

Waterside Sports and Social Club Ltd

(Registered at Companies House No.4859082)

AGM 2008 – Chairman's Report

It is my pleasure to present to you my second report as Chairman of the WS&SC Ltd.

You will have read the 2007 Accounts Profit and Loss sheet and Accountants Report and acknowledged that the club, despite increasing membership, finds it difficult to trade in these times of commercial downturn where increasing wage bills, utility, fuel, food and beer prices make it ever difficult for us not to pass these on.

Your Board continues to seek means other than the bar sales of obtaining increased income for the club. Bar sales and membership fees are not enough alone to sustain this club. The coffee shop continues to be a success and room hire is flourishing. The ballroom attracts bookings for Wedding Receptions and the like. Community Services continue to provide teams enabling the club to save the cost of labour for various functions about the club grounds and buildings. The Motorcycle Riding Instruction Company still hire a section of the car park twice a week.

Our grounds contactor, TrueGreen and our own ground staff have seen the results of their efforts to improve the condition of the playing areas bear fruition in that the continuous comment from the players is that they have never seen the grounds in a better condition. We have successfully negotiated levy increases with the Field sport sections year in order to ease the cost to the club of maintaining these areas. Our registration as a community sports club allows considerable savings in council tax payment therefore the sporting sections are a very important integral part of the club, the first line of the Company's declared objective states 'To promote encourage and foster sports at all levels'.

We continue to explore means of obtaining sporting grants; the Sports Council, RFU and FA have all been contacted. The Tennis section must be congratulated for successfully negotiating with the LTA and NFDC considerable grants that will enable courts 1-4 to be totally re-furbished. It is hoped that this programme of refurbishment shall commence late September. The WS&SC shall continue to seek grants that would enable the provision of an all weather multi discipline pitch on courts 5 & 6.

The competition from our competitors, pubs and clubs continues and we wouldn't expect it to be any other way. I find myself quite often having to correct folk when they are comparing us and our prices to other establishments, we are unique in comparison. Others do not have anything like the overheads that we experience. We have successfully ridden the Anti Smoking legislation, which caused us a few headaches and expense, when trying to impress on smokers the draconian penalties that the club would suffer should we be found to break the law in any way. I would like to thank the smokers amongst you for your co-operation in this matter, making the management task a little easier.

Arthur Whittaker and the Theatre Section are still seeking extra funding in order to update and improve the interior of the Theatre. They are at present making efforts to improve the sound effects by insulating various sections of the internal walls with acoustic tiles, it is hoped that sponsorship of each tile will raise funds in order to help pay for the improvements. Sponsorship forms are available in the foyer of both the Holbury and Ashlett clubs. Any assistance with the improvements would be very welcome.

Likewise, if you have a skill that can assist the WS&SC in repairs or maintenance and wish to help keep costs down, contact Susan in the office.

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Since becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee we are governed by the Companies Acts. The means by which members of the board are appointed are laid down in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. Members of the board are proposed and elected by the members of the club, as indeed are the members of the two sub committees at Holbury and Ashlett. The Chairman of the Board and the Chairpersons of the sub Committees are appointed by the Board members. Each of the committees require strong support and input from yourselves I ask you to consider whether you have something to offer in the form of service to the club. We the serving club officers do sometimes run out of ideas and new faces on the committees would be welcome.

Finally I would take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of our staff, they never cease to surprise me when I observe the levels they will go to to support the club. We would not get the repeat bookings and letters of gratitude were it not for their effort and loyalty.

In conclusion I would like to remind you all that this club is far too valuable to lose. In these difficult financial times your board is continuously aware of the threat of closure, we need your total support to prevent this happening. The loss to the local community would be acute. The club is the largest single venue of its kind in the area, it has a theatre that can seat up to 300, a ballroom that can hold up to 200, four bars, conference, presentation and meeting rooms, a coffee shop, two rugby pitches, two soccer pitches, two bowling greens, a cricket pitch, six tennis courts and a sailing club. A club in an 1812 tidal mill at Ashlett Creek with a skittle alley and two snooker tables. So please give the club your continued support, recruit friend's neighbours into membership, tell the world what we are about.

Thank you.
Ken Williams

A Reminder: **Membership Renewals** fall on the 1st. April annually. We give members until the 1st May to renew their membership, after that date any late renewals are subject to an extra £5 levy.