**QUEENSGATE SPORTS CLUB – ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

Secretary’s Report

We had 3 meetings during 2022.

Actions from the AGM 2021:

* Snooker membership has been promoted to the tennis section and on the I Love Bramhall page of Facebook.
* Clubhouse hire has also been promoted on I Love Bramhall page of Facebook
* Committee discussed the proposal of circulating sectional reports to all QSC members rather than holding an AGM as recent turnouts had been low. Government guidelines around CASC status were considered and it was agreed that a set of detailed reports from each section, emailed to all members for comments and approval, would suffice. This document henceforth provides that report.
* Hiring rates went back to pre-Covid times of £15 ph in January

Mutually agreed improvements during the year to the fabric of the building and surrounds:

* PVC Emergency exit door installed in Main Hall
* Bar Chiller installed in bar
* New till installed in bar
* Replacement for broken bar grille will be installed shortly
* £2000 was donated to the Bowls section out of the Stockport Borough Council Covid grants towards their patio/drainage area
* Two large window panes in the Bowls conservatory will be replaced before March 2023
* Water tank to be relocated to between the two sheds at the back of the clubhouse. Cost will be split 50:50 between the Tennis section and QSC for the plumbing element of the job. Volunteers will be sought to dig a trench for the pipework and to dismantle the Tennis shed to enable the tank to be re-sited.

Due to utility costs doubling, we have increased the hiring rates to £17 ph from September.

A quote for a car charging facility at the club was discussed and dismissed as it was not cost effective.

A quote to replace the windows in the Main Hall with white UPVC was expensive at £3.2K. It was agreed that whilst the wooden ones do need replacing, it was not urgent and we should get some other quotes.

We agreed to fix our renewal contract with Scottish Power for 3 years until 31st August 2025 as this was the cheapest rate and nobody can foresee prices coming down in the near future.

During Covid we increased the number of days the clubhouse was cleaned from 2 (Mondays/Fridays) to 3 (Mon/Wed/Fri). It was agreed to go back to the two days although the cleaner (Jimmy) has requested an additional hour is required in order to do a satisfactory job.

It was agreed at the BQSC meeting that each section should update their constitution to state that all members, by definition, automatically become members of QSC and BQSC.

We are again looking for a volunteer to take over as Treasurer of QSC. If you would be interested in helping in this regard, please speak to one of the sectional reps. Many thanks to Monia Vacca from the Tennis Section for doing a sterling job during the 2021/22 season for us.

The I Love Bramhall Facebook page has closed down but our combined Facebook page, Bramhall Queensgate Tennis & Bowls Club, still exists and we hope to attract new members through that as the new season begins next year. There is a new monthly publication called The Bramhall Post, which is in newspaper format, and the club can write community focused articles to be published free of charge.

Treasurer’s Report

Income from lettings has been booming, reaching over £11K this year. Electricity bill: this has gone from £1515 to £4265, a massive increase.

Hirings & Bar Update

For the last financial year there have been regular bookings of £9,383 and party bookings of £2,430, giving a total of £11,813. Baby Ballet have dropped a couple of hours in their weekly program but a new one hour Pilates session on Monday and Wednesday evenings compensates, so the expectation is that regular bookings in 2022/23 may generate approx. £10,600. Party bookings are recovering well and are already over £1,000 for the first 3 months of the New Year, so we should exceed £3,000 for the year. We have three potentially high revenue parties booked in the next month.

The revenue from Hires and Parties now covers the running costs of the main Queensgate clubhouse (electricity / cleaning / insurances / general maintenance, etc) thereby allowing more investment in the sports facilities. In order to maintain this we need to build a small team of willing helpers who can assist with the Parties. Many of the latter are Children's Parties normally scheduled for weekend afternoons, but increasingly we are being asked to host events for older groups, requiring access to Bar facilities.

In summary, members of the group/team can occasionally be requested to:

* Meet with prospective hirers to show the facilities available
* Be a named contact for a specific party and open/close the facilities at agreed times plus provide assistance with arranging tables/chairs, etc when appropriate.
* Provide occasional assistance as Bar Staff, which will require familiarity with the Bar Till and card payment systems plus a working knowledge of where the stock is located.

If interested in participating in this group/team then please provide contact details and likely availability in 2023. Familiarisation and training can be provided if required. If you require further information please call Mike Sarginson (Bowls) on 0771 253 1449.

**SECTIONS REPORTS**

Bowls Report: This year has been quite an eventful one in the life of our club. We have been able to bowl almost as if Covid 19 had never been heard of, with full use of the green throughout, a full league programme, coaching, U3A and schools’ visits from Queensgate Primary and Pownall Green Schools. Right at the start of the season, we had two open events, when coaches were on hand, supplemented by other members, to initiate people into the technique of bowling, the bias on the bowls, and the one that catches people out, the vagaries of the green, with the hump in the middle and bowls doing unexpected things. These events, and other publicity, brought in 17 new members, including those who have come in through U3A.

At the end of the 2021 season, we embarked on the process for obtaining planning consent and tenders for our floodlights. There are comments in Gordon’s report, as acting Match Secretary, regarding the benefits of having the lights. One he didn’t mention was that in the shoulder months when lights are really needed, we can still have a meal at a reasonable time before leaving home. The planning process was a bit more involved than we had expected, with reports being required from experts on bat roosts and bird habitats. By the time we got consent in April, it was only a short wait before our grand switch on towards the end of May.

We have had the uneven paving in front of the clubhouse made good, so that movement around is less hazardous, and plans are afoot to put a balustrade along the edge of the terrace to prevent the possibility of accidents occurring as people continue to step down from the upper to the lower levels, despite the widening of the steps. As I visit other clubs for matches during the season, I am convinced that here at Queensgate we have facilities, both on and off the green, which are second to none. This has resulted in our being asked to host several cup games during the season, bringing in a small amount of money, but also showcasing our club.

As will be seen in the team captains’ reports, our teams have had a very respectable season, particularly the Men’s Vets, the Gents and the Mixed “D” all finishing 3rd in their divisions. We will be discussing later the issues confronting the teams next season. We rounded off the season with the Wooden Spoon, which the ladies won. It was all played in a spirit of fun. Yes, bowls can be played just for fun. It was followed by a super BBQ for which grateful thanks are due to Mike Sarginson, Bramhall’s own MasterChef.

I would like to thank my fellow members of our small committee who have all worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the club. None of us do this job for the kudos. I will thank several people as we go through the agenda, but I would like to mention two people who are unable to be with us tonight. Ann and Brian Heaps have been stalwarts of the club for many years. Brian was on the committee for what seems like forever, and was captain of the indoor bowling team and also the main organiser of the indoor social bowling. Ann used to grow the bedding plants for the wall garden, and both were the backbone of the small group who used to keep the gardens in such beautiful condition. Brian also oversaw the green maintenance, and ensured that the sprinklers were put on in the summer.

Snooker Report: Membership has stabilised at 26, with 2 resignations and 1 new member since the last AGM. As discussed at the last AGM, we have introduced the Regular Weekly Playing List and this has been welcomed by the members as being helpful when deciding when to play.

Tennis Report: We have had another outstanding year and have almost maintained our significant increase in membership from 20/21 and hence subscriptions have realised nearly £38k. Thanks must go to the committee and others who have worked tirelessly to ensure the club is a fun place to come and play tennis. Our financial year ending 30 September 2021 has generated a total surplus of £26,101. This excludes the deposit (£6,240) paid for the LED lighting and the £30k deposit to our savings account. This is very similar to last year’s surplus, both of which are very much larger than previous years. These large surpluses have allowed us to fit LEDs to all six courts over the last 2 years. The position reflects everyone’s hard work, increased membership and control of costs. Once again, we have had a bumper year of membership, with levels remaining close to last year’s unprecedented numbers and significantly higher than pre-Covid, despite ongoing cost of living pressures.

Summer North East Cheshire League team results were as follows:

* Men’s 1st (div 1) finished 4th and will remain in division 1
* Men’s 2nd (div 1) will be moving to division 2
* Men’s 3rd (div 4) finished 1st and will be moving to division 3
* Men’s 4th (div 6) finished 2nd and will be moving to division 5
* Ladies’ 1st (prem) will be moving into division 1
* Ladies’ 2nd (div 1) will be moving into division 2
* Ladies’ 3rd (div 3) will be moving to division 4
* Ladies’ 4th (div 7) will be moving into the South Manchester League

The club entered a team of 4 in the senior men’s doubles (over 50) Cheshire Shield event held at David Lloyd Warrington. After winning rounds against Alsager, Lymm and Neston we beat Bramhall Lane in the final with both matches finishing on championship tie breaks to win the event and a huge trophy!

The coaching programme for the year is going well so far, with over 500 pupils participating. The programme continues to offer all ages and abilities the chance to develop their tennis throughout the year in over 16 coaching groups. These coaching groups were supplemented by the 'Outreach Coaching Programme', which has taken place in five local schools. The sessions took place during curriculum time, lunchtime and after school. We hope to continue the school programme next year as it has been a great way of recruiting new juniors and family members. As for competitive junior tennis, we have entered 12 teams in the Winter and Summer leagues. It's most encouraging to know that an equal number of girls' and boys' teams entered this year, highlighting the increasing number of girls staying with the sport. Congratulations to the U’11 boys who won the Cheshire County title, beating Knutsford in the final. The U’18 girls also did a sterling job in finishing joint-top with Heaton Mersey.

The husband of one of our members has been organising a tennis session on a weekly basis for Ukrainian refugees who are currently living in the area. We were asked if we could provide courts free of charge on a regular basis and the committee agreed they could have the astroturf courts every Sunday morning between 9-10.30 am. Darren provides rackets and balls and Alan organises fun on court games for the very mixed age range of people who turn up every week.

Sectional Reps: The 2 nominated QSC representatives from each section as agreed at the respective AGMs for 2022/2023 are as follows:

Bowls - Mike Sarginson, Graham Porter

Snooker – Ray Phillips, Lawrence Hancock

Tennis – Sue Pettigrew (Secretary) /Bob Hall

Treasurer – TBC – (Monia Vacca will remain as QSC Treasurer until someone volunteers as her replacement)

In Memorandum: As it is customary at our AGM and on a sad note, we were very sorry to hear that we have lost the following member since December 2021:

Tennis – Peter Stafford – Life Member