

Wicken Sports Club – Report to the Wicken Parish Council May 2022

I will try to spend as little time as possible in this report on the problems of the last couple of years with the Covid pandemic. Rather, let's look forward. We have reported on the impacts of the pandemic previously to the Parish Council, our own WSC Committee, and through the Wicken News. Suffice to say we have weathered the storm and we are still here. Some sports clubs have not been so fortunate. Sports numbers are looking good, we are financially sound through a variety of Covid grant applications, and the social side is coming back.

Wicken Cricket managed a full season for 2021, and also saw the return of the Stony Stratford Club utilising our facility as an overflow. However, the relationship with Stony has been ended and a new 4-year arrangement has been put in place with Buckingham CC (BCC) starting from the 2022 season. Alongside the Wicken Saturday side, BCC will be using our Club as the Home ground for one of their men's Saturday teams and also for a junior side playing on Sundays and some Thursday evenings. The season has just got underway with a full programme of games over the summer.

Football is just completing its 2021/22 season with interruption only from weather; back to normal. In addition to the three men's adult sides (veteran's and two senior teams), this season saw the introduction of a new women's team, and a revamped under 11's side. The women's team have been very successful in their opening season, topping their league, as have the juniors.

Archery, which extended its Wicken use over the pandemic, with more outside shooting, has actually decided to keep that going, even through the winter months. So, they now shoot all year round on a Sunday, and then do there Monday and Tuesday evening shoots when the days are longer.

Tennis having got a boost in numbers during the pandemic has now slipped back in numbers.

The Clubhouse, itself, fully re-opened towards the end of 2021. The social activities have been slower to return and certain restrictions have been retained on an ad hoc basis, but the Film Nights, the Seniors Club, and now the Craft Club have all returned. Hopefully this year we will also see the return of the less regular events, such as the BBQ, Macmillan and others. A new venture, a Classic Car Meet has just been started, meeting on the last Wednesday of the month.

The Club has continued to progress maintenance works with financial help from the Solar Fund. The building is at an age where there are increasing maintenance issues that need resolving; the latest being some rotten wood rafters in the roof that need to be cut out and replaced. It would be good to give the building a spruce up with some fresh paint and a bit more colour.

There is still great demand for sports facilities locally and we are receiving fresh requests on a regular basis. It is still true that most of the sports users come from outside the village, but it is this utilisation that largely funds and keeps the facility available for the village.

Fenlon Dunphy

Chair - WSC