

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2021**

Despite "life" seemingly edging back to something like normality, much of the time period covered by this report remained characterised by the on-going challenges presented to the Sports Club by the COVID-19 pandemic. Use of the indoor facilities has remained very limited and membership subscriptions in some cases had again to be reduced or suspended for periods of time. Despite this backdrop, Sports Club membership numbers have continued to grow which is very encouraging – with interest in tennis (perhaps not as affected by restrictions as other sports) reaching a level that led to a "waiting list" being introduced for membership applications.

Not surprisingly, the financial challenges to the Sports Club that were mentioned at the 2020 AGM continued and the impact of a variety of grants was once again positive – the grants awarded up to the end of the calendar year are detailed in the Treasurer's report but since the start of this year, the Club was grateful to receive further grants from Glasgow City Council (the largest of which amounted to £12000) and also a very welcome award from Viridor Credits (£10400) which allowed some much needed maintenance to the training pitch to take place. Our thanks go to our Treasurer, Jennifer Lawton, in relation to much of the Glasgow City Council grant funding applications and associated administration and also to Bernie Mitchell for his work connected to the Viridor Credits award. The Board would also like to thank those members who made donations during the last 12 months – these were much appreciated. On the topic of grant applications, the Board recently informed members that a further grant application had been submitted under the auspices of the SCVO "Adapt & Thrive" post COVID recovery programme – the hope being that, if successful, the award might assist the Club regarding some internal modifications that may be required to changing rooms/function areas. Unfortunately, the Club was recently informed that this particular application was unsuccessful which although disappointing is the nature of the grant application process. The Board expresses thanks to those that put in so much work as part of this particular application process. The Club will, of course, continue with alternative plans to address any work that is deemed necessary to allow safe usage of the facilities.

Members will recall from the last AGM hearing of the very valuable work undertaken by the Virus Impact Group (VIG) – comprising Ramzan Mohammed, Jennifer Lawton and John Maclean. During the last 12 months this group changed focus to become a Strategic Planning Group and membership grew to include Jillian Blair (our newest Board member) and Alan Wilson who has been a supporter of the Club for many years and is known to many. This group have made a considerable time commitment to planning for the short and medium term future of the Club and their input and business acumen is proving extremely valuable as the Club looks forward. Much of this group's work recognises the growing size of the Sports Club and the associated pressure that a small group of volunteers (The Board) face in the day-to-day running of the organisation.

The Club's Treasurer, Jennifer Lawton, will also be "stepping down" over the coming months. Jennifer has been instrumental in helping the Club navigate through the financial impact of the pandemic and has gone "above and beyond" in terms of her service to the Board since she was appointed. Jennifer's input and assistance to the Board will be greatly missed BUT we are pleased to report that a replacement Treasurer has been identified. David Mann will take over from Jennifer in the near future following a suitable "hand over" period. David has extensive accounting experience both in the UK and further afield and spent a good proportion of his career working at a senior finance level with Unilever. The Club look forward to working with David and thank him for agreeing to take up the role of Treasurer.

In terms of Board membership, Hunter Kirkpatrick will be resigning at this AGM and the Club would like to thank Hunter for his nearly 10 years of service to the Club much of which has been linked to the challenging and time-consuming task of overseeing all aspects of the Club's building maintenance.

Lizzie Miller who has been the Club's Membership Secretary for several years has also confirmed that she wishes to "step down" and the Board thanks Lizzie for her hard work and efficiency in bringing the Club's membership systems and records into a much more streamlined format – allowing accurate and valuable information to be obtained regarding membership numbers, trends and income.

Looking forward to 2022, we hope that we can reduce mentions of pandemic-related matters and focus on more typical Sports Club business (including sport!) and in fact on a positive note, next year marks the centenary of when Hillhead Sports Club adopted Hughenden as its "home" and the Board certainly intend to mark this event in an appropriate manner.

Finally, the Board would thank all our members for their on-going support of the Sports Club during the last 12 months – as ever it is much valued.

Richard Bond

On behalf of the Hillhead Sports Club Board

06 September 2021