

## Hillhead Tennis Club Annual Report

Prepared for Hillhead Sports Club AGM, May 2022

Tennis are delighted to report that the growth and demand for Tennis at Hillhead has continued since the last report to the Board in Sept 2021, along with the trend towards a slightly younger player base, which continues to push us in new directions. While it is excellent to yet again be reporting on increasing player numbers, the continued growth places increasing demands on court usage, meaning the Committee are continually reviewing usage and Membership limitations to try and ensure appropriate capacity can be maintained for all.

The previously introduced “Fair Play” policy has had the desired effect of reducing individual member saturation, however the Committee also felt it necessary to introduce some peak time restrictions to maintain a fair balance between Coaching, Social Play and Matches. In addition, as the number of Tennis Members approached 500, the Committee agreed with the Board to implement a waiting list system to control new Joiners. This is reviewed monthly to ensure we also allow as many new joiners as possible to maximise revenue to the Sports Club.

The increasing numbers and changing demographic is also changing the demands coming from Tennis players, with higher than ever demands for Coaching (both group and individual) and more players than ever seeking to play in Teams. Our Head Coach Ash Webster and his dedicated Team continue to deliver excellent on court Coaching and strive to satisfy the demand for Coaching as best they can while observing the restrictions to ensure fair court availability for all. They deserve a massive thank you for their continuing patience both in teaching us on court and putting up with us off court!

Increased demand for Team places means we are running more teams than even in this summer season (22 to be exact) which proves to be a challenge in itself. To try and maintain some fairness and equality for players to play in Teams appropriate to their ability, we implemented a revised player selection process over the winter, which taught us a lot about the complexities of player selection, but gives us a good basis for a modified process to be used for coming seasons.

Some of our Individual players have achieved notable success on the Local and National stage in the past few months:

- Dimitri Tsoukalas played at the Inter County Championships at Kilgraston
- Jack Deveney reached the UK Nationals at the National Tennis Centre
- Representing the West in the County Cup events this year we have Jack Deveney, Elisa Gibson, Megan Obrien, Lauryn Obrien, Tom Sproule, Lucas Nolte, Alasdair Low, Cameron Rae, Xander Plathias and Ares power
- Lucas Nolte and Harry Sangster made it to the final of the UK National schools competition
- Elisa Gibson and Lucas Nolte represented Scotland at the junior 4 nations
- Carole Wilson and Deborah Maddern who represented Scotland in the 55's category of the Four Nations tournament

One player we feel deserving of special recognition is Ares Power, who was the first recipient of our Junior Player Support Initiative. The Committee approved that the Tennis Club would facilitate additional Coaching and support for one promising player per year, with this being awarded to Ares initially. Under this initiative, Ares has risen rapidly from showing great potential to playing County Level tennis for her age group. We hope her journey continues to grow at this rate and we watch her progress with great enthusiasm.

We have recently started discussions with a group called Sported, a UK wide Charity promoting fairness and equity for young people, and in particular their Project 21 team, who promote and assist in the development of activities for the 21% of young people in Scotland are considered disabled. We hope this engagement will assist us in further offering inclusive and equal opportunities for Tennis to new areas of our local Community and beyond.

With support from the Board and approval from the LTA, the Tennis Club were able to fund the replacement of the floodlights over the winter using the Tennis Court Sinking fund which will be replenished from the savings made in electricity by switching to lower cost LED lighting.

We have also worked hard with GMG Grounds Maintenance (the Sports Club's grounds maintenance contractor) to advance the weekly maintenance programme to ensure the courts remain in the best playing condition possible and to maximise their potential lifespan, and we thank Adam and his team for their continuing efforts.

Outside of Hillhead's own players, we are playing host to 3 LTA events this year – the 14 and under County Cup qualifiers, as well as the West and Scottish Junior Open events for different age groups. Hosting these events helps to show Hillhead to the wider World as well as bring in some rental and Café revenue. The Tennis Club also ran a fundraiser recently and raised over £2000 to help support those suffering from recent events in Ukraine.

The ever-evolving challenge of growth and changing demographics means the Committee are currently starting a project to develop a 5-year strategic view of where the Club could be in 5 years and beyond, which will then be presented for discussion at the Tennis Club AGM later in the year. These are exciting but stressful times for the Tennis Committee, and I thank them all for their persistence, engagement and support.

Balancing the widely varying views and demands from our evolving Member base makes for many interesting discussions and lengthy meetings, but the many successes we are seeing are testament to the effort and dedication of the Team. We could however probably do with another three (or even six) Tennis courts currently to facilitate our growing demands, which certainly leaves us with an interesting thought!

Keith Fowler  
Hillhead Tennis Club  
16 May 2022

## Rugby Section Report

The 21/22 season was severely affected by the presence of Covid-19. However the leagues went ahead but were punctuated by weeks without competitive rugby. This stop start nature lead to loss of momentum for all the teams, but training continued as best as could be provided.

Rugby trained according to the restrictions and were mercifully spared any major outbreak of covid due mainly to the excellent track and trace regime we had in place.. The men trained Tuesday and Thursdays with 40 typically attending and we attracted a number of new players, our women had typically 20 attending on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The women's section had quite a churn with players leaving and new players entering the fray. The Junior boys and girls used Hughenden whenever possible through the season to train. The minis trained on a Sunday and there has been a continued increase in numbers participating. There will be some movement in our coaching stock as our long serving 2<sup>nd</sup> xv coach Stuart Irvine is retiring after over ten years of unstinting effort and will be sorely missed. The committee still worked hard during this disturbed season and will need to be topped up with new people to help relieve the work-load on the existing volunteers. The sections assistance to the Trust of £23.87k worth of funds has paid dividends with the improvement in the training pitch allowing for less usage of external hire costs usually assisted with by the Trust. However the demands placed on the grass areas is leading to some problems in terms of the sheer numbers of players on the grounds on Thursday nights and some external lets were required.

The section has been working with the Trust to provide onsite strength and conditioning in the clubhouse gym but our efforts have not met with much enthusiasm from the players, due to the very limited number of time slots available. The section is going to propose a repurposing of the old weights room for rugby weight training: The delay in the sports bar reopening led to some friction between the section and Café source Too but this seems to have been resolved following the members survey results and things are working much better now.

The section hopes to see progress soon on the re assessment of membership rates and trust these will reflect the conclusions from bench marking membership rates reflecting services and facilities available at other rugby clubs across the country. It is a recurring theme that high membership rates are excluding many new members from joining the rugby section.

On the playing front the Mens 1<sup>st</sup> XV finished 4<sup>th</sup> in premier 3, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV were relegated from reserve league west 1 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV finished mid table in reserve west 3.

The Ladies were runners up in premier 1 and are cup finalists.

We have representation at National level with two ladies in the full Scotland squad and one at under 20.

Gary Kitchener (President)



## Report to Hillhead Sports Club May 2022

The current 2022 cricket season is ongoing and is not scheduled to finish until the end of August this year. There has been a lot of changes to the Cricket section's committee this year, with James Thornhill taking on the role of President, Shehroz Mehmood the new first team captain and Sam Dabell taking over the role of second team captain. In addition to this Simon Willis is the new second team vice-captain. We are grateful for the role that John Ferguson, Alistair Fergus and Ali Khan have done over recent years, leaving the club in a better place than they found it.

The 1st XI this season are competing in the 1<sup>st</sup> division of the WDCU, this is the second of the five tiers. The 2nd XI is in Division 3, the fourth tier. This is following a successful campaign last year that saw the 1<sup>st</sup> XI finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in their division and achieve promotion. The new division will provide a tough test for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI team, but one that following our run in the challenge cup last year they should be up for. Due to a splitting up on the 3<sup>rd</sup> division last year to create an additional tier, the 2<sup>nd</sup> team scrapped into the 3<sup>rd</sup> division. This will provide a better standard of weekly opposition for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in 2022.

Once again, the club has entered the Cricket Scotland Challenge Trophy. Having reached the final last year which, we narrowly lost by 2 runs, we have already progressed through the first round beating Bon Accord. On May 29<sup>th</sup> we travel to Huntley north of Aberdeen for our second-round fixture.

The cricket section has seen a significant influx of members this season, the exact cause of this is not necessarily clear but is in part thanks to the hard work in recruiting of Ali Fergus and Mike Ashworth who has joined Hillhead from West of Scotland. Although not originally planned we are now looking to complete a busy Sunday friendly fixture list to provide opportunities for juniors to develop and to make sure we offer all members the chance to participate in weekly matches. Although early days in the season, the number of individuals participating at training has been very encouraging. The hard work of Ben Ward, Ramzan Mohammad and Mike Ashworth in helping structure and organise training sessions means opportunities for players to improve are abundant.

Junior cricket remains at the forefront of the cricket section and thanks to the hard work of Barri Gilani and Ian Holland continues to thrive. We have a stand alone side at Kwik cricket (under 10) in addition to a U12 soft ball and hard ball side. We also have a joint U14 side. The club is once again running the very

successful Allstars programme for 5-8 year olds on Friday nights. We also participating in the Dynamos programme for 9-12 year olds on the same night.

After a couple of years of limited fundraising opportunities, this year we plan to host our first annual Craig Cup dinner since 2019 in November, along side a horse racing and quiz night throughout the summer. Despite the pandemic the clubs finances remain stable, and successful events throughout the year will help bolster the position.

During the off season there was a lot of work carried out on the cricket square with the uplift of the artificial wicket and the expanding of the square to eight playing strips. A perquisite that was required for division 1. The cricket section has agreed to pay for the artificial uplift and replacement, and has to date paid the sports club half the cost and agreed to pay the outstanding amount at the end of the season. Although early days, the hard work of the groundsman Adam over the offseason has been paying off and the wicket is playing noticeable better than it has in recent years.

The porter cabin continues to be well utilised by the cricket section, however, is deteriorating and there has been work on it to make sure it remains useable. By the end of season 2023 it could potentially need replacing; this will be a significant expense to the cricket section.

James Thornhill

Chair

Hillhead Cricket Club

## **COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB REPORT - May 2022**

### **OUTDOORS (non-Section users as they will report separately).**

Due to the restrictions easing slowly our outdoor users were able to return, initially with some covid guideline restraints, for their sport.

Glasgow Ultimate Frisbee Club trained from June - October 2021. They used Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons generally.

Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club returned to Hughenden January – March 2022 on Monday evenings

Hillhead High School made heavy use of the grass in 2021, pre Summer holidays, as they were unable to access their own internal PE halls. Notre Dame occasionally used the grass as well. Hillhead High School continue to use the grass mainly in the Spring term in 2022.

Hillhead Ecosse Cycling Club had a soft launch on 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2022. Initially offering short and medium length rides. Generally weekly on a Saturday. Plans to increase options for different categories and other days is in the planning stages.

Sport Ecosse Sports Camp ran multi-sport holiday camps last Summer 2021 and Easter 2022 in the School holidays.

Ash Webster ran tennis camps last Summer 2021 and Easter of this year, again in the School holidays.

Strathclyde University hired courts on Saturday evenings July – October 2021 for social play. They also hired courts on Wednesday afternoons for their university matches, October 2021 – March 2022.

### **INDOORS**

We started planning end of October/November for restarting classes in our rooms upstairs. There was a new floor laid in the Bobby Low room and the floor in the multi-purpose room was cleaned and varnished. This has made us more attractive and flexible to potential hirers. There were 3 hours initially programmed in December 2021 and it has grown quickly to around 20 hours per week in May 2022. There is the capacity to grow further. We offer a range of different options ie. dance, pilates, yoga, martial arts, easy exercise, baby pilates, Mind the Men, workshops, and meetings to name some.

All classes, meetings and events are managed through our electronic calendar which the café and Shona Ross have access to and manage. The let agreement, which is required by all hirers, was updated.

### **GYM**

Two extra Personnel trainers were brought on board in August 2021 to help with the demand for more one to one sessions. There is an incentive, within their terms and conditions, for them to try to convert non-members to members.

There will be a separate report from the Gym Manager, Denise Gibson.

## OTHER HUB RELATED BUSINESS

Ongoing meetings with Vicki Holmes, our Glasgow Life HUB Officer, to discuss new ventures for the Club. Look at new enquires, initiatives and potential new projects. Use social media to promote classes and activities for the HUB. The Club is required to manage and produce annual statistics to Glasgow Life.

Shona Ross

Community Sports Hub Manager

## Gym Report

### **MEMBERSHIP**

There have been 70 new joiners in the last 12 months and 44 leavers, a net gain of 26, which is very positive.

### **GYM AND EQUIPMENT**

The use of the Gym continues to be restricted to 6 people at any given time, which is managed using the Skedda Booking website. There are rarely 6 people using the Gym, but it would not be deemed safe to operate with any more than 6; Skedda is a useful tool for facilitating this. Member feedback on the booking system continues to be positive, as they can choose to come when they know that the Gym will be quieter or empty.

Work is currently underway to sell 3 pieces of equipment that are surplus to requirements.

CCTV has been installed in the gym and is proving useful.

### **STAFFING/INCOME**

There are many times, during the day and at weekend, where the Gym is empty. The gym is being rented by the hour to 3 Personal Trainers, in addition to the Gym Manager. One of the PT's is relocating and a suitable replacement is being sought. The Personal Trainers are charged £7.50 per hour to train non-members and £5 to train members, which is helping generate new members.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Gym will be promoted on local social media during May, which will hopefully increase membership.

Denise Gibson

Gym Manager

# **Glasgow Ultimate Frisbee Club**

## **Glasgow Ultimate 2021/2022**

### **Competitive Ultimate**

The pandemic forced a restructuring of Ultimate competition in 2021 with limitations on contact sports and travel prompting a shift away from large weekend tournaments to one-off matches. Our mixed squad were invited to compete in the National League alongside the top six teams from around the UK, gaining great experience travelling the length of the country to play high level ultimate. Although we narrowly missed out on qualification to the UK National Championships, we have spent the off-season rebuilding and refocussing, with the aim of making Nationals in 2022. We had 60+ players show up to our first training session this year and we will host trials at the start of June for a first team to compete across the summer in various regional and national competitions. Despite several cancellations of events we managed to have a relatively successful indoor season, qualifying teams to UK Indoor Nationals in the open, women's and mixed divisions.

### **Local Ultimate**

One upside of the limited number of national tournaments was the opportunity to develop the ultimate scene in Scotland. Glasgow Ultimate have been the driving force behind a new series of regional events, dubbed the Tartan Tour, which is now underway, providing local playing opportunities for all of our members. We were also pleased to return to hosting two of our favourite tournaments for the first time since the pandemic hit: Caledonia's Call, a mixed outdoor tournament for Scottish clubs; and Spring Fling, an indoor Hat tournament. In 2021 we were able to run our hugely popular Summer League, based at Hillhead Sports Club from June-September, with 80+ players involved. We will be back this summer with more exciting plans brewing!

### **Youth Ultimate**

Our youth section continues to grow and we now have a core group of juniors training weekly with some of them already integrating into the adult teams. Our coaches have continued to work with local schools and community groups to develop the sport around Glasgow. In November 2021 we ran our first ever school tournament at Kelvinhall with twelve teams competing from ten different primary and secondary schools. We are following this up with an outdoor tournament in May 2022 and we hope to make these annual events. Our coaches have also been involved in running the GB futures programme in Scotland to offer high level coaching opportunities for players aged under 24 with aspirations to play for international teams and elite clubs.