

EGM 11th February 2021

WELLESBOURNE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

I think it fair to say that it has been more than a strange year!

I would first like to place on record what a terrible shock it was to learn of Mikes passing and to also say a big thank you for all he did within the WSA and wider community of Wellesbourne. I know the Cricket Club are looking at a form or commemoration, such as a bench to be placed in his viewing position on a game day or plaque in the Bar area. Mike was instrumental in the securing of the S106 matched funding that is now being used to improve the Cricket Pavilion.

I would also like to thank all members of the committee but with special thanks to Cathy who has, as always kept everything in order with impeccable communication and organisation.

I would also like to note thanks to the Clerk of the Parish Council for the promptness of which submitted invoices have been paid in relation to the Cricket Pavilion development.

Senior Football

The Senior Football as we knew it has not been active for three seasons now and was removed as a member of the WSA.

Due however to the succession of Wellesbourne Wanderers as a club they have now successfully fielded an Adult team for a full season, primarily made up of former younger WWFC players. What we need to decide, guided by Wellesbourne Wanderers if the club want to differentiate the identity of the Adult and Junior sections, or just operate within the WSA under the name of "Wellesbourne Wanderers FC".

Wellesbourne Wanderers

Due to challenges with Covid-19 there has been significant disruption over two seasons for the club, during the lockdowns no football at all was played, while there were significant challenges at all other times during the pandemic. The Club however rose to these challenges and did a phenomenal job of getting the children both training and playing competitive football wherever and whenever possible.

The club goes from strength to strength in terms of both participant numbers and volunteers. WWFC currently have 18 teams at youth level, of which 1 is a girls' team plus the Adult team mentioned above. The club has almost 350 active signed playing members of which around 50 "Minis" train on Saturday mornings, and would be generally of pre-league age of 4-7 years. The club also has approximately 50 volunteers working week in and week out.

The club is still using the facilities at HRI, WSCC, Loxley Road and the Dovehouse but has real concerns about the future of the HRI in the short term. The Newbold Road development is experiencing some delays that are out of our control so likely would not be accessible for at least another 12 months. Even with the option of Newbold Road in the longer-term future it would still not be sufficient to provide the demand of the club so it is imperative we find grass space local to Wellesbourne that will allow the Club to thrive for many years to come. It is an issue that I raise during all Facilities Meetings with the WWPC and was a project Mike P was also looking forward to push – this is something we urgently need to address.

Bowls Club

The Bowls Club had major disruption during the last season with no League competitive games being played. The Club did however manage to arrange roll up sessions twice per week for members, with these being booked in advance to comply with Covid-19 regulations.

Cricket Club

The Cricket Club also suffered greatly during the past year because of Covid-19, with a significantly reduced season, playing more informal, yet still competitive cricket. The adult section of the club, both 1st and 2nd XI are largely made up of younger players which bodes well for the future.

The youth section of the club was also significantly hit by the pandemic which resulted in all All-Stars activity being cancelled completely, directly affecting 120 local young cricketers. The youth team section managed to play some games but significantly reduced.

The Cricket Pavilion improvements are currently underway and should be completed by the end of April.

In viewing Mikes Chairman's report for last full year some issues have been addressed

Access to the Bowl and Cricket Club

The Parish Council have done some reseeding of the area and restricted access through a single entry/exit point. Due to the work currently being undertaken on the Cricket Pavilion and access by heavy vehicles some of the area has been damaged but sure will renew through the next few months once work has been completed.

Power of the Sports Association

Mike tabled whether the WSA was as relevant as it may have been in previous years as he felt the lease in the name of "WSA" made it difficult for member clubs to independently secure grants due to potential confusion in relation to applications and some associated liability exposure.

One Trustee

There was an issue that we only had one trustee for the WSA for the previous 18 months, but this has now been addressed with the Parish Council.

It is my intention to stand down as acting Chairman and would like to propose a parent involved with Wellesbourne Wanderers FC should be found to take on the role. I believe this will put WWFC at the forefront to push for more grass space through the WWPC.

Sincerely,

Simon Isted
Acting Chairman, Wellesbourne Sports Association