

To: All members of Hillcrest Sports Club

From: President, Hillcrest Sports Club

As we approach the end of another Club year, it is my pleasure to report that all goes well with our Club.

Our Executive Committee has made great strides in remoulding the Club into an organisation that will provide for the longer-term stability and success of sport at the William Gillitt Sports Ground – and of which we can be justly proud.

Initially, we concentrated on revamping the Club's management structure and administration and financial arrangements. In achieving this first essential goal, we have had the support and understanding of our four allotment-holding sub-Clubs (Tennis, Bowls, Athletics and Football) - an essential ingredient for success.

Then, we turned our attention to uplifting the face, facilities and security of the William Gillitt Sports Ground. This is a direct management and financial responsibility of the Hillcrest Sports Club, as agreed with the Trustees at the Committee of Management more than 25 years ago.

So what does all this actually mean?

- First and foremost, the Club now more precisely meets the express terms of the Trust Deed, without which our four sub-Clubs and a range of other recreational activities would be non-existent.
- The four sub-Clubs have always managed their own specific affairs. However, they also have a core responsibility to participate in HSC's overarching management and financial affairs. Similar to a holding company, HSC provides the umbrella support – the glue – for the sub-Clubs to operate effectively side-by-side on the WGSG.
- With this change in emphasis, the four allotment-holding sub-Clubs have agreed to a monthly financial commitment to HSC as a contribution to the funding of grounds management and upkeep, and allowing HSC to run lean and mean with only modest costs. This, in turn, means that the annual subscription to individual Club members has been moderated.

And on the ground, what have we achieved?

- Significant improvement of security, including access control, perimeter fencing, lighting etc (security is a priority)
- Appointment of an effective part-time Club Manager
- Welcoming of the Football Club as a full allotment holder, thereby uplifting the standard of the football field and club facilities
- Handover of the 'main bar' and function hall to the Football Club, thereby ensuring its ongoing viability and availability
- Changes to the liquor purchasing arrangements, allowing sub-Clubs to arrange own purchases (within the law)
- Building insurances overhauled
- Review of fire safety and adherence to regulations
- Overhaul of utilities (electricity/water) distribution and payment; certificates of compliance
- General grounds maintenance handed to a contractor (monthly/bimonthly service according to season)

- Ongoing general grounds refurbishing and maintenance, including road repairs, parking arrangements, fencing, painting, refuse disposal; maintenance planning introduced. 'Keeping Up Appearances'.
- Upgrading of staff quarters
- SAARP hut handed over to HSC and currently for HBC use.

I must thank the Executive Committee for their ongoing commitment to our Club and the William Gillitt Sports Ground – and honouring our part of the deal written into the Trust Deed. In particular, I single out Greg Worst (our Chairman), Phil Edwards (our Club Manager), Richard Smart (our Treasurer) and Phil Wyatt (our Secretary).

Further, I sincerely thank the representatives of the four sub-Clubs for their services to the Executive Committee on behalf of their Clubs, and in particular for buying into and supporting all the changes that have been introduced in recent times. It is their vital task to provide the link for us all to collaborate as one sporting family on this very special sports ground.

With my best wishes to you all

Keith

Keith Sanderson
President, Hillcrest Sports Club
Trustee, William Gillitt Sports Ground Trust

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