**QUEENSGATE SPORTS CLUB – ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

**Secretary’s Report:**

We had 3 meetings during 2024 – March, August, October.

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

* Minor improvements to main hall kitchen – ongoing (low priority)
* Replace wall lights in main hall – ongoing (low priority)
* Re-mark white lines in car park– on hold
* Replace wooden windows in main hall – on hold
* Look into costs/grants for major upgrade to toilets/changing rooms - ongoing
* Upgrade to main electrics consumer unit - DONE
* Faulty solar inverter has been replaced – DONE
* Water ingress above corridor/ladies’ changing room junction wall to be addressed – ongoing
* 3 sealed glazing units in Bowls Conservatory have been replaced - DONE
* A new battery has been fitted in the defibrillator – DONE
* Revarnishing of main door to be completed when fully dry – ongoing
* Guttering connection leaks to be addressed - ongoing

It was agreed to stall the replacement of the wooden windows in the main hall for the time being as the other capital projects would be more beneficial to members and prospective hirers of the club.

Due to the excessive cost of burning off the old lines and re-marking, it was agreed we would just re-paint the current white lines in the car park but will stall this until funds are available.

We have had one quote for the upgrade to the toilets/changing rooms of £22K + VAT. Another option would be to engage a jobbing builder and a plumber and for members to get involved in dismantling and clearing the facilities and even the existing shower blocks. If we can find the right contractors plus undertake the demolition aspect ourselves, we might be able to get the overall cost down to the £10K region. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this type of work, please get in touch with Mike Sarginson 07712 531449. We are still looking into any grants that may be available to us. Alternatively, we may look to the sections to help with the costs.

Some redecoration is required to the clubhouse, in particular the tennis pavilion and parts of the main hall. If anyone would be willing to volunteer to paint some of the walls, please contact Mike Sarginson 07712 531449.

It is requested that all members ensure that they properly shut the chiller/fridge door in the bar area.

We were requested to complete a food hygiene form in March and were then visited on spec by two inspectors. We were given a Satisfactory Certificate of Compliance as a result.

It was agreed that QSC would follow the Bowls Section and become a fully No Smoking or Vaping area. Appropriate signs to this effect are now in situ and hirers of the club are advised at point of booking.

Our thanks go to Richard Cragg, President of Bramhall Queensgate Sports Club, for the wonderful hanging baskets he provided to us again this year which flowered for the majority of the summer!

We are continuing our support of The Post Community newspapers, which are now largely online. Any community related articles can be submitted free of charge and the cost of advertising the club through Facebook shout-outs are minimal.

**Treasurer’s Report (Accounts attached):**

It was a very positive year for party bookings and hirings as we made £18,298 compared to £13,126.50 the previous year. This was largely due to the significant rise in revenue from Baby Ballet to over £10K compared to just less than £7K last year.

Bar revenue was slightly down compared to last year. A horrible summer with lots of rain and bad weather may have had a negative impact on the bar takings.

The solar panel income went up to £2,126.90, mostly thanks to the latest credit we received from Scottish Power in September of £1,145.29.

The main expenditure this year was the upgrade to our main electric consumer unit (5,634.00), which has been done as a potential energy cost saving going forward. Our share of the overall Bramhall Queensgate Sports Club insurance also increased to £3,115.

We have fixed monthly expenses of:

-Scottish Power electricity £1,047.00 (although we are currently in credit of around £2,900). We are now able to submit readings and our recent direct debit has been reduced so we hope this will continue until our credit is used up.

-Water Plus £85.00

-Cleaning average of £350.00

-BT: around £150-170 (they had been charging us for two lines (£457) following the fibre installation in May but the old line has now been cancelled and our account credited accordingly)

-Refuse Collection £100.00

This is a total of £1,700+ outgoings each month, mainly due to high Scottish Power electricity costs. Our fixed rate remains until September 2025 when we will look for cheaper options.

**SECTIONS REPORTS**

**Bowls Report:**

All existing members of the Committee were re-elected for another 12-month term at the AGM in November as follows:
Chairman – John McGahan Secretary – Philip Clark
Treasurer – Graham Porter Membership Secretary – David Woodcock
Match Secretary – Gordon Kempster Competitions Secretary – Gill Buchanan

Committee Members – Elaine Hitchinson, Lindsay Bradley, Chris Wilson and
Richard Bennison were duly elected to serve on the committee.

Carol Mayall volunteered to assist with the organisation of social events and Myra Clark has agreed to continue her role as Safeguarding Officer.

The Treasurer presented the Income and Expenditure Account and explained that the apparent surplus for the year to 30th September was subject to some late costs for green maintenance work and that a surplus of around £1,000 was a truer reflection of the current state of affairs.

The Treasurer thanked Nat Heyes for acting as the Accounts Examiner. The accounts were duly accepted by the meeting, as was the re-appointment of the Accounts Examiner.

Our league teams have had rather mixed fortunes this year. The mixed A & B teams finished 5th and 7th in their respective divisions, the C team finished next to bottom in their division and the D team finished bottom of their division. The Wednesday Ladies team and the Gents team both finished in 4th place in their respective divisions’ whist the S&D Ladies team finished the season with a creditable 2nd place in their division. The Vets team unfortunately fared less well and finished bottom of their division after some tough fixtures.
All team captains were thanked for their much-appreciated efforts throughout the season.
The divisional structure for next season will not be known until after the league AGM in January.

Social bowling has continued on Tuesdays and Sundays throughout the year and has been very popular. Thanks were given to all who helped with the organisation.

Indoor social bowling has been very successful this year and will continue until the start of the outdoor season. Thanks to organisers David Woodcock and Lindsay Bradley.

Coaching has been available on Mondays during the playing season and will continue next season. Thanks were given to the coaches for their tremendous efforts.

Maintenance of the borders surrounding the green by member support has saved a considerable amount of money over the past couple of years and will hopefully continue. We plan to improve the facilities for shelter during inclement weather and to cut back the trees where they are interfering with the floodlights.

A huge vote of thanks was given to Mike Sarginson for everything he does for the club.

**Snooker Report:**

Membership of the club currently stands at 26. Tribute was paid to the recently deceased former Secretary, Rob Ridley, who it was recognised had achieved much more to improve the appearance and security of the snooker room and table than had been achieved in many years.

Expenditure last year was up to £1,769 due to a substantial refurbishment of the table organised by Rob Ridley. The Club accounts however remain very healthy with a closing balance slightly in excess of £31,000.

Phil Lahan will assist Dave Beaumont with the regular ironing and general maintenance of the table.

The regular weekly playing guide seems to be working well with 24 members listed occupying their preferred regular slots. This still leaves every morning in the week and two afternoons free for those who prefer to just turn up and play casually.

The Treasurer’s report (attached) was distributed to members prior to the meeting and was agreed by those present.

The following officers had been proposed and seconded on the noticeboard:

Chairman - Ray Phillips

Treasurer – John Watson

Secretary - A request was made at the AGM for someone to take on this role. Darren O’Donnell did contact the acting Secretary at the end of the meeting to say he was willing, and unless there are objections, he will commence this role at the beginning of 2025.

The nominations were all approved by the meeting.

The Chairman announced that two very long serving members of the Club who had, at various times, held positions on the Committee, would be the first recipients of a Lifetime Membership. The two very worthy recipients of this honour are Mike Portman and Barry Fisher.

**Tennis Report:**

The following officers had been proposed and seconded on the noticeboard and were approved at the AGM:

Volunteer Chairman – Gillian Miller

Volunteer Honorary Treasurer – TBC (Bob Hall will continue until replacement found)

Volunteer Honorary Secretary – Darren O’Donnell (on a temporary basis)

Volunteer Honorary Membership Secretary – Clare Hinton (member liaison)/Peiyao Shao (back office/database)

Volunteer Men’s Club Captain Sub-Group – Steve Frith/Martin Johnson/Dave Malcolm/Darren Wagstaff/Stuart Owens/Sam Atherton

Volunteer Ladies’ Club Captain Sub-Group – Fiona Stafford/Mandy Southern

Volunteer Junior Rep – Darren O’Donnell

Volunteer Grounds Rep – Martin Belshaw

Volunteer Social Rep – Rachael Geary

Volunteer Welfare Officer- Lis Bevan

Volunteer Social Media Rep – Charlotte Wheatley/Matt Wheatley

There has been no major expenditure during 2024, with most of the expenditure being usual running and maintenance costs. As a result, we have generated a surplus of £21.5k and also earnt £1.2k in interest on our savings. This position reflects everyone’s hard work, increased membership and control of costs.

We have engaged Euroclay to perform twice yearly servicing of all the courts and this has been our major expense.

As of 30 September, our total funds stood at £80,885 in our savings account and around £15,407 in our current account (Total cash £96,292). We have since paid for the autumn court servicing leaving us with around £12.5k in our current account with an estimated £9k costs to come up until we start receiving next year’s subscriptions. Overall, our finances are in a very healthy position. If we achieve one more year at a similar surplus level then we will have sufficient funds to replace either the Artificial Clay courts or the Astroturf courts with new surfaces and still have a healthy balance.

Our current membership count of 324 is a significant achievement, one of the highest we've seen in the last two decades, and this is in the face of growing competition from other sports. The membership is slightly down from 343 in 2024, but this brings us closer to the ideal balance, with a members-to-court ratio of approximately 50:1, and our subscription income is a long way past the financial "good health" benchmark of £30,000. (Membership income @35.5K) We have a balanced representation of both male and female members, juniors and seniors.

Summer North East Cheshire League team results were as follows:

* Men’s 1st will be moving down to Div 1
* Men’s 2nd will be moving down to Div 3
* Men’s 3rd will remain in Div 3
* Men’s 4th will remain in Div 5
* Ladies’ 1st will be moving down to Div 2
* Ladies’ 2nd will be moving down to Div 3
* Ladies’ 3rd will be moving down to Div 6

Summer South Manchester League team results were as follows:

* Men’s 5th will remain in Div 4
* Ladies’ 4th - it was decided to remove this team as there are not enough ladies currently to support it.

In the East Cheshire Winter Mixed League all 4 teams put in a credible performance and remained in their current leagues.

Thanks and appreciation were expressed to all club and team captains for their help with managing the teams within the leagues.

We had four junior teams competing in the National Club League and North East Cheshire League. Our Under-14 boys' team were division champs, even though they narrowly lost to Bramhall Park in the playoffs. Our Under-16s finished third behind Widnes.

Earlier this year, we launched Walking Tennis on Monday mornings. This is a community activity for members and non-members which has been a big hit. Eight regulars play weekly for just £3 a session! All profits from these sessions go back into advertising to attract more local players, and we're already seeing some new faces through our Facebook and email campaigns.

Social tennis continues to thrive at pace and we now run 2 social tennis sessions on Tuesday nights/Saturday afternoons and 1 additional session on Wednesday evenings for beginners and new members/improvers. This additional session is designed to help improve technique and confidence which will enable those players to eventually transition to the other social tennis sessions in due course. Thanks and appreciation were expressed to those members who run these social tennis sessions throughout the year.

We have taken part in a pilot ball recycling scheme and a decision will be made in the New Year as to whether we will continue with it.

Once again, the tennis section relies heavily on volunteers who give up their time to either be on the committee, be captains of teams, run social tennis sessions, etc etc and we are hugely grateful for all their hard work over the year. Mike Sarginson (Bowls) was also singled out, to whom we owe our many thanks for all he does for the club as a whole.

Thanks were expressed to Sue Pettigrew (Chair) and Bob Hall (Treasurer) for all their many years of service on the committee as they stand down this year.

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**Sectional Reps:**

The 2 nominated QSC representatives from each section as agreed at the respective AGMs for 2024/2025 are as follows:

Bowls - Mike Sarginson, Graham Porter

Snooker – Ray Phillips, Vacant

Tennis – Names to be confirmed after first meeting of new committee in January

Treasurer –Monia Vacca

**In Memorandum:**

As it is customary at the end of the year, and on a sad note, we were very sorry to hear that we have lost the following members since December 2023:

Mike Portman (Tennis/Snooker)

Rob Ridley (Snooker)