



BROXBOURNE
SPORTS CLUB

AGM

Tuesday 26th September 2017

Officer and Section Reports

AGM 2017: Report from Club Secretary

Sports Club Committee

The committee has continued to meet on a monthly basis throughout the year. As explained in the Chairman's report, it has been a period of significant change – with Gary Scanlon taking over from Mark Blake as Chair and also the resignation of Wendy Harrison as Sports Club Manager. We would like to thank Mark for his contribution as Chair and also Gary for the huge amount of work he has put into initially getting the Club running smoothly and now leading its future development.

We would also like to acknowledge the appointment of Phil Burrows as Club Treasurer. After so many years without someone in this role, Phil has worked incredibly hard with the support of Teresa to ensure that we can manage and report on our finances. This will continue to be important as we move forward with our development plans.

Multi-Section Workshops

Much of the focus of the committee over the past 18 months has been to find ways of improving collaborative working between the sections in order to develop the Sports Club for the benefit of everyone. With this aim, we ran 2 successful workshops for representatives of the main committee and the section committees:

- June 2016 – a workshop on business development where all sections presented and discussed ideas on how we can generate additional income from our facilities
- January 2017 – the workshop focussed on membership. Each section presented their strategy for retaining and recruiting members.

The feedback from both sessions was positive and we will look as how we can continue to share our ideas and challenges.

Membership

All sections of the Club are now using Clubspark to manage their membership database and renewals. In general, this has been a productive process and everyone has found the renewal process more straightforward 2nd time around. There have been fewer technical issues this year as everyone has become more familiar with using it, and Teresa and I continue to provide support to membership officers and members when they encounter problems. It is of great benefit for us to have been able to migrate to a relatively flexible online system completely free of charge to the Club (apart from a small commission on online payments). Clubspark is provided by the LTA, and we are now looking at implementing the court booking module for tennis.

We continue to look for ways of rationalising our memberships and for juniors to use the membership structure to encourage children to try all the sports we have on offer, and hopefully play at the club all year round. We now have 16 Sports Club Junior members and this year introduced the Junior Racket Sports membership. This aims to differentiate us from other local tennis and squash clubs – hopefully to the long-term benefit of both sections. We would like to encourage all sections to maximise the opportunities to provide the chance for junior members to try their sports.

Thank you to Teresa and the section membership officers for all your efforts in managing our database and subscription payments – a crucial function for the Sports Club.

Sarah Elliott, Club Secretary

AGM 2017: Report from Ground Chair

As always, an enormous thank you to the ground staff, Dave Gadsden, Ray Watkins and our newly appoint assistant groundsman, Jamie Fitzpatrick.

Also, thanks to the Ground Committee who regularly turn up every month and contribute to the efficient running of the external playing surfaces.

The major emphasis this last year has been the implementation of the refurbishment of the Tennis Courts. This was managed by the ground staff, delivering an excellent project and saving considerable costs.

The Committee continues to strive to improve the playing surfaces.

The Club retains excellent playing facilities and now, with two full-time groundsman, are able to maintain these in excellent condition.

There are requirements for replacing aging plant and equipment before failure affects the ground operations. These are being budgeted for replacement.

The purchase of a junior bowling machine has helped the skill-set of the young Colts, who are the future of the Club.

International cricketers used the ground for the Lashings game, and they were extremely impressed with how good the ground is, which is again a credit to our ground staff.

We are targeting further improvements over the coming year, including electricity to the third team hut.

Again, another really successful year all thanks to our great ground staff and Committee delivering all the works within budget.

Ian Bailey
Ground Chair

AGM 2017: Report from House Chair

The main things done this year has been the vent pipe for the drain where the discharge pipe from the tennis pavilion goes into. Two manholes have had their covers changed to screw down types to prevent the smells from entering the building, (we have since found out that the discharge pipe was fitted to the wrong drain and this has now been rectified). Since being done we seem to have cured the smell problem.

We have had trouble with the boilers but I am pleased to say that they have all been repaired for a lot less than we thought, as first of all we were looking at having to replace them.

I would also like to thank Sheila Blake for the splendid job she has done on the changing rooms, I am sure you will agree they are much improved.

As the finance situation improves there are a number of items that need to be addressed ASAP namely, the front doors to the club need replacing, the men's toilets are in need of refurbishment, and the club office is in need of modernisation as this is the first place of contact with anybody entering the club and does not give a good impression.

There are numerous jobs that are carried out around the club that, where possible, Dave and I carry out, changing light fittings, door handles and anything that can avoid having to call in contractors and keep costs down which is why we get upset when we see some of the wanton vandalism that occurs occasionally, please if you see anybody doing anything they shouldn't tell them to stop.

As I say every year the upkeep of the building is an ongoing problem with the absence of a large sum of money things have to be done as and when the money is available and obviously health and safety issues must take precedence, this being said we still manage to keep the building in a reasonable state.

Ray Watkins

House Chair

AGM 2017: Report from Cricket Section

To say it has been a mixed season for the cricket section would be a significant understatement. Once again we have lost a number of senior players and despite our best endeavours to recruit new members and bring on our juniors into senior cricket availability has been a problem throughout the season. As a result we often had to cancel our third eleven fixtures, the second team finished bottom of their league and were relegated and Sunday cricket remains an issue. It is imperative that we recruit more senior players for 2018 and ensure we retain our existing members and continue to bring on our promising juniors. We are already working on plans to achieve this as it is imperative we retain as a minimum 3 Saturday sides.

Now for the positives. Our junior section remains very strong with over 120 members aged 6 to 15. We continue to run several sides in the Hertfordshire junior leagues and 3 of them qualified for the knock out stages of the County age group cups. Several junior members made significant contributions in our adult sides this year and the challenge is to ensure that they continue to improve and that we bring on more of our youngsters into senior cricket. Thanks as ever to our junior co-ordinator Paul Sargent and all the coaches and team managers who give up their time for free.

The Lashings weekend was a great success. The Friday in particular was another fantastic day which was enjoyed by all those who attended. Thanks in particular to Gary Scanlon and his team of helpers and to Jill Mashall and all the bar staff who worked so hard over the weekend. Lashings love coming to Broxbourne not least because we have a fantastic ground and facilities. We sometimes forget how lucky we are and it would not happen without the hard work and dedication of Dave Gadsden and the ground staff.

The annual race night was also an enjoyable and financially successful evening. It was great to hold it this year in conjunction with the hockey section. We need to have more inter section events at the club.

Finally the season finished on a great high when our excellent young first team won the County Readers Trophy for the first time. With 9 of the team coming through from our junior ranks they have performed very well all season and in the final beat Knebworth Park on their own ground by 4 wickets chasing down their target of 230 in 36 overs. George Davies scored a magnificent 100 and the man of the match award. Something to build on for 2018.

On 29 September we are holding our annual dinner at the club. Following the dinner there will be a disco in the main bar. Tickets for the dinner are £30. All members are welcome and if you would like tickets please let me know. Even if you don't come to the dinner join us in the bar afterwards for the music.

Richard Grove

Chair Broxbourne Cricket Club

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The winning first team with the Readers Trophy



Man of the match George Davies

AGM 2017: Report from Hockey Section

The 2016-2017 season was very successful for the hockey section as a whole. The Ladies section had gone through a period of consolidation, and while no promotions had been achieved, the Ladies worked hard on maintaining league position with new players joining the section in preparation for the up and coming season. Following the conclusion of the 2015-2016 season, several players in the Ladies section departed the club to find new challenges and it is very pleasing that a number of those players have returned to further strengthen our Ladies teams. We hope that we can report that the Ladies 1's will be back in the premier league this time next year.

With regards to the Men's section, it was another substantial step in the right direction. The Men's 1's have now achieved back to back promotions, and the Men's 2's and Men's 4's also gained promotion. The Men's section, like the Ladies, was bolstered by new players coming to the club and the Men's section is almost at capacity with regards to membership and should numbers be maintained, discussions will take place throughout the year to investigate opportunities in adding a 6th team. It is very pleasing to know that Broxbourne is an attractive place to play hockey especially for new players coming to the area.

Whilst 2016-2017 was a successful season, the section is facing multiple challenges that are being addressed by the Committee. At the time of writing this report we are finding it very difficult to find senior and junior coaches. It is the latter that is the most disturbing. Our junior section is integral to the future success of our section, and without the help of parents and junior coaches I fear that our junior section will suffer. I can guarantee all effort is being directed into ensuring our junior section will continue to thrive but with recent requests for help to the section not achieving a response we hoped for, this is going to be very challenging indeed. We hope we can announce developments in the near future on the coaching front!

Another challenge we face is members conducting umpiring duties. We continue to promote umpiring courses to our members to encourage members to take up the umpiring mantle. At this point I would like to thank the superb commitment shown by our current umpiring pool and we hope that those umpires continue to represent the club as professionally as they currently do.

From a financial perspective we feel confident that our financial position remains strong and hope we can consolidate, if not strengthen, that position in the short-medium term especially if our structure is bolstered through the recruitment of coaches throughout the section.

We hosted this summer a tournament which included Broxbourne, England Mixed and the RAF. The tournament was well received by all visiting players and requests have been made for us to make the event annual. Players completed their games and then joined the race night held by the Cricket section and I would like to thank Richard Grove and the cricketers for welcoming in our guests. Further thanks must go to Pip Evans who was a great help in making the event a success, despite the torrential rain!

I would also like to thank Hayden Adam and Mark Pannell in particular for their efforts. To run a successful amateur sports club it is vital that people volunteer their time and effort and I can honestly say without Hayden and Mark we would not be in the position we are today. My personal thanks are extended to Andy Bourke who continues to ensure our membership have games and leagues to participate in.

Adam Kitching, Chair Broxbourne Hockey Club

AGM 2017: Report from Squash Section

The squash section had a tricky start to last year with the increase of membership fees highlighting several discussions with regular members, although, once explained the reasoning behind the increase the memberships were stabilised. The court fees were left at the £5.00 per game and members agreed that this was sensible in lieu of the membership increase.

All courts (1-5) played well during the beginning of the season with no real maintenance issues and 5 teams were entered into the leagues. Our 5th team being the new addition was captained by Colin Hunt, a relatively new member of 3 years and despite difficult results, the team spirit was enlightening on most Thursday match days, however, completing the season at the bottom of Division 4. Our 1st team couldn't reach the heights of the year before's championship win but were pipped into 2nd place by Nuffield 1's. Our 2nd & 3rd teams eagerly awaited each other in Div 2 as both teams decided to play in this division. It was Broxbourne 3rd's that out fought the 2nd team, finishing 3rd and 7th respectively. Our 4th team in Division 3 were heavily beaten into 7th position and relegation spot.

New hoodies and t-shirts were purchased for the team players ensuring our commitment to the teams continued. This kit will be used for the 2017/18 season also.

For the first time we introduced Karen's Kitchen services into the squash arena this year with 3 course meals provided for every home fixture at a price of £5 per head. At the beginning of the season the players were introduced to roast dinners and black forest gateau, with high praise for Karen. Despite this new addition the bar bills for the squash drinks raised a few eyebrows when exceeding the amount collected on subs. This was authorised in part by the Chairman, however, the format of how drinks for the travelling away teams are under investigation and new rules on this will be implemented for 2017/18.

With squash statistically struggling in the UK slightly, the increase in TV coverage last year on Eurosport and BT Sport has been encouraging and has increased the awareness of our game.

Racketball has grown significantly this year and many regular squash players have turned their hand to the bigger ball! With this increase in racketball players the courts have sustained their percentage usage during on peak times.

The Junior section was lifted by our resident coach Geoff Taylor's visits in the latter part of last year to local schools. Nazeing Primary was especially successful with Geoff taking several coaching sessions in school to promote squash and BSC. Many juniors attended Geoff's courses during the year and our Junior membership is on the rise at last.

Marketing of the squash section has seen the posters for competitions and Geoff's Coaching School improve and show consistency in the branding over the year.

Several competitions 'Club Champs', 'Racketball Champs' and 'Handicap' events have proved popular and we will be raising the bar in 2017/18 on these.

Courts 1-5 were re-painted and maintenance carried out in July of this year to continue the clubs commitment to it's playing surfaces and arenas.

As Chairman of the squash section it has been a pleasure to be part of such a great bunch of players and I hope the section continues to grow next year.

Mark Neville, Squash Section Chair

AGM 2017: Report from Tennis Section

Playing Surfaces

In a major development for the Club, 5 courts have been resurfaced this year. The two acrylic courts had proper drainage installed and the surfaced replaced, and three of the tarmac courts had AstroTurf type surfaces (Tiger Turf) added. The work was financed by club reserves and a loan from the LTA (Lawn Tennis Association).

Both new surfaces are playing well and club members are enjoying the experience of playing on them.

Membership

There has been an emphasis on attracting new members to our new facilities and we have added 50 or so members since last year. Further promotions will follow throughout next year.

Coaching

We are fortunate in having the support of Herts in Tennis who have helped in spreading the tennis message and involving the next generation in our sport, as well as organising our Club tournaments.

Team Tennis

Adult

Broxbourne 1st Team Men's Division 2A and Ladies Division 2B Summer League Teams are in with a good chance of promotion into Division 1 next year which is the top two divisions within the County. Ladies and Men's 2nds have also been competitive in their leagues. Broxbourne Tennis Club also has 6 teams in Hot Rackets and 2 in the Datchworth League which has seen the 1st Team this year promoted into Division 2 for next summer.

Junior

There are regularly competing juniors within the tennis section ranging from 6 years to 18 years old, with the aim for these older players to be representing the club in adult tennis in the near future.

The tennis section would like to thank Nick Emery (Tennis Chair) and the Broxbourne Sports Club Ground Committee for their time and energy in bringing the new surfaces to the Club.

There is however lots more to achieve within the Tennis Section over the next 2 years which will keep the Tennis Committee and Members busy.

Jane Evans

Secretary, Broxbourne Tennis Club