

## **Management Committee Report March 2021**

A challenging time for all sports clubs!

In order to inform members quickly of any new guidelines or rulings issued by the Government, the LTA or the Croquet Association we formed a COVID-19 committee. The aim was to produce working policies and risk assessments and communicate those to the members within 24 hours. They worked hard to produce documents that were relevant, informative and written with the safety and interests of all our members in mind.

A priority for the Management Committee this year was to enable members to play their sport in as safe and secure an environment as possible. We had been discussing the advantages and disadvantages of introducing the clubspark booking system for several years. The decision to proceed was made obvious when the requirement to closely monitor attendance was introduced. The two-hour slots seemed to work for us, enabling all members to have sufficient time on court and leave before the next session was due to start – a requirement set by our governing bodies. Comments received so far have been favourable and would support maintaining the facility, perhaps with some modifications when formally reviewed.

Another priority was to ensure the club remained solvent! We applied for and were supported by government and council grants, but thanks must go to the generosity of those members who decided to pay the full subscription despite the restrictions in playing time. Although plans for converting tennis courts 7 and 8 are now on hold, due to your generosity and efforts we were still able to tackle and complete an impressive list of projects including the resurfacing of tennis courts 1, 2 and 3, improving and renewing the perimeter lighting and planting the new Cotoneaster Franchetti hedge. Our small band of enthusiastic volunteers has now embarked on the essential project of replacing and re-siting the large machinery shed. For a full and impressive list of projects completed please see appendix 1. A huge thank you to all who helped in any way.

The club unfortunately received several unwanted visits from local youths! We would like to thank those members who responded immediately after each break in and helped to improve the security of the club. Shed doors and areas of fencing were reinforced; extra locks and alarms added; areas of fencing heightened and anti-vandal paint smeared on the top of wooden fencing; the CCTV was upgraded to include a sensor linked to a monitoring device; reports had been sent to the police after each event and they were able to attend on two occasions and detained two culprits with the aid of a police dog. Members have also stayed on site in an attempt to dissuade the youths who, having entered the club, both damaged and stole coaching equipment. We are in discussion with Ryde Academy with a view to extending the new exterior fencing along the footpath on the Western boundary between the school's sixth form block and our grounds.

Have a look at the comparative membership figures for the last two years in appendix 2. Thank you very much to our loyal members and those who have joined for the first time. You will note that our numbers have stayed relatively and surprisingly steady.

The club is reliant on its members and those of you willing to volunteer and give up your precious time to undertake some of the many tasks that present themselves. It is due to these volunteers that we are able to enjoy our fantastic facilities whilst keeping our subscriptions to a minimum.

You will have seen from the accounts the amount of money required to maintain and run our fine club. We feel it is important to keep our subscriptions at a level that we hope is accessible to anyone wishing to join. In order to maintain these rates, we are looking for volunteers from those of you willing to help on an occasional basis to those who might wish to offer their expertise or advice on any of our committees. Please feel free to contact any committee member should you be willing to offer your support in any way, or if you require any further information. Maintaining and increasing our membership is crucial. Statistically, at least 50% of new members are introduced and welcomed by existing members. The best publicity for any club is its members. Could I ask you to work particularly hard this year at introducing at least one new member to the club? In that way you will be playing a significant part in maintaining the financial stability of the club and securing our future for another year.

We apologise for subjecting you to yet another “poetic masterpiece” from our chairman! It is, however, the last of the season (thankfully) and very short!

Management Committee March 2021

***A few things you could do to really help - volunteer and please promptly pay your subs. We really would like to remain one of the best of Island clubs.***

***Maybe introduce a friend and explain what our marvellous club offers. That would certainly please our treasurer, if it helps to swell the coffers.***

***But let's hope we all stay fit and well and that we're blessed with sunny weather. For once the lockdown has been lifted, we'll be back on court and socialising – together!***

## **\*Appendix 1.**

List of projects completed last year:

- courts 1, 2 and 3 have been resurfaced, new tiger turf laid and new net posts and nets provided;
- the kitchen roof renewed;
- the perimeter grass by the path removed, the earth dug and a new Cotoneaster Franchetti hedge planted;
- new fencing erected along Playstreet Lane;
- the inside of the clubhouse painted and the oak bar treated
- the outside of the clubhouse washed down
- green benches restored and painted
- the carpark swept
- paths weeded and reset
- new cladding on the disabled toilet
- pipes behind the clubhouse lagged
- sheds cleared and unwanted rubbish collected ready for disposal
- protective corner mouldings and dado rail have been put up in the clubhouse
- new perimeter lighting and security lights installed
- the croquet summer house received a makeover and was dedicated to John Sim
- club members raised a significant amount of money and purchased a bench that will be in use next year as a fitting tribute to the amazing voluntary contribution made by John
- the marquees were erected and proved a useful addition whilst the club house and clockhouse were out of action
- the clock house was weather proofed
- the honours boards can now be found on the website
- a weather station has been erected on the clock house and up to date weather information can now be located on club website
- the small coaching shed has been moved behind the clockhouse and will be useful storage
- the Eastern side has been cleared of years of accumulated rubbish and will site the new machinery shed, a slightly larger coaching shed, a bay for lawn sand and two large bays for compost
- ditches are being cleared and drainage improved to aid the escape of excess rainwater
- an area behind court 1 has been identified as a wildlife area

## Appendix 2.

Comparative membership numbers for the previous two years:

Category	9.1.20	7.1.21
Adult	220	234
Adult NR	21	33
Family	25	21
	(12)	(12)
	(13)	(9)
Family NR	9	13
	(4)	(6)
	(5)	(7)
Hon	2	2
Jun Plus	7	6
Jun U12	24	14
Jun U18	12	7
Jun U18 NR	0	2
Match	3	2
Social	9	6
Student	1	2
Student NR	6	5
Young Adult	10	5
Y Ad NR	4	6
Croquet	84	62
Tennis	283	289
Total	388	359
Adults	327	314
Juniors	61	45