

Chairman's report for 2016 AGM

We have maintained membership numbers this year for both tennis and croquet, but we all realise that it is important to continue to try and raise the profile of the club both locally and more widely, so that we can feel confident of our future viability. Young people in particular have so many other interests and activities these days that we need to provide opportunities for sport, perceived by them to be innovative and attractive. Much effort is put in by the coaching teams to achieve this aim.

One project this year which took many hours of preparation was our application to Sport England for a grant towards the cost of improving and extending the Clubhouse to make it more suitable for our current membership, and also to increase its use by the local community. Competition was intense and we were not too surprised to hear in September that we had not been successful, but as this tranche of funding is coming to an end it was felt that it was worth having one last attempt.

Accordingly the application was further modified and enhanced and then submitted in January for a decision in April. We realise our chances of success are slim but feel that we have learnt a lot from this process which has demonstrated a lot of our strengths, a few of our weaknesses and shown many ways in which we can take the club forward. If our bid is unsuccessful we will continue to follow our development plans and achieve what we can, within our own more limited budget.

Other reports will have told you of the many tournaments, club visits and fundraising events that have been held, including several well attended BBQ's and fun croquet sessions. Pilates continues to be popular despite limited space and the Chess Club meets regularly on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Our overall aim is to maintain a popular, successful, inclusive club and we will continue to try and achieve this by looking for new ways forward in 2016 and years to come.