

HILLHEAD TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT

June 2023

Recovering from Covid

Last year saw the Tennis Club finally able to emerge fully from the varying restrictions which we endured throughout the Covid pandemic and the return to some normal activity both on and off court. 2022 saw a full return to Spring, Summer and Winter League competition, a full tournament calendar, a very busy Coaching programme as well as a (very) full social calendar, which made for plenty of tennis for all ages and abilities.

Social Performance

The Club was able to run a very full social calendar last year (both on and off court), with many weekend and evening activities, lots of social tournaments with accompanying barbecues (or pizzas!), bringing some great, fun tennis for all ages and abilities. Some Committee and other members formed an informal "Social Committee" who took the lead on organising and promoting events for Tennis, which then rapidly extended to include all sporting Sections and even larger events, the first of which was the very successful ceilidh, which was a roaring success and generated some income for all sections.

Inclusive Teams

Following our huge growth during Covid times, and a Member survey at the start of last year, we identified that some members felt the many teams at Hillhead were perhaps not as open and inclusive as they could be to all members. With our membership hovering around the 500-mark, we had more players than ever before looking to get a game for Hillhead.

Therefore as a trial for last year, we actively changed the player engagement and selection processes and guidelines to try and include more members who wished to play team tennis, which led to a large increase in the number of players being included within the teams. In the end, we fielded a total of 58 teams over the course of the year, made up of 45 adult teams and 13 junior. The stats show that 435 adults and 57 juniors turned out for the club in 2022 and, while there is a certain amount of duplication across seasons and categories, it's still the highest number of players we've ever had competing for Hillhead.

Obviously, the growing number of teams puts pressure on court usage during the summer and winter league seasons and the Committee has worked hard to keep things as fair as possible and this year we have trialled scheduling some matches at quieter (weekend) times to keep some peak slots available for all players.

Performance

Alongside the increasing numbers of players, we have also seen a general improvement in level across all teams and ages, driven in part by the efforts of the Coaching team led by Ash. Having achieved promotion last year, both our Men's and Women's Adult first teams are sitting at the top of Division 1.1 this current season, which is one level below the Premier Division, and have extremely strong chances of reaching that level – an unheralded position for Hillhead Tennis Club.

This success was repeated with our Boys u16's and Girls u14 and u16's teams finishing as division 1a and 1b champions and continue that great performance this year.

As well as several players once again representing Scotland in the past year, we are also delighted to have one of our Juniors now the number one ranked player in Great Britain in their age category (10 and under) and continue to support him in his continuing development.

This year we will also host regional, County and Scottish National events in partnership with the LTA and Tennis Scotland, which is a great showcase for our Club.

Maintenance

We have worked hard again with GMG Grounds Maintenance (the Sports Club's grounds maintenance contractor) and Sportex to improve the weekly and annual maintenance programmes to ensure the courts remain in the best playing condition possible and to maximise their potential lifespan, and we thank all involved for their continuing efforts.

We have also undertaken some improvements to the path along the East boundary of the courts (1 and 4) which has become an increasingly popular spectator area for those keen to watch the continually increasing levels of Tennis which are being played at Hillhead.

Club Strategic Review

The growth of the Club both in numbers and abilities over the past few years has led to many challenges for the Committee in balancing all the varying demands on our limited number of courts, coaches, teams and social sessions. The Committee therefore embarked on a strategic review to ensure we understand the direction the members, Club and sport should be heading in the coming years.

The objective being to be able to categorically define and understand the direction the Club is heading so we are able to best direct our limited resources to support that aspiration. We are keen to finalise and present this research to the members in order to develop a long term strategic plan for the Tennis Club.

Walker Wylie Partnership

We were delighted last year to enter into a partnership with Walker Wylie Estate Agents (<https://www.walkerwylie.co.uk/>) to become our main sponsor and provide branded Clothing for the full Coaching Team, a new Court Windbreak as well as assistance towards the Hillhead branded tennis clothing. This partnership has been extended for this year and we are extremely grateful for their generous support of the Club and for the friendship which they bring.

Committee and Volunteers

I must offer my thanks to my fellow members of the Committee who give up their free time to assist and support in the running of the Club. A tireless task, fraught with danger (of abuse!) and often frustration, but ultimately satisfying when we see busy courts, happy players and occasional trophies.

Finally to all members, players, parents and supporters who have graced our Courts this year – thank you for being at Hillhead Tennis Club. We really appreciate everyone who plays, competes, supports, drives, captains and helps out in any small way to make the Club the welcoming, friendly tennis environment we all enjoy.

Keith Fowler
Hillhead Tennis Club.



RUGBY

Presidents Report HJRFC 2022/23

Hillhead/Jordanhill men's and women's rugby proved once again that we outperform many of our competitors in fielding four teams (two men's and two women's) throughout the season 2022/23.

The two 1st XVs finished the season in second and 5th place in their respective leagues and I would like to thank all the backroom staff especially Andy Scott Senior, Bernie Mitchell and Philippa Abernethy in particular for their help and commitment to the cause of Hills rugby.

The highlight of the year was the new women's 2nd XV who won their league and the shield final at Murrayfield. May their success continue next season.

The men's 2nd XV finished bottom of their league but due to league restructuring will stay in their league.

Youth and junior rugby continue to grow, and the schools are buying in to the Hills brand.

Looking to the future in these uncertain times the rugby committee are working harder than ever in to improve the Hills experience at the club next season. The section is becoming increasingly put upon by the rise in transport, food, equipment and other costs in order to be able to fulfil their commitment to fielding teams in the various leagues and we are mindful that we must run a tighter budget. At present we are running at a loss of around £20k but are hopeful that with increased fundraising and some judicious pruning of some of the services we supply, that we can achieve a positive cash flow next year.

We are looking to expand to five teams with the addition of Glasgow University Men's students to our ranks. This is a work in progress but I would like to welcome them in to the Hills family when they do arrive.

Next season is going to be a tough year but I think it is safe to say we are still here, alive and kicking and whatever season 23/24 brings we shall deal with it in the Hills way, with unity and a tight budget.

There have been no changes to the rugby committee for the coming year.

Gary Kitchener (President HJRFC)



Report to Hillhead Sports Club June 2023

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Cricket Section of Hillhead Sports Club for the year 2022-2023. This has been a remarkable year of growth, resilience, and exciting developments for the cricket section. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the other members of the committee, players, volunteers, and sponsor whose dedication and support have contributed over the past 12 months.

The current 2023 cricket season is ongoing and is not scheduled to finish until the end of August this year. There has been changes this year to the leadership of the first team with Jack Holland appointed as the new first team captain, supported by Ross Jones and James Lindley-Dawe as Vice Captains. The three of them already this year have made a fantastic contribution to the club, running senior training sessions since the start of Preseason in early January.

Senior Teams: News & Results

The year 2022-2023 brought both challenges and triumphs for our teams. While our first team faced the disappointment of relegation from the WDCU 1st Division, we showcased significant improvement compared to the last time we played at that level, with three victories along the way. Our second and youth teams also performed admirably under the leadership of Sam Dabell and Kenny Blackwood.

Following a restructuring from the Western District Cricket Union to the league format, cricket in the west of Scotland is now played in either the premierships tier which contains 3 divisions of 10 teams representing almost entirely 1st XIs and a Championship tier which contains 3 divisions of 10 teams and is made up of club 2nd and 3rd XIs. Hillhead 1st team this year are competing in the premierships 3rd Division and the 2nd team play in the Championship 2nd division.

Season 2023 has got off to a good start for the 1st XI, new captain Jack Holland seeing the team through to 5 wins out of 6 and at the time of writing we are top of the table. The 2nd team has had a steadier start to date, winning 3 and losing 3.

Throughout the whole of last season and so far in 2023 we have been able to field a third Sunday development XI in addition to the two Saturday teams.

Junior Cricket

This season saw a return to normality two covid interrupted seasons and it was pleasing to see participation continue to grow in all age groups. We ran the ECB Allstar and Dynamo programmes again this year with 15 boys and girls taking part in Allstars and 18 Participants in the Dynamo sessions. On a Wednesday it was not uncommon to see between 30-45 children at training.

With regards to competition we continued to be very strong at U10 Kwik cricket winning the vast number of games we played as well as hosting a festival attended by 5 other clubs. At U12 Softball we played 18 games, won 16, lost 2 and topped our league. U12 Hardball was all friendlies this year and we played 9, won 5, lost 4 but were competitive in all matches. Particularly pleasing is the fact that only 3 players in the U12 squad are aging out next season so I would expect this group to continue to perform well. At U14 level we teamed up with West of Scotland but unfortunately a large number of games were either rained off or conceded by the opposition but it was still a chance for our 5 U14's to get some competitive cricket in.

At senior level the Sunday games provided a great opportunity to expose some of the juniors to senior cricket and all 5 U14s featured at some point during the season with positive feedback all round. We also had 3 juniors feature for the 2nd XI with Rayyan Butt becoming a regular and contributing very well with both bat and ball. A special mention to Rayyan for also being called up twice for Western Warriors trials and being on the selectors radar for next season. We have had 7 sessions of indoor training at Hillhead High School since the last season ended - all well attended. As we know the junior section requires a lot of work from a lot of people to make it happen so a personal and club thanks to everyone who has assisted this year including Ian Holland particularly for his work with the U12s, Ken for his coaching and looking after the junior blazers. Paul and Jared for assisting with both summer and winter coaching and Clinton and Mike for also helping out across the season. I would also like to thank all the senior players who have assisted with the juniors this year and emphasise that the kids feedback to the sessions has been good and improvements have been noted. I know this is a regular ask but we will need even more help next year as we field 5 age group teams in addition to training.

Finances and Fundraising

Following three successful fund raisers last year, the quiz night, race night and the Craig Cup Dinner, the club finances remain stable. The current bank balance sits at c.£8,500. I would like to note thanks to Bernie Mitchell, Phil Murray and of course Richard Bond for their help last year in planning and organising the events we held.

I would also like to thank David Byrne for his work with all the sections of the sports club in planning the recent Ceilidh and comedy nights. We will continue to push these events with our members.

2023 has seen the introduction of Coloured kit for Hillhead Cricket club. I would like to thank both Ramzan Mohammed for efforts in organising this and our new sponsor Gavin Lynch and Lynch Logging Limited.

Facilities and Equipment

The cricket committee set itself two goals over the winter and I am pleased to say we have been able to achieve both. Firstly, was to gain access to more storage space on the grounds of HSC and I am grateful to Alan and the Board allowing us to use the left container behind the cricket nets for this. The second goal was to upgrade the existing grass cutter so that we could improve the quality of the outfield at the ground.

After months of work, on Friday June 2nd we took delivery of a new Trimax 190 grass cutter. The new cutter will have multiple benefits 1) it provides a much more even cut 2) it will cut lower 3) it better disperses the grass cutting to avoid clumping. The benefits from the Trimax will be felt by all those that use the grass playing field at Hughenden, not just cricket.

The new Trimax was a net cost of £5,520 (inc VAT), net because we traded in the existing mower. This was financed by a £3,000 loan taken by the cricket section from the WDCU (0% interest loan), a £1,000 contribution from Rugby and a £1,520 contribution from cricket.

Membership

We have seen an increase in the number of members in the cricket section over the recent months. Building ties with both Glasgow and Strathclyde University has led to an influx of new players. It is however important to ensure that we are still able to offer all members regular cricket matches on a weekly basis. In my opinion the current capacity of the cricket section is somewhere in the region of 65-70 senior members and that would require us to play two Sunday teams (home and away). We hope to get to this level in the coming 12-24 months and recent progress makes me confident that this is achievable.

The future

Having delivered on the goals set for Hillhead Cricket Club over the winter, the committee is setting its' sights on what the next step is for the cricket section. The current porter cabin that is used by the cricket section has been deteriorating due to the harsh weather on the west coast of Scotland. The cricket section has spent £1,500 on repairs since the start of last year and this is simply not sustainable. We are beginning to explore different options for the replacement of the porter cabin and plan to talk to the different sections and the sports club about what can be done.

James Thornhill

Chair

Hillhead Cricket Club

GYM

MEMBERSHIP

A summary of membership numbers is below. There is a net gain of 14 members since May 22.

130	53	33	21	23
Total	Adult >60		Stud	Fam

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 which is working well. A reminder was issued to members to continue to use the booking system during the year. 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.

2 pieces of equipment were sold during the year for a total of £310, a broken recumbent bike was scrapped, as it was beyond repair.

The equipment continues to be serviced annually and all equipment is currently functioning well.

A new squat platform was purchased at auction, which was a massive saving and has also alleviated the need for the floor to be repaired.

CCTV in the gym continues to prove 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 1 Personal Trainer, in addition to the Gym Manager. One PT relocated during the year and one left in May 23 without notice. Recent adverts have been issued to try to recruit 2 new PTs at a monthly rental of £250.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were issues with the previous cleaning contractors during the year, which led to the Gym not being opened on consecutive weekend mornings; this resulted in member complaints and 2 cancellations. The standard of cleaning in the Gym had been very poor, but has improved significantly with the new contractors. As the Gym is now sufficiently clean and there is a continuity process to ensure that the building will be opened on time, I will start to promote on local social media, which will hopefully increase membership.

Denise Gibson

HUB REPORT May 2022 – May 2023

OUTDOORS (non-Section users).

Returners

Glasgow Ultimate Frisbee Club trained from June – September 2022. They use Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. They also hired the pitch for a couple of Schools festivals as well. They will restart their hire for this year in June.

Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club returned to Hughenden September – October 2022 and then again January – March 2023 on Monday evenings. They use Peterson Park for their matches. They use us for training in the Winter as their Park does not have floodlights.

Hillhead High School made use of the grass in 2022, pre Summer holidays, and then again after the Summer through to March 2023. Notre Dame and Hyndland Secondary School occasionally used the grass as well.

Sport Ecosse Sports Camp ran multi-sport holiday camps last Summer 2022 and Easter 2023 in the School holidays.

Ash Webster ran tennis camps last Summer 2022 and Easter of this year, again in the School holidays.

Strathclyde University hired courts for their University matches on Wednesday afternoons, September 2022 - March 2023.

New hirers

Glasgow Academy School hired courts in curriculum time for their pupils from April 2023 – June 2023. Coaches from Hillhead Tennis Section were used for these sessions.

There were also a few one-off hires for Glasgow University Women and men for training purposes, when they could not access their own grounds.

The cricket nets are hired to JP Morgan on Monday nights. Started in May and will run until August 2023.

The nets were also hired to Strathclyde University in May for an afternoon session.

We are hiring to Pride in Touch on 29th July 2023. This is a large mixed rugby touch event running from 11am through to 5pm, followed by awards and catering. There will be around 250 folk attending and looks to be a great event.

INDOORS – Classes, meetings, workshops etc etc for internal and external users.

Indoor hire has increased and our spaces are let more than they were pre pandemic. We have seen our previous instructors returning and have also had many new faces coming to our Club for their classes and meetings. We have pilates, dance, Irish dancing, ballet, martial arts, mum and baby

classes to name but a few. We also are used for various meetings and workshops i.e., Mind the Men, Kelvin Probus, and various local resident associations. We also host our Sections and associated partners committee meetings and AGMs.

All classes, meetings, outdoor activity and events are managed through our electronic calendar which the café and Shona Ross have access to and manage.

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.

Overall, there has been an increase in activity, both indoors and outdoors and I expect this to continue going forwards.

Shona Ross



Glasgow Ultimate Frisbee 2022/2023

Competitive Ultimate

Our mixed squad returned to a regular competitive season in 2022 for the first time since the pandemic, competing in regional and national competitions and travelling to a tournament in France. After a busy off-season recruiting and rebuilding, we were able to compete at a high level, finishing second in the northern region and 6th at UK Nationals. We are currently building towards the 2023 season with expectations of qualifying for European championships.

Local Ultimate

As a local organisation, we also strive to develop our sport and provide playing opportunities for all of our members. Over the past year, we have been able to run several local, single-day events. This included our two flagship tournaments Caledonia's Call (outdoor club event) and Spring Fling (indoor hat tournament and ceilidh) to make ultimate more accessible to our members and community. We have also recently been involved in a partnership with LEAP Sports, delivering a series of six introductory sessions to the LGBTQI+ community. We will return to Hillhead this summer for our hugely popular Summer League as well as a series of mini-tournaments and taster events to attract new members.

Youth Ultimate

Our youth section has been bolstered by the addition of new members and new coaches this season, allowing us to diversify our junior programme. Our coaches continue to work with local schools and community groups to develop the sport around Glasgow. We ran an indoor festival in November 2022 at Kelvinhall with ten teams competing from ten local primary and secondary schools, and an outdoor event in May at Hillhead with thirteen teams. This summer we will be running youth training sessions on Wednesday evenings and starting a new league format for u18s on Sunday afternoons.

Shaun Webb

Shinty Report 2022-23

Glasgow Mid Argyll are the only senior Shinty Club in Glasgow. We currently run two men's teams, two women's team, under 17 and an under 14 development team which provides a pathway into senior shinty from the various junior clubs in the greater Glasgow Area.



GLASGOW MID ARGYLL
SHINTY CLUB

The club are currently thriving with a membership of close to 100 members drawn from the greater Glasgow area. Shinty players from all over Scotland coming to Glasgow are welcomed in addition to seeking to develop the sport in Glasgow through our youth development teams. The club can cater for a range of skills and experience from complete beginners through to seasoned campaigners and welcome volunteers to help in the running of the club.

The senior mens team play in the National Premier League welcoming the sports elite teams to Glasgow. They are the current holders of the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup winning it for the first time since 1980. The televised final was played in Glasgow for the first time in many years. The mens second team compete in South Division 1 and won the Bullough Cup (south area junior cup competition) in 2022. Our under 17 team also won the South knock out competition in 2022.

Our women's section has grown significantly since the covid pandemic, and we are currently fielding teams at national level and in the south development league.

The biggest challenge facing the club at present are playing facilities and the retention of the only shinty pitch in Glasgow at Peterson Park, Yoker (which will be known as Garscadden to many Hillhead members). This has been the home facility to Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club for over 25 years. Following the Covid pandemic, Glasgow Life declared their intention to close the venue due to the substantive budgetary cuts that they were facing. Following extensive negotiation, we are currently operating the venue under a short term LtO and have recently formed a Community Interest Company (CIC) in conjunction with Glasgow Gaels GAA and BSC Glasgow (the other users of the venue). The CIC have made application to Glasgow City Council through the People Makes Glasgow Communities Initiative to manage and operate the facility under a long term lease in an effort to secure the long term sustainable future for the facility. This is a daunting task for a club of our size and cannot be achieved without continued long term financial support from the council to preserve our national indigenous sport.

Glasgow Mid Argyll remain keen to maintain our close links with Hillhead Sports Club and Hub and continue to train at Hughenden over the winter months and to use the club for meetings and social events.

Dougie Luke

Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club