



Chairman's Report – AGM 27 March 2024

Introduction

I would remind you that The Management Committee (mainly we from now on) is made up entirely of elected volunteers. A group of people that have jobs and families etc. The common denominator is that all committee members care about our Club, the way it operates and its future. The current committee comprises fifteen people five whose main sport is squash; five whose main sport is cricket and five whose main sport is tennis. We meet regularly, debate issues to reach a consensus as to what course of action is in the best interest of our Club. we then support the democratic decisions made.

If anyone wants to help our Club and express views and wishes to be better heard then please speak with your sectional chair (Colin/Diane/Derek) and volunteer to join your sectional committee. You will then gain a greater understanding of how our Club runs and start to make the difference you think is necessary.

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

Our club's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 can be found on our website here: -

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ed26b426533665d5bd8442e/t/65e862ddf154a1245f762141/1709728479824/Walthamstow+CTSC+Limited+Accounts+31+March+2023.pdf>

The year ended 31 March 2023 was the first for three years to be unaffected by closures etc due to either covid19 or the clubhouse flood.

Expenditure to run our Club and comply with legislation rose and continues to do so. Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023 includes: -

£20,228 on fire safety works to comply with legal requirements.
£6,745 on facias soffits and guttering.
£6,115 on Boster pumps for the showers.
£12,917 (2022 - £5,329) on insurance – following the flood.
£17,884 (2022 - £9,653) on power.
£6,270 on Perspex doors for the squash courts.

We negotiated a payment of £20,000 from our insurers for loss of profits arising from closures because of clubhouse flood.

The headline figures in the accounts, on page 4, shows, that there was an overall deficit before depreciation, bank costs and grant income credits of £899 (2022 Surplus 2,309) and an overall deficit for the year of £16,088 (2022 £9,308) after depreciation, bank costs and grant income credits.

The other headline figure in the accounts, on page 5, shows that members funds had fallen to £385,937 (2022 £402,205). By contrast some 10 years ago our club was in financial difficulty with virtually no reserves.



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Treasurer

Don Brereton has now formally stepped down as treasurer effective today.

I wrote about his many achievements over his tenure in my report last year.

I thank him on behalf of us all.

Please raise a glass in appreciation.

I am pleased to report that Edwin Cadenheath has agreed to and been elected to take on the role. Edwin is a qualified Chartered Accountant with the knowledge for this position. I look forward to working with him.

Finances

Our Club continues to be in a solvent position with cash reserves. However, as set out in the summary of our accounts, there have been annual deficits in the 2022 and 2023 fiscal years which means our Club's reserves reduced.

It seems clear that the ongoing cost of looking after our ageing clubhouse and substantial grounds coupled with the rising cost of compliance with legislation is an ever-increasing drain on resources.

A variety of matters seem to be influencing and reducing bar income. Bar turnover is down in the current fiscal year. The Club Manager is currently working on a plan to present to the Management Committee to increase sales in the year ahead.

I believe we all want to improve all our facilities but the cost of running our Club means that a substantial part of the subscription we pay goes towards the general running of our club and not to a reserve for facility improvements. Our Club must try and increase its revenue sources. Any constructive thoughts on this are welcome.

It is therefore my opinion that, despite currently having a healthy bank balance, our club is not as financially healthy as some would think. The cash we have in reserve does not put our Club in a position to make substantial investments in facility repairs and improvements.

Constitution

The events leading up to our last AGM made it clear again that our Club ought to update its constitution.

The club's constitution was written over forty years ago. It is clearly based on a previous one written many years before that. If one looks closely at the constitution there is wording that relates to a bygone era. There are ambiguities. There are matters that ought to be covered in the world we now live in. Which are not.



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In the period since the last AGM, we have not formulated the proposed new constitution which we deem fit to present to the membership. It remains on the list of priorities for the future.

EGM

Thank you to all members who attended the EGM. An overwhelming majority of 46 to 9 in favour of the club **not** being required to audit the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 passed the motion.

Sporting activities

Membership is growing.

I am delighted to report that all our sporting sections are very active.

Participation in inter club team matches in all three sports for both sexes is at an all-time high.

Junior team participation is also increasing.

2023 saw more women and girls playing cricket. Female cricket was introduced for the first time in 2022.

Thank you to the many team captains who spend endless hours getting teams out for matches.

Tennis remains proud of its attendances at social and individual sessions. So much so that pressure on courts means that waiting times to play are often unacceptably long. The Tennis Committee believe it essential for our Club to have an additional “fourth” court.

The Tennis Committee have recently applied for planning permission and are actively seeking funding. If this is achieved, they will then go back to the Management Committee with a business plan and proposal.

The tennis court surfaces have reached the end of their useful life and routine maintenance in the relaying them has just commenced. The surface will change from hard to artificial clay because of advice that this surface will enable the most play when the tall neighbouring development is erected. The cost is £61,930 plus VAT which is being funded from the covenant reserve.

Squash is also proud of its social sessions. They are regularly overbooked. The success of squash means there is pressure on court time availability. The Squash Committee is looking at the feasibility of more courts. If anyone is willing to assist. Please contact Robert.

Cricket is proud of its attendances at nets and training sessions. It is no mean feat to put out five teams on a Saturday.

The three sections have junior coaches and coaching sessions. Junior membership is rising. It is a joy to see so many happy smiling young faces at our club. Vibrant junior sections are of great assistance in grant applications. A big thank you to Trevor, Zoard and all the cricket coaches.



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Neighbouring development

There is still no news as to when a planning application will be applied for by our neighbours who own the adjoining potential development site.

We are in negotiations with our neighbours on minor further covenant variations.

Bar and social activities

Thanks to Vitor, Julia and the team for their hard-work and for making our bar and social facilities a welcoming place.

Hall hire seems to have dipped in the year ended 31 March 2024. However, I am pleased to note that pre-bookings for this spring and summer are going well.

There is a race night coming up (date to be announced). Please attend. Thoughts on other such events are welcome.

There is a list of upcoming club social events on the website. Please try and attend them.
<https://www.wctsc.org.uk/social>

Our Club has changed its suppliers since the last AGM. We are again being put under inflationary pressure on the cost of the products members enjoy.

Communications

We welcome help and advice from members where they have a specific skillset.

It is my opinion that help and advice from a member in the areas of social media, marketing and public relations would currently be of great assistance. If you are able and willing to do this, please contact me at: - chair@wctsc.org.uk All skillsets are of course welcome.

Community

Our club remains a part of our local community. We have welcomed -To use our club at no cost: -

- The Western Front Association
- Outwards
- Wood Street First
- Gay Gordons
- National Flood Forum
- Waltham Forest Council Policing Group
- Charity events

We welcome more charitable/not for profit organisations on this basis. Please introduce them to our Club Manager.



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Trees/rodents/licence

Our Club was served a notice under the High Hedges legislation some 15 years ago that the conifers on the top two thirds of the cricket field in the far left as you look out from the pavilion had to be maintained at a height of no more than 4M. Our Club always complied at a regular cost. Whatever we did some of the neighbours would complain to the council without ever providing evidence. Our Club received an unevicenced complaint last summer and unusually a threat from the council. To cut a long story short we decided to fell the tress once and for all and did so,

Our Club is now in the process of replanting the area with native deciduous trees.

On behalf of our Club, I want to thank Stephen Downing. At our last AGM he said trees were his subject and said he would help. True to his word he advised when asked. He then went out of his way to obtain the new trees for planting – free from a charity and helped with site clearance and planting.

Thank you, Stephen.

A council inspection in September 2023 uncovered rodent droppings. Our Club bar was temporarily closed. We have reviewed and updated all processes to ensure there is no repeat. I would ask members to assist by ensuring they close outside entry doors, in particular the squash and office doors behind them.

Our Club has staged large outdoor events over the years without issue.

In the later stages of organising the cider event last summer what we understand to be the new head of the council licensing department advised our club manager as DPS that the licence did not allow the sale of alcohol outside. The event was cancelled.

An application was made to vary the licence to allow alcohol to be sold outside. In response the council set a series of conditions that affected not only selling alcohol outside but also our current operation, Some of these conditions were potentially costly. We decided to withdraw the application. Any future event that involves the sale of alcohol outside will require an application for a temporary events notice. If granted have fewer than five hundred people at all times – including staff running the event.

Nursery

The Nursery continues to use our premises and contribute circa £17,000 towards club overhead.

I would remind everyone that no one is allowed access to the nursery area whilst the nursery is in session. Access to the squash area can be achieved through the squash entrance door.



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Child Welfare

The club's child welfare policies have all been reviewed and updated. They are on the website and the notice boards. The sectional welfare officers have received the appropriate training and are able to deal with any protection issues. Please speak to them if any issues arise.

Drainage

In the aftermath of the flood, improving the security of the clubhouse from potential future flood events was prioritised and works carried out. In the current fiscal year further work on drains and a flat roof at a cost of some £13K were undertaken.

Drainage remains a major and potentially costly issue. So where are we?

We, along with our neighbours on Greenway Avenue remain part of the local area National Flood Forum.

At the last AGM I reported: -

“We are waiting to see precisely what recommendations will come from the forum and if any assistance will be forthcoming.”

Draft recommendations were presented to the Management Committee and this was followed by a meeting attended by selected members to understand some of the recommendations. The most significant for our Club is that they proposed a soak away/pond to go in front of the pavilion and for water butts. We rejected the soak away/pond in front of the pavilion because the position was unacceptable. The Flood Forum are now reviewing where else it might go and how to fund the project.

We await the updated report including funding options.

Security

May I take this opportunity to remind all members that if they see anything untoward that they should not approach anyone. Please immediately report the matter to Vitor or Julia or a Management Committee member and they will call the police if deemed necessary.

I would remind members to always keep their valuables with them and not to leave them in changing rooms or hallways for opportunist thieves to find.

I would also remind members to always fully close both the inside and outside squash section entry doors. I would remind those that use these doors that they are fire doors and legislation deems it a requirement to keep them closed.



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Parking

I would remind members that nobody has an absolute right to park in our car park.

There are areas, repainted in 2022, clearly marked as no parking and others for blue badge holders only. When the car park is full, please respect these areas. If on an odd occasion a member must park off premises, please do so with good grace.

Membership

Club membership continues to increase. Current membership is as follows: -

- The total membership across all categories is 873 an overall increase of fifty.
- The total membership is affiliated to Cricket 148, Social,172, Squash 225 and Tennis 328.
- The total membership includes 268 children of which 142 are affiliated to Tennis.

Finally

Where I started - If any club member has a view and skills that will benefit our club, please do not be shy. Join your sectional committee and bring them to the table.

Nigel