

NAPTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2023

It has been very encouraging to see village sporting activities returning to some sort of normality after the previous two years of lockdown.

The site has been maintained to a high standard including specific work on the floodlights, hedges and drainage issues. Sight screens have been purchased and installed on the tennis courts and plans are in hand to install a Petanque facility in the near future. The major area for improvement has been the project for replacement of the All Weather Surface (AWS). The project is well advanced and it is hoped that the necessary funding will be obtained to complete the work in the coming months. Other new activities have been considered including Padel Tennis, but this will have to wait for the moment given the cost implications.

A defibrillator training workshop proved successful earlier in the year and the NSA marquee has been extensively used over the last 12 months to support various village activities including the Platinum Jubilee as well as the Napton Music Festival and the village bonfire.

On the business side, the cost of electricity has dramatically increased and partly as a result of this it has been agreed that annual fees and charges will need to be increased by 5% for the year ahead.

The NSA / NPC Licence Agreement has been renewed for 2023 and donations have been made to NPC to support sporting activities generally in the Napton area. Good financial control continues to be maintained and accounts kept in good order.

Club membership levels have generally been maintained and a range of social events continue to be arranged across the Affiliated Clubs.

NSA Officers / Representatives remain essentially unchanged which helps to maintain general stability across the organisation.

Looking ahead, it has been acknowledged that more thought will need to be given to management of funds and spending plans. This is to be expected with a property which is now 20 years old and as we move into a period of increased need for maintenance and repairs in order to maintain the facility to a high standard.

This year the AGM is scheduled to take place on 16th May 2023 at 8p.m. in the Victory Club when all interested parties will be welcome to attend.

At the time of writing, the membership of the NSA Committee is as follows:-

Honorary President	Vacant
Chairman	Tony Gilbert
Vice Chairman	Dave Cooper
Treasurer	Graham Line
Secretary	Dave Evans
Soccer Representatives	Pete Barfield / Liam Southwick
Tennis Representatives	Hilly Honess / Jayne Warman
Cricket Representatives	Sam Sensecall / Gary Speller
Netball Representative	Vacant
NPC	Will Watson

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's been another successful year, with the football, cricket and tennis sections all being very well supported and it has been gratifying to see all areas functioning 'properly' after the pandemic.

The facilities are also being used regularly by the Brownies and the Arc School as well as function hire.

With the outdoor exercise equipment, table tennis and now archery in addition to the Clubs' activities, there is a very varied use of the site. This summer we are planning to add a Petanque area near the exercise equipment, which will offer yet another interest.

The major project for this year is the planned replacement of the All Weather Surface. This is being funded mainly by a grant from the Football Association, which we hope to secure through the hard work of two Committee Members in particular, and we'd like to express our thanks to both of them for their efforts.

The site is in good order, thanks in no small part to both the volunteers on the Committee and members of each section. Their hard work is very much appreciated and the village should be very proud of this exceptional facility.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The NSA's finances remain strong. The raise in Club contributions for the year 2022/23 have addressed the expected increase in electricity costs. Other costs for the year were largely in line with previous years with the only large maintenance cost being in respect of maintenance of the tennis and all weather surface lighting (£1,500).

In addition to the above mentioned increase in Club Contributions, there was also an increase in donations to the NSA relating to the NSA's marquee being loaned out to community events. This, along with hiring out the Pavilion for various activities, has maintained the NSA's income for the year.

With the Parish Council directly taking on the project to secure grant funding for refurbishment of the All Weather Football Surface, this has enabled the NSA to make a significant donation to the Parish Council to support sport and recreation in the Parish, as anticipated in the Annual Licence Agreement between the NSA and Parish Council.

The result of the above was that the NSA's accounts for the financial year ending 30th April so far shows a deficit of c£8,500, with the NSA continuing to hold funds of c£18,500.

The previous year's accounts (2021/22) were fully audited and submitted to the Charities Commission and this process is in hand for the financial year 2022/23.

FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT 2022/23

The 2022/23 season did not start well for the men's Sunday team, struggling to get a series of results together. However, morale stayed high and the middle of the season picked up with the team getting wins and climbing a couple of places up the table. With a few games left of the season, the aim is to get up towards the middle of the table and build on the team for next season. The veterans enjoyed another year of weekly social games on the all weather surface. The Astro-turf has also been used

by a number of girls/boys team training sessions from surrounding villages throughout the season. The all weather surface is currently going through a planning and funding process for the surface to be replaced to a modern standard.

TENNIS CLUB REPORT

Competitive tennis

The ladies' team continues to take part in the Evesham and Stratford leagues which run all year round. Currently there is no men's team playing league matches. A number of friendly matches were organised last summer which were well received and these will be continuing in the coming months.

Projects during the year

In January 2023 a membership survey was conducted and, as a result of the feedback received, a number of new initiatives including a Coronation Tournament and an earlier start to club night will be introduced.

An Open Day was run in May 2022 which was a real success and resulted in a number of new memberships, increasing awareness of the club in the local area.

Social tennis

Regular weekly sessions are run on Wednesday evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. This year a social session for junior members has been introduced. This has taken some time to get off the ground but is now proving increasingly popular and the Club is looking for other clubs with juniors who would be interested in playing friendly matches.

Court maintenance

In order to keep the courts in good condition the Club is planning to have them professionally cleaned in the autumn.

Club administration

The LTA ClubSpark online system which enables members to pay their membership fees and make court bookings is being used. The Club website provides all the information needed by members or interested future members and this can also be accessed through ClubSpark.

Coaching

The coaching programme continues to thrive and caters for all ages and abilities. The Club currently has over 40 adults and children taking part in group lessons each week. The coaching programme is one of the main ways new members are attracted. This is particularly so with the juniors.

CRICKET CLUB REPORT

2022 saw a continuation of the impressive form of Napton's Sunday Cricket Team. Of the 15 completed fixtures, 9 were won, an impressive return considering the ever increasing age profile of the playing squad.

The Club continues to invest in its facilities and with a dedicated team of volunteers, ably led by head groundsman, Graham Line, the playing surface and outfield have never been in such good condition.

The Annual Steak and Ale evening was held at the Folly and was well attended. The ever-popular Wives and Girlfriends event held at the Millstone Hare also proved a great success.

DJ Palmeramma provided the after dinner entertainment at the End of Season Dinner Dance where attendees were treated to an excellent three course meal and some inspiring speeches from new Captain and Vice Captain, Mike Eadon and Olly O'Brien.

Informal coaching of players' children continues on Friday evening throughout the summer.

The Club continues to welcome new players into the fold.

It is thanks to the continued efforts of the Committee and Members that the Club continues to thrive.

NETBALL CLUB REPORT

Unfortunately the Netball Club activities have not been revived since the lockdown and those previously involved have moved on to other things. Courts and equipment continue to be available and it is hoped that activities may be revived in the not too distant future.