

## **DEVELOPMENT REPORT - 2016**

This time last year we were working on the Sport England Inspired Facilities Fund application in connection with the proposed extension to the Clubhouse. This business also took up much of the Annual General Meeting and these and the plans were approved by those attending.

At the time of writing my report last year, the expected cost was in the region of £64,000. Through the response of the membership, additional items were made, including bi-fold doors which required more steel construction to support them. Also included was a tennis chalet and the final application was in the region of £84,000. Although it cannot be stated that the extra cost was the reason for the rejection, it was pointed out to us that Sport England received 490 applications for funding of £30 million against an available Lottery budget of £7 million. Obviously our timing was unlucky.

Not deterred, the Committee took up the points that had been made in the rejection letter which included additional information for the need of the project, the impact on our sports and our involvement with the community. A revised application has been submitted with some 64 files in support and we await the outcome of the Funding Committee's decision in April.

I did point out last year that, if an anticipated grant funding of £50,000 was not available then we would NOT proceed with the Clubhouse extension in its proposed form. Of course, consideration has been given to modifications to the basic scheme, but nevertheless, without any grant funding at all, it would be very difficult to proceed on this, or anything else at the moment. We now have some unexpected expenditure in rejuvenating tennis courts 1, 2 and 3 at a cost of nearly £12,000 one year ahead of when the work was anticipated. This is due to the three very wet winter periods we have sustained and the sand filling has deteriorated. To the extent that this is not being met from our annual budget and is being expended in advance out of the sinking fund there is something of a worry of under funding in the future when it comes to resurfacing the tennis courts. This does make the Committee wary of additional expenditure on items such as the Clubhouse, the car park fence and conversion of grass tennis courts to hard courts, without carrying out some significant fundraising or, at the very least, raising subscriptions.

Subscriptions will not rise significantly this year, but a working party will be looking at the finances in detail. Additional funds are needed, and it would be dangerous to start cutting income at the present time, or in the next year or so.

My sincere thanks to those who have carried on with the Development Committee's actions and in particular completing the grant applications, while I was ill.

Richard Harris