



CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT, APRIL 2018

Summary

Another good year in the continuing evolution of Hillhead Sports Club as a strong and sustainable Community sports facility.

This year saw the long overdue replacement of the Tennis Courts, upgrading of the Bar, investment in our membership system and processes, and the commencement of a sinking fund to help to further secure the future of our activities here at Hughenden.

Financially another good year, with turnover increasing slightly on last year and EBITDA once again at £38k to match last year's performance.

The voluntary Board of Directors continue to deliver to the best of their ability and availability, but are becoming lesser in number and availability, placing increased pressures on the remaining team to either take on more or outsource where possible. This will be a major challenge for the Board in the coming year and they will be seeking assistance which, as a member run Club, we should all be prepared to offer in whatever form.

2017 Activities

The major activity undertaken in 2017 was the replacement of all 6 tennis courts with the new "red" surface. This project had a lengthy planning phase, taking over 2 years from gaining initial Board approval in 2015, to finally securing the LTA loan and funding and appointing a contractor in Spring 2017 to start the works. The rear tennis courts had not been replaced for over 20 years and were in desperate need of replacement, the front courts had a new carpet installed by the Clubhouse Builders in 2011, but it was fitted badly over a damaged macadam base, and so was never fully level and suffered badly from poor drainage as a result of the damaged and compacted base.

The newly installed surface is a new type of playing surface which has some properties akin to European Clay tennis courts, but with drainage and foul weather playing characteristics ideal for the West of Scotland. It is also approved by Worldwide governing bodies for County level and above competition (unlike the old style artificial grass) which will allow us to host some County and National Competition this year, as well as assisting the LTA with hosting of performance academies for promising youngsters. In return for this, Tennis Scotland assisted us with funding to cover the additional cost of this surface over traditional carpet, which was gratefully received.

The old "Sports Bar" underwent a redesign and refurbishment in 2017 to give it a new feel and to make it more attractive to existing members and users and to the new Clientele the Café are hoping to attract to it. The vision is to create a new ambiance which, along with a new program of events and activities, will attract in a new Client from the West End and beyond and hopefully turn the "Yill Hoose" into a vibrant West End destination. This is still gathering momentum but a range of new activities are starting to bring a host of other new users to Hughenden.

Management of our growing Membership revenue stream has become one of the biggest challenges facing the Board in recent years, with around one thousand members paying subscriptions and about 20-30 joining and leaving each calendar month. The Board therefore took the decision to outsource the majority of this to a specialist provider called Legend Financial Services, using their proprietary

“Brightlime” membership software. This commenced in November and all Direct Debit collections and pursual of non-payers is now completed by them. Thanks to some additional in-house assistance and expertise, our annual renewals are also in significantly better shape now, and with self-renewal now possible through Brightlime, this should be much easier to maintain going forward now.

2017 was the first full year for our new Grounds Maintenance team, CG Grounds and Gardens, who performed admirably in their first seasons at Hughenden, despite it being a very wet and challenging year. A new “360 degree” feedback process has been started with them to allow all grounds users to make feedback and suggestion on their schedule of works where appropriate and facilitate open discussion around scheduling and utilisation by all users.

We continue to grow the numerous other users of the Clubhouse as part of being a Community (Sports) Hub, with baby groups, dance classes, martial arts, Community Groups, and Neighbourhood Watch being among the regular users as well as our own growing range of fitness and wellbeing classes under the new Gym Manager appointed last year.

Having been cash positive for a few years now, the Board were keen to establish a ring-fenced “sinking fund” which would be contributed to Monthly and would be used at the discretion of the Board for major investments or should urgent expenditure be required. This was also a condition of the LTA loan funding for the Tennis Courts to ensure funds would be available for court replacement in 10 years.

Sporting Roundup

Our Ladies Rugby teams continue to bring fantastic success both on the pitch and in playing numbers, and have this year secured the Premier League title and are once again finalists in the Sarah Beany Cup. {Being played at Murrayfield on Sat 28th April if you are free to go along and support them!}.

Hillhead Cricket Club finished a creditable 3rd in Division 2 last season and so will safely remain there this season, despite there being some restructuring of the leagues.

Men’s Rugby are looking like remaining in Division 3 for next season, and have shown some great promise and “Hills” spirit both on and off the pitch, and so I am confident will rise again in the not too distant future.

Our Tennis Club provided a creditable performance last year, with 20 adult teams playing in a variety of leagues - 6 of them gaining promotion and no teams being relegated. An outstanding performance from players at all levels which is sure to make for a challenging season ahead.

We continue our affiliations with Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club and Glasgow Ultimate Frisbee Club and are delighted to hear they are both thriving and keen to continue doing so at Hillhead. I would take this opportunity to offer our congratulations to Glasgow Ultimate for qualifying for the World Championships in July and wish them the best of luck when they travel to Cincinnati.

Going forward

The Board are keen to continue investment in facilities and activities across the Club in 2018:

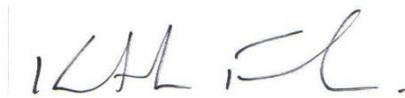
- Installation of Practice Nets for our Cricketers through fundraising, grant funding and support from the Sports Club. This was hoped to be completed last year but was slowed by funding challenges, however it is hoped this important project will be completed this year
- The initiative to replace the training pitch floodlights has been slowed by difficulty in finding appropriate quotations and contractors to deliver the installation, however the Board and others are working to resolve this, hopefully before Autumn
- The Board are currently tendering for a maintenance contractor to maintain the Clubhouse and hope to appoint a new Contract in the coming months
- The Gym has now been in place for over 6 years and the equipment is starting to show signs of wear for such an age. We have therefore started preliminary discussions with the equipment provider to initiate a phased, rolling replacement program over the coming months and years.
- As one of the region’s largest “Community Sports Hubs” in partnership with Glasgow Life, we are continuing to develop our community relationships and grow our activity in this important area. We have appointed Shona Ross as our Community Ambassador and she is working closely with our member and affiliate Clubs, local Schools and Community Groups and

Glasgow Life to develop a range of activities which will take Sport to the community and bring new converts to Hillhead. As part of this we are hosting a Community Sports Event for all ages and levels on the 20th May (poster below) which we would love to see everyone at.

Having acted as Chair of the Board for 6 years, it is now time for me to allow others to bring their thoughts, ideas and leadership to Hillhead, however I am sure we have a structure in place now which will facilitate continued growth and development under the new leadership. It is important at this time to reflect on the mission with which Hillhead was established – to provide facilities to permit sport and recreation in memory of the pupils of Hillhead High School who gave their lives during the First World War. Today our mission remains the same – to provide an inclusive, welcoming, flexible environment to enable members of the local community and beyond to participate in a range of sport and leisure activities, and to feel that Hillhead is somewhere they can become a part of.

My vision 6 years ago (when the Club was still recovering from the redevelopment) was to create an environment to bring as many new people “through the gate” into Hughenden as possible and to deliver a range of activities to make them want to return. I am confident this approach has made Hillhead an even more desirable place for us to spend our spare time, and am confident that the Board will maintain this vision to deliver our mission in months, years and decades to come.

I would like to thank the many Board members who have been part of the team with whom I have enjoyed working over the past years, and thank all others who give their time and expertise to help make Hillhead what it is today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Fowler', with a small flourish at the end.

Keith Fowler
Chair
18th April 2018



Hillhead Sports Club

COMMUNITY EVENT
20th May 2018, 12.30-3pm



CRICKET • RUGBY • SHINTY • TENNIS
ULTIMATE FRISBEE • FITNESS • GAMES
MULTI-FUNCTIONAL GYM • DANCE • TUG OF WAR
RHYTHM TIME (BABIES & KIDS) • TODDLER DASH • FACE PAINTING

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