

## Chairman's Report 2022

A year reflecting consolidation after rigours of C19 with strong all-round performances

Horsham Sports Club made significant progress throughout 2022 in almost all areas of the operation. A cursory glance at the accounts reveal that we are now running a £3/4m business with a profit (before Depreciation) of £48,000 and ending the year with £130,000 in assets even after significant capital expenditure. The underlying strength comes from contributions from all members and sections, playing and social, supported by heroic efforts by the Office team and Chris Shambrook and his merry band behind the bar - check out the Bar income of £415,000 - a truly remarkable achievement by all concerned.

However the increasing size of the business brings its own challenges. We will have to form a trading company that gifts profits back to HSC as we are up against the HMRC CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) limits on some income. It may also be that the club is getting too big to rely on part-time volunteers on the Management Committee to run such a substantial business and a restructuring of club management may be advisable. This sound financial foundation has allowed some much needed improvements to the club and its infrastructure.

We further expanded our Main Events by incorporating the Caribbean Cricket day into the calendar following the hugely successful inaugural fixture in 2021. With Bar profits these three events made a contribution of over £75,000 to the bottom line and as you can see from the accounts this still represents the difference between profit and loss but does provide us the ability to invest in the club. Other events this year included our late Queen's 70th Platinum Jubilee celebration and a BBQ provided for Horsham's temporary Ukrainian contingent. Thanks to Dawn and John for organising these excellent afternoons at the club.

The Networking Business Lunch run by Clare continues to thrive and as a by-product is now producing significant sponsorship for our big events and around the club from Benchmark, @AtHomeEstates, Woodstock IT, Hey Broadband, Oakwood Financial Services, Centricity and other local businesses.

One cannot avoid a certain amount of attention to the numbers; without sustainable financial foundations the club cannot function properly nor maintain the sporting facilities and buildings. Such a strong financial performance allows us to easily cover basic maintenance and some improvements and even contemplate more significant improvements to the bar, Clubroom and a redesign of the building that would generate more income and improve the experience of members and guests.

This year the club and the sections amongst other things were able to install LED lighting on the Tennis courts and rebond/resurface all hard courts with the help of grants obtained through efforts of Hans Lansbergen and the committee; Colin Mitchum magicked up £10,000 from the ECB to put towards refurbishment of changing rooms and oversaw the installation of the new scoreboard following a very generous donation from Mrs Parsons.

Hockey's request for funds for a new storage facility was granted and helps with the location of vital equipment at CH. Squash court maintenance has been put on a more regular basis and essential work to the roofing is in hand. Clearly the Beer Garden goes from strength to strength and events in the Clubroom are regular, varied and very well attended.

Other significant and memorable events included the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and a BBQ that brought together Horsham's new Ukrainian population - thanks to Dawn Baker and John Attfield.

Slava Ukraini!

The Groundsman's Cottage saga is finally reaching a conclusion - but you ask - How long has he been saying that?! - well about twelve years. How any funds reverting to the clubs is handled should be a nice problem to have to resolve.

So all round a very strong performance.

Last January we received the very sad news of the death of David Horsman. I include with this report the notice that the Cricket Club circulated at the time. David was a true friend to the club and to many of us personally and in my son Oliver's apposite words was a genuine legend amongst his cricketing peers. David contributed in many areas both in the playing arena and in the running of the section most notably the work he did with younger players, supporting the Muirfield Cup and setting up the Identilam League - work that was recognised by all. He will be sorely missed by us all and not least by his lovely wife, Susan; they were a very strong team.

With this report I tender my resignation as Chairman of the Management Committee. I have decided reluctantly to call it a day as Chairman with immediate effect. Never a good time but I feel that the time is right and that new, younger and more vigorous blood is required to take HSC forward. The support I have received all members of the Management Committee, past and present has been magnificent and appreciated beyond words. Thanks also to the section Chairmen and their committees who work so hard in the background to provide the organisation that allows the sports to be run in a professional and friendly way that makes the place so welcoming.

Polly, Clare, Lorraine and now Hilary have been a constant source of hard work, ideas, help, support, occasional reprimands and love. Shaka has rightly become the face of the club and puts in long hours to ensure not only the bar and Clubroom run efficiently but also oversees most of the sport played at the ground - his diligent hard work has produced outstanding results in terms of income but just as importantly he nurtures an incredible "esprit de corps" - as he would put it - amongst his dedicated team behind the bar. Shaka continues to work on that occasional smile - irresistible as it is when he deploys it.

What all these rare people have in common is a true belief in and love for Horsham Sports Club and without exception will always go the extra mile to help the club in countless, often unknown and unpaid ways. We are very fortunate to have them on board and must work to somehow keep hold of them.

From a more personal point of view sincere thanks for the constant support to John Attfield, Kevin Handley, Mike Manktelow, Richard Marshall and the late David Swain; all have been invaluable in their own unique ways and have often brought me back from the precipice when frustrations seemed insurmountable. Lastly to my wife, Jayne, who has put up with a lot over the years without whose love and constant support I simply could not have done the job.

It has been a privilege and an honour to work with such wonderful people who make Horsham Sports Club what it is today.

Best Wishes

CW

## David Horsman - A Tribute

It is with great sadness that Horsham Cricket Club has to announce that our President, David Horsman, passed away earlier this week a day after his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

David had been an integral part of local cricket for almost all his life. His cricket career began in Kirdford at the age of 13 and he subsequently played for Wisborough Green and Horsham. Not only did David play the game he loved he was also involved behind the scenes at Horsham and also served as Chairman and President at Wisborough Green. David was always to be found helping with the preparations for Horsham's County cricket week, welcoming all visitors to the club and was a great believer in upholding the traditions of the game. When his playing days were over he still took to the field regularly as one of the best dressed and most elegant umpires in the county.

David was a great supporter of the Mirfield Cup and Thursday afternoon cricket and helped to resurrect both when popularity was declining. However, perhaps the most important legacy David leaves is within junior cricket. In 1986 he and Peter Garland had the idea and energy to start a local league for junior players. With just a handful of clubs initially this grew to become the legendary Identialam Cricket League which by the time it was recently amalgamated to become part of the Sussex junior cricket league, included just about every club in the north area of Sussex. It is probably fair to say that anyone who has played junior league cricket in the last 30 or so years should be grateful to David for his hard work in helping to create these playing opportunities. Many will have been presented with medals at the annual awards evening by David who was always there with wise and encouraging words.

David was our President for only a short while, and was greatly honoured to succeed Barry Peay in the role. He had hoped to lead the club through our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, sadly this was not to be, but we will endeavour to find a fitting way to honour our dear friend and President, David Horsman.



