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Volume I Issue 2

THROUGH THE GATE

The Official Newsletter of The City of Peterborough Sports Club

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THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIR

By Martin Collcott

Welcome to the latest edition of the Sports Club's new Newsletter. Time has flown since the first issue and much has been happening so hopefully the next few pages will contain something of interest to everyone.

We had positive feedback from the first edition as well from different sections - the flipbook version in particular seemed to go down well as it was easy to read on mobile devices as well as computers.

Since April, most sections have held their AGMs and there has been no change in personnel involved in running the sections or the Club. However, Brian Howard has been instrumental in setting up a Shadow Management Council, offering people an opportunity to learn more about what running the club involves and potentially providing future Council members and spreading this knowledge across a wider club base. We very much appreciate those who have shown an interest and are getting involved in this initiative.

Enjoy the read

Martin

CITY OF PETERBOROUGH SPORTS CLUB

New Beginnings



Club Manager Jonathan Short gives an insight into his first 200 days in the job

Seven months in, and every day continues to be a school day. As a member of the club for the last 20+ years, I've taken for granted that the club is open when I need it and that it functions well so I can just enjoy the sport I love. Little did I know the amount of work that needs to happen just to keep it ticking over and the multitude of issues that can disrupt its operation, let alone finding the time to draw up and implement a transformation plan to make things better.

One thing I did already know before I started the job, but it is worth emphasising. Whilst we have several paid staff, it's the volunteers from each section that really make this club tick and be such an amazing place to play sport and socialise. I am just a small cog in a bigger machine, but one whose job it is to glue all this effort together.

I really enjoy meeting the members each day, understanding their needs and trying to make things better. For me, it's not the big grand gestures but the multitude of little things which can be changed that make the club a better place.

As a Club, we are now really organised around an operational diary that ensures we keep all of us safe, whether it's defib checks, fire checks or alarm inspections etc. I'd like to get to a stage where we don't have operational surprises.

One of the biggest challenges for me has been the bar / lounge. With the help of a brilliant bar team, we are now in a great place with stock management, staffing, cost control, a number of really successful events under our belt, and more in the diary. Even some simple things like introducing a 0% draft lager and the dartboard have had great feedback.

It's taken a while to get on top of the practical, day to day side of the job, but now the focus is moving onto the more commercial aspects. As a club we have a limited income through membership, court usage, fund raising, grants etc. so we need to have cost-effective commercial arrangements in place to ensure we spend our income wisely. You can learn a little bit more about what you can do to help in the "Funding the Club" article, and there will be much more on this side of things in the next few months.

I'll be away at the Masters World Cup in Auckland, NZ between 1st and 19th November, and a group of the Management Council members will be taking on the manager role whilst I am away to ensure things still run smoothly.

Club Upgrades

Astroturf Floodlights

For almost 6 years, the hockey section has been looking at upgrading the old halogen lights which were installed when the original pitch was built in the early 90s, to new LED ones - not just because of the 40% reduction in running cost but also for the improvement in brightness and clarity which would allow top games to be played under them. The issue has always been finding the funding for the work, especially with the focus on raising the monies for the replacement pitch in 2018/19. However, after several false starts, the Club was finally able to apply for funding earlier in the through Grantscape who are a community fund management organisation and specialise in managing funds from local companies for community and environmental projects. As a result, funding for the whole project was provided by the Mick George Community Fund (who also gave significant funding to the new pitch in 2019) as part of their latest environment fund release.
The actual conversion work, using the existing pylons but completely rewiring as well as replacing the bulbs, was carried out by Optimum Electrics, whose owner Tom Clarkson has been a hockey player for many years, and at the end of August the new lights came on stream.
Feedback has been universally positive from both members and opponents and is already providing much brighter and safer hockey right through the winter for everyone. Umpires have also commented on how much better it is umpiring the games after dark on a Saturday now, although of course it does take away some of the excuses for getting decisions wrong..... And as a result of their generous support, the hockey pitch has now officially been named the Mick George Astro.





Anyone for Darts?

Those of you who have been into the lounge recently will have notice our latest addition to the sports on offer at the Club - a brand new Dart Board along with proper carpet and oche, and board for scoring.
It is already proving popular particularly on Friday evenings when the clubhouse is usually quieter as people try to reacquaint themselves with a skill they have not used for a few years - so far we don't think there is a budding Luke Littler hiding in plain sight but you never know.
The hope is that in time we may be able to build up a Club team (or two) and enter local leagues - so if you play, get down there and get practising!



Funding the Club

You all know that your subscriptions go towards the day to day running of the club - both paying staff wages, the club's utility bills and the upkeep of all the myriad of buildings and grounds, and that your match fees go towards running your sporting activities. But that income is not enough to cover all the club's costs, so we have to have other income streams; here is a bit about a couple of them you might not know about but would be happy to contribute to.

The Bar & Lounge

It might seem obvious but the more our members make use of the bar and lounge, the more money they generate for the Club. It might surprise you to know that year after year, the bar does not quite cover its costs - but it would not take too much for it to start turning a regular profit.

How can you help? Well, the obvious thing is to come into the bar and have a drink when its open - we have a wide range of soft drinks and the new 0% Estrella is proving very popular, as well as draft beers, lagers and cider plus wine and spirits, and of course our excellent coffee machine. Maybe waiting for your child to finish their tennis or hockey coaching? Or had an evening game of tennis or squash? Or come down to watch a game of hockey on a Saturday? Fed up with sitting in the car or standing in the cold? Pop in and keep warm, use the WiFi, and have a drink. The bar is open every weekday evening from 6pm, and from 9am on Saturdays and 10am on Sundays. And even if the bar is closed, the lounge is often open for you to sit in and the coffee machine in the hall provides exactly the same excellent hot drinks as the bar machine.

Another way to support the Club is to think of the Lounge when you are organising a party - a birthday or anniversary, a leaving do for a colleague, or even a wake. We are happy to offer ideas for catering or for you to organise your own, as well as bring in your own decorations and music. All we need is a firm idea of numbers so we can staff it properly for you. We have had a number of very satisfied customers so far this year, so if you are interested please contact the Club Manager, Jonathan, to find out more.

150 Club

The 150 club has been operating for many years and in return for a small monthly subscription of just £5, offers a range of cash prizes. We do draws 4 times a year at the end of March, June, September and December - so everyone has plenty of chances to win all year round.

In March and September, there are 5 prizes ranging from £25 up to £100. In June we give away 9 prizes from £50 up to a main prize of £250, and the Christmas Draw has 9 prizes with a top prize of a whopping £350 to one lucky winner.

All the profit raised goes directly back to the Club, and we are happy to include current and former members, parents and family members of Juniors and friends who have supported the club in different ways over the years. You also get the benefit of a parking space if you are not currently a member! If you would like to join, you can use the QR code to the right to sign up and we will be in touch with your lucky number.



The Car Park - your questions answered

Why is the car park camera controlled? We have about 150 hospital staff who pay us a monthly fee to use our car park. This brings valuable income to the club from a facility which would otherwise be empty for much of the working day, but we need the cameras to ensure that staff who are not paying us are not using the car park for free, and to stop hospital visitors from free parking. Installed in 2015, they do their job very effectively. The system is run by a 3rd party company, and they take the revenue from fines settled on their system. We take money from admin fees where we cancel PCNs for you.

Do the cameras run 24/7? They do, so if someone tells you they go off at 6pm, you can tell them they are wrong. They do run at the weekend but are "blacked out" so you don't need to use the iPad if your car is not registered. We can however get reports of vehicles who are using the system 7 days a week.

When & how can I get my car on the system? The main advantage of having your car on the system is that you don't have to enter your registration into an iPad on every visit. Once you join the club and are paying regular subscriptions, you can ask us to add up to 3 cars which you would use regularly to visit the club. Just email carparkptsc@gmail.com and give your full name, section and car details. Please check that you give us the right registration - you'd be surprised how many people get a PCN because they have muddled up their plate. Keep using the iPad until we confirm we have actioned your request.

What if I change my car? Just drop us an email - same address - and please tell us both the new reg and which one we can remove. We ALWAYS reply to confirm updates, so until you get that email you must use the iPad to register the new car.

My car is not permanently registered - can I park? - Yes, if you are a member (eg junior tennis coaching) or attending an event on the site, you can follow the signs and use one of the iPads for a permit up to midnight on the day you park. If you stay beyond midnight (e.g. for an event in the bar), you will need to register again after midnight before you leave.

I forgot to use the iPad for my car when I arrived - will I get a PCN? You can enter your registration at any time before you leave the site. If you don't realise until after you have left, email us as soon as you can - we can backdate a temporary permit for up to 48 hours. Otherwise, yes, you will get a PCN.

Can I park for work at the hospital? If you are a full member, you can but this only applies to FULL adult members (**not** coaching only members for tennis, 150 Club members, U3A tennis or any juniors), and does not apply to any family members or friends, who will need to apply for a paid NHS space. If you are a parent of a junior member, please email us to find out how we can help.

The iPad in the Tennis Dome is not working - can I just park without registering? Definitely NOT - you will receive a £100 Penalty Charge Notice from the company who manage the car park! Please use the one in the Clubhouse hallway BEFORE you leave the site. If that one is not working, there will be a sign and we will work with the parking company to ensure that no PCNs are issued. Please let the manager know if you think there is a problem with either iPad. Bowls have one they use in the summer in their own Clubhouse.

I have a courtesy/temp car - what do I do? If you just have it for one day (service, MOT etc) then just remember to register it on the iPad for your visit. If it's for a longer period, drop us an email and we will add it to the system up to the date you tell us you are returning it when it will automatically drop off the system.

I have a PCN - can you help? Our policy is that if we are able to cancel it, we will charge you £20 admin fee for the first one, £30 for the second, and then you are liable for any more unless there are mitigating circumstances when we will try to help. As soon as it arrives, send a clear photo to the email account and we will advise if we can do anything. The longer you wait to contact us, the less likely it will be that we can assist. If you have a hire or courtesy car and the lease company has already paid the PCN, we cannot refund you as we don't get the fine money. If you start getting debt collection letters, you have left it too long....

Can I carry on parking after I leave the Club? No, we do regular updates to remove cars for those who have left the club. If you are visiting for an event, you can of course use the iPad, but not if you are visiting the hospital.

Can members of the public use the car park? No, that is why we have the ANPR system! We will challenge anyone we think might be abusing the system, so we protect the spaces for those who should be using it. This includes checking registrations which are being input into the system on a regular basis but who are not members of any section, or people seen using the iPad and then heading to the hospital.

Section Snippets



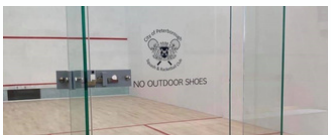
Bowls ended another successful season with teams playing in local leagues and cups most days as well as numerous inter-club social afternoons and competitions. There has been a gradual increase in membership, with members from other sections looking for a summer sport settling in well. After a team of volunteers helped "put the grounds to bed", the monthly socials have now started up again on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2pm in the Clubhouse - not only a great way for current members to keep in touch and raise funds, but also open to all members of other sections who enjoy a good social.



Cricket had another incredibly busy summer both for club teams and external bookings. The Saturday 1st finished 3rd in their league, and runners up in the T20, whilst the 2nd & 3rd teams finished in the lower region of their divisions. The Sunday 1st were Champions, and the 2s a very respectable mid-table. The men also successfully defended their T20 Stamford Shield Cup, and made the Area finals of the ECB KO. And on the junior front, both the U9s and U13s won their respective Hunts County leagues. As always, the volunteers who help coach, manage and transport the juniors are the lifeblood of the club and many parents forge long term friendships whilst sitting at the club on weekday evenings. The Club also hosted a number of external matches including Sunrisers Women, County junior matches, Cambridgeshire and Northants.



Hockey is back for another season, and with the new LED floodlights which were installed during August, top flight games can be played later in the day. The Men's 1st XI have made a solid start to life back in the East Division, sitting joint top and enjoying good crowds at home games. Results elsewhere have been the usual mixed bag with more wins and draws than losses overall which is healthy, and one of the positives is seeing so many U18s slotting into all 13 teams from top to bottom in both men's and women's teams which is a testament to the exceptional work the junior coaches are doing, and which will be strengthened by the arrival of Dave Richardson who has a wealth of experience working with junior players. With around 90 juniors at Mini on Sunday mornings and age group junior teams playing all over the East, the club is thriving and very grateful for so many volunteers helping the team of coaches.



Squash recently bid farewell to Luke Halliwell who has been the Squash Coach for the last couple of years, working hard to develop the Junior programme; he has moved to Leamington where he will continue to his development. Mumin Bilen has stepped in to fill Luke's shoes with the aim of continuing to improve all aspects of coaching in the section with support from those around him. The courts have been recently cleaned professionally and some necessary basic repairs done. At some point in the future a new squash floor and a front wall replacement will be needed; meanwhile two other projects are just awaiting a start date - keep an eye out for updates on the section's news pages. The courts remain busy but we do have to keep reminding new players not to wear shoes on court which they have worn outside to avoid damage and repair costs.



The Tennis section is also making some changes in its coaching team, and is in the process of replanning and restructuring for the next years to ensure that the provision matches the demand. With the new Dome coming on stream at some point in 2025, extra courts will be available for members as well as additional options for community use and juniors during the non-peak times. Over the summer, we had another very successful league campaign with 5 of our 16 adult teams winning their leagues, culminating in the the club winning the Don Brace Cup. The annual internal Club Championships once again proved very popular with several new winners across the different categories. The section is now planning Hallowe'en and Christmas parties, junior socials and half term camps so is still incredibly busy.

Project Management

Second Tennis Dome

After almost 3 years of thinking, discussing, drafting plans, re-drafting plans, and investigating funding options, the small group from the tennis section involved in this plan got the go-ahead from Council to move forward with the project around 18 months ago, as the pieces of the jigsaw began to fall into place.

The first hurdle was to obtain planning permission - our landlords, Milton Estates, having already given the green light the submission - and with all the necessary due diligence in place, and an excellent planning consultant on board, planning permission was granted in September 2023.

There then followed more detailed conversations with contractors who could build the dome, which needs significant groundworks as well as electricity supply (needed both for internal lights and to power the generator which will keep the new dome inflated). Positive discussions also took place with the nursing home which sits behind the Club grounds over gaining access from Bretton Gate through their land and onto ours - which will remove the need for lorries and works vehicles to come through our car park and across the cricket outfield, along with calculations of the volumes of earth which would need to be removed from the site as part of the groundworks.

And then the all-important fund raising - the section were looking at raising around £200k for the project (the Dome itself cost nothing as it came from the LTA and has been safely in storage for 4 years) from a whole variety of sources. There was money banked from when the Club sold its previous land after joining us and the promise of an interest-free loan from the LTA which acted as the starting point. The team then set about raising the rest through a combination of crowdfunding, donations from members, and grant funding. After much hard work, grants were obtained from a number of sources including the FCC Community Fund, the Augean Community Fund and the Viridor in Peterborough Fund, and the crowdfunding was successful enough to achieve the maximum matched funding from Sport England, so a total of over £200,000 has been raised. This means that not only is the Dome now viable and on track, but there is also sufficient money to convert the current Dome lights to LED and thus save considerable energy and therefore money going forward. Now we are just waiting for contracts to be signed and a definite start date from the contractors, and some slightly less wet weather, and some time in 2025 the new Dome will be up and running! Jonathan Short will be taking over the overall project management of this final, delivery phase working in conjunction with a small expert team from the tennis section and the external contractors to finally make this happen. It has been a long road but will be so worth it for the extra facilities for our members.

Clubhouse Building Projects

We have had a number of challenges with water ingress in the last few weeks, which has forced us to change priority on our club house building works plans. We engaged a contractor to review the roof, its failure points and to come up with a phased plan to remediate the problems found. The good news is after an initial review, we believe we know the failure points and design issues with the roof that need to be put right and are now awaiting the plans / costs from the contractor.

The roof works will delay three key areas: Soakaways at the front of the building, the mens and ladies shower refits, and the lounge redecoration. Sequencing the above is important to ensure they are not affected by any roof changes and to ensure there is no additional unnecessary cost to the Club.

Keep in touch

If you don't know how to keep in touch with the club, we have plenty of different ways for you to keep up with our news or find out about the club in general

Website www.cityofpeterboroughsportsclub.co.uk
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/cityofpeterboroughsportsclub/
Twitter (X) @cityofpboroSC
Instagram @cityofpeterborosportsclub

If you need to contact the club by email, it's
manager@cityofpeterboroughsportsclub.co.uk

If you need to contact us about anything to do with car parking it's
carparkptsc@gmail.com

Management Council

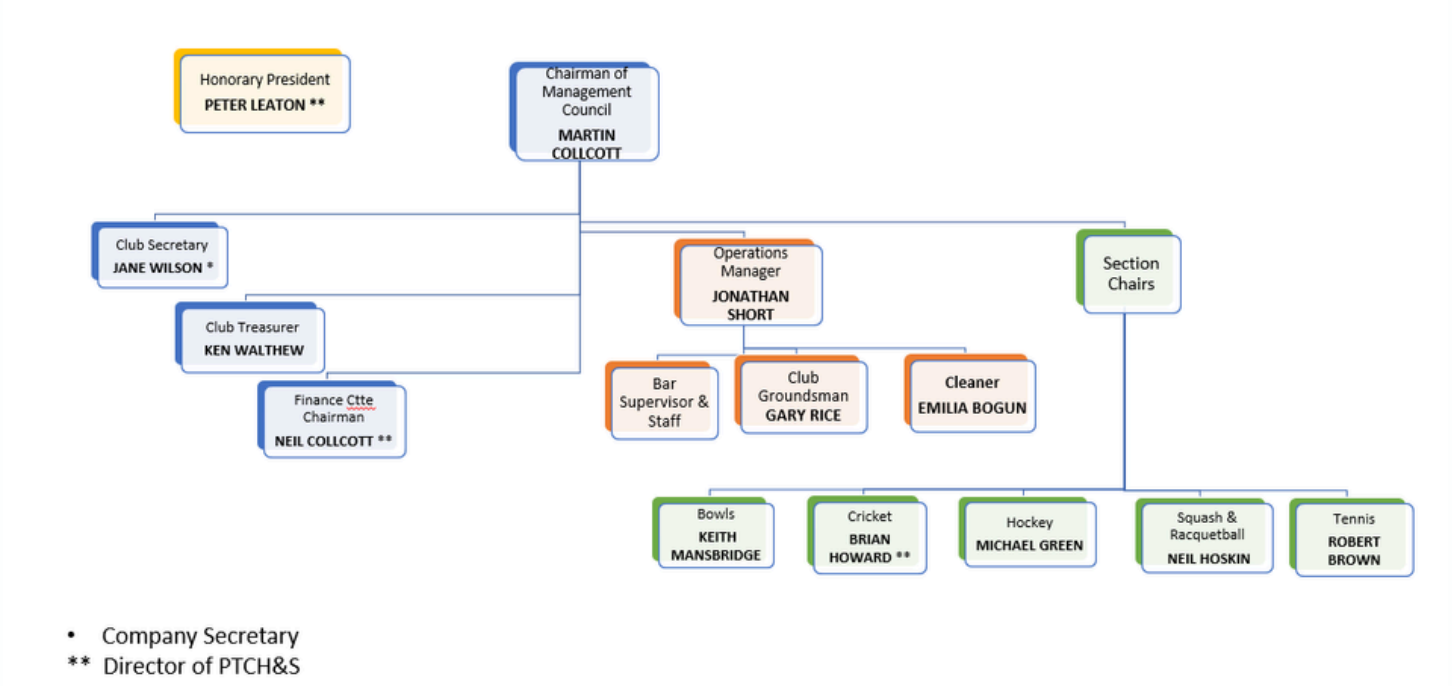
Chairman - Martin Collcott
Club Secretary - Jane Wilson
Treasurer - Ken Walthew
Finance Cttee Chair - Neil Collcott

Sports Club Operations & Commercial Manager - Jonathan Short

Bowls Chairman - Keith Mansbridge
Cricket Chairman - Brian Howard
Hockey Chairman - Michael Green
Squash & Raquetball Chairman - Neil Hoskin
Tennis Chairman - Robert Brown (Council Rep - Bill Skeed)

The Club Structure

City of Peterborough Sports Club :
How the club works for you



- Company Secretary

** Director of PTCH&S

Management Council consists of the Officers of the Club and the Section Chairs

Management Council

- Manages strategic direction of the club
- Approves major financial spend recommended by Finance committee
- Approves major project work
- Approves new policies and amendments to existing policies
- Manage club finances including all income & expenditure, subscriptions and bar
- Manages club discipline
- Recruit senior staff roles to manage the club

Club Staff

- Manage the day-to-day operations of the club
- Manage the commercial activities of the club including lettings and Club events
- Maintain the grounds and club physical infrastructure
- Manage major Club Projects
- Recruit staff as required (bar, cleaners, assistant groundsmen) to run the club in agreement with MC

Section Chairs

- Manage all activities relating to their sport
- Responsible for compliance with all policies and requirements of their governing body, including safeguarding
- Manage recruitment of members to the club
- Manage finances relating to participation in their sport in conjunction with Club Treasurer
- Manage section-run events, fund-raising and section sponsorship