



Chairman's Report March 2021

As a club and as a society in general we have experienced nothing like the last 12 months and indeed we all know someone who has been adversely affected in health or financial costs.

Thankfully with the success of the vaccine rollout the Prime Minister has announced a route to the eventual lifting of restrictions which we have all lived under to suppress the virus. Clearly, we will all have to learn to live with the limitations the virus has imposed on us for some time, however the 29th March 2021 is a date which we can all look forward to when the rule of 6 for outdoor sports activity becomes active.

Many sports clubs have suffered financial hardship over the past year with reduced income and continued high operational costs.

Ripley and Alfreton as a club has been fortunate to have very low month to month operating costs and has also been successful in applying for a number of support grants the result of which puts the club in a very strong financial position coming out of lockdown.

The committee has now formulated a 5 year development plan to set targets and objectives. One of these objectives is additional floodlighting for which court 2 now has partial coverage. These new LED lights provide a reasonable level of playing conditions, although not up to the county standard of courts 3 and 4, additionally work has been undertaken in preparation for additional lighting to court 1 and 2 and the rehousing of the meter boxes within the clubhouse.

This development plan will be revisited regularly to monitor progress, but at this time the pandemic has not financially adversely + its progress.

When finances allow new lighting columns will be erected between courts 1 and 2 to complete the installation on court 2 and ultimately light court 1.



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The new LED lights on court 2 are a departure from traditional lamps. They use half the electricity and we only require 6 units per court to give the same lighting conditions. Any feedback from members regarding the use of the new lights would be welcomed.

It is anticipated that resurfacing of the path and the provision of a disabled car parking area will be completed in the spring.

As already reported the club is in a strong financial position following the awarding of a number of support packages and the committee has pledged that no member will be financially disadvantaged as a result of the lockdowns.

For the coming year the committee has made commitments to replace all 16 lamps on courts 3 and 4, which after 5 years use will show signs of falling short of the average 500 lux coverage. All 4 courts are due to be cleaned and treated this year and we are actively giving consideration to repainting as they are approaching their 5–7 year life cycle.

You will be aware that the club needs to provide funds going forward for the maintenance and replacement of playing surfaces and floodlights and to this end has made commitments to ring fence funds.

Whilst the club faces no pressing significant costs, we do need to put money into a sinking fund to provide for future expenditure and the prudent approach would be to accelerate the funding of this while the club is in a healthy position.

The more facilities the club provides the greater demand on future funding will be needed.

Can I take this opportunity to express the committees thanks to all members for their patience and understanding during this unprecedented period and wish everyone a successful and safe return to play on 29th March 2021.

JN Hawley
Chairman