

Chairman's Report – May 2019

Funding

In March 2018, we submitted our application to Horsham District Council for funding the conversion of our sports-hall into a play-barn facility. Unfortunately, the amount of funding secured (£68,648) was considerably short of the £350,000 required. The Club Directors investigated various options to fill the funding-gap, but reluctantly accepted that it wouldn't be achievable. So, we went through the process of getting HDC agreement to transfer the £68k funding from the play-barn proposal to the rifle-range conversion (Yourzone45) proposal. At the end of 2018 that transfer was approved, and work began to convert the rifle range into the new YZ45 group-training facility.

Finances

Increased competition from new gym providers, together with our sports-hall health and safety issue, contributed to a loss of around 300 Club members in 2018. There was a one-off maintenance cost of £12,800 for lead decontamination of the rifle range, plus £15,000 for sports-hall roof maintenance. Accordingly, our 2018 finances suffered, and we posted a loss (ignoring depreciation) of around £53,000.

Clearly, this is a very disappointing result, not helped by the funding delay. The new YourZone45 facility will go a long way to reverse our financial position, but other steps are also being taken to remedy this (e.g. increasing subs, reducing operating costs and introducing promotional offers to attract new members).

It is frustrating that we don't qualify for grants from major funding organisations (like the Big Lottery Fund), given we are a not-for-profit community asset.

Club Facilities

It continues to be important to keep The Club attractive to new and existing members, so I'm pleased to report the following:

- New cardio gym equipment arrived in May 2018.
- The old meeting room (near the sports-hall) was converted into a cycling studio, hosting Revolution Indoor Cycling classes.
- Online booking has been added to our website.
- YZ45 opened, with membership currently at 101.
- With funding provided by builders Cala Homes and Stonewater, work will start shortly on the new and improved children's play area

Change of Directors

At the May 2018 AGM one long-standing Company Director, John Maher, will be standing down from the Executive Committee. I'd like to take this opportunity to formally thank John for his considerable contribution to the Club. The Club really needs more volunteers like John.