

HIASC Chairman's Report – AGM January 2024

Thanks to John for kicking off the evening and for his continued role as President.

On behalf of the board I'd like to welcome you all to tonight's AGM for Hampton in Arden Sports Club, and thank you particularly for your attendance. As you all know, the Sports Club is a limited company, we are the board of that company, but fundamentally we are simply the representatives of our members in running this club.

The AGM represents the opportunity for members to hear what has happened at the club in the previous year, what the plans are for the future, and to give you a formal opportunity to offer feedback, ask questions and contribute your thoughts.

During 2023 we migrated our membership system from the LTA's system ClubSpark to Ashbourne management system. This system introduced the option for rolling membership years, a link to the till system, and swipe cards for clubhouse access. We also took the opportunity to significantly reduce the confusing amount of membership tariffs that were on offer (from 55 down to 9). Our total membership stands at 599 members which compares to 650 at the time of last year's AGM.

As at January 11th, 2024 we have the following membership numbers:

	2023	2024
Boules	111	
Cricket	18	
Social	41	
Club Membership		180
Hockey	117	61
Squash & Racketball	81	
Tennis	282	
Rackets		192
Junior		162
All Sports		4
Total	650	599

There are a few possible reasons for this drop in membership. Firstly, as part of the tariff reduction the Board took the decision to remove family and couples' memberships to gain transparency of how each section of members is made up. To this end it is likely that several juniors who were covered within the group memberships but who were not really using the club have not joined the new membership structure. We also seem to have a reduction in the tennis membership from last year which could be partly due to the change in the coaching set up. The tennis committee is working on this issue. However, I believe around 600 members is a sustainable level although as a Board we have a firm goal to increase this.

Survey Summary from Slides

Following the disappointing refusal by National Highways to grant the sports club any money for the new clubhouse design proposal, the Board appointed a structural engineer early in 2024 to review the integrity of the existing building and comment on remedial work required to secure its ongoing safety. Allcott was appointed and their report said that the structural integrity of the building was sound and recommended that a new roof and windows along with maintaining the external painting

of the timber cladding was necessary to ensure this. To this end a new roof was installed last September and a tender process for new windows is almost complete. Painting of the external cladding will continue on a regular basis.

The remedial floor work from the subsidence caused by the old oak tree was also completed in 2023. This involved the removal of all carpets and furniture in the bar, grinding the floor down and levelling up the floor as much as possible before installing the new Carndene floor and refitting the furniture.

Alan has also continued to maintain the inside and outside of the clubhouse to his usual high standards. This has included painting the inside of the bar and refitting several barstools. He also has done a great job in making the outside area look wonderful in the summer with his flower beds and the inside looking fantastic at Christmas with his very tasteful decorations. I would like to say a big thank-you to Alan and his bar staff for their work during the year.

We are about to switch providers of the credit card machines at the bar which should save us around £1000 per annum. We are also looking at installing new heaters for the squash courts which will provide more instant heating for players. We are also looking at making changes to the heating system in the clubhouse to ensure more consistent heating during times of use whilst reducing our extremely large heating bill. We also secured a £400 refund from BT after discovering that they had been charging us for an extra line over a number of months.

2024 Priorities

In 2024 we will:

- Replace the windows in the clubhouse and look to refurbish the toilets / changing rooms.
- Start to look at the possibility of extending the bar into the area vacated by the removal of the oak tree.
- Investigate options around the introduction of padel tennis at the club along with the funding assistance from the LTA that could help facilitate this.
- Review options to provide a covered area outside the clubhouse and look to deliver that within the year.
- Deliver the actions following on from the membership survey.
- And of course, in 2024 we will continue to offer excellent sporting facilities and will look to grow our membership numbers.

Finally, I would like to thank all volunteers who devote a considerable amount of their time to the ongoing running and sustainability of this club that we all love so much. It is an integral part of our village and I and the Board are fully focused on ensuring its ongoing success.