The Astro surface was professionally cleaned and re-sanded in October 2019 but sadly of course we have been unable to take full advantage of that.

A new pair of net posts and new net were purchased in August and are being held in storage for fitting at the beginning of April 2021.

A new Ball Machine has been ordered and at the time of this AGM delivery is promised by Mid December 2020.

In mid-March we took delivery of over 1000 new tennis balls as the stock for the entire year. These are un-used and remain in stock. In pressurised tins hopefully these will still be good for next year.

8. Social and Fundraising

The last Social event we were able to hold was the extremely successful Wine Tasting in January 2020. Since then nothing. Our Fee from Poynton Rotary for stewarding at the " Party in the Park " event did not take place , so no fee. Likewise our potential sales commission for tickets for "Manchester Music " at the Sports Club disappeared for the same reason. Our monthly Lottery Draw continued to provide useful funds for the Section.

9. Development.

Our own Tennis project which was a planned shelter at the side of Court 7 was designed and costed. Unfortunately, it did not go ahead. This was partly due to COVID-19, partly due to the usual "should we / shouldn't we "decision based on the Club move to Glastonbury. But also, sadly we just did not drive it through. I deeply regret that especially because as circumstances turned out it would have been very useful for the tennis school holiday camps. That would have saved Mike a lot of grief as his "Tented Village " blew down at least twice. Not doing our project was indeed a missed opportunity.

10. Summary

At the upcoming Tennis AGM I will be resigning as Chairman and from the Committee. I have been on the Committee for eighteen years in various roles including being Chairman or Joint Chairman for 8 years in three different spells. I feel it is time to hand over to a new generation who can take the Club forward with renewed energy. I have enjoyed my time on the Committee, made many friends and look forward to the new Tennis era at the Club with complete confidence.

Alastair Nicholson