

Chairman's Report – October 2021

Summary

The club has been through a difficult time over the last two years, what with the pandemic and the forced closure last winter. We have, though, thanks to a lot of hard work and reducing of our costs, come through in a stronger and better position to face the future. We have new management in place, David Cooke is now the General Manager with Mandy Martin as Operations and Membership Manager with Ian Etherington as Treasurer. They and their team have done an excellent job in improving our financial position since they started just a few months ago.

Funding

In September 2021, we submitted an application to The Football Foundation for new Eleven-a-side goals and nets. The funding is for £1,425 and will allow us to purchase state-of-the-art UEFA Spec B goals with Blue and White nets.

An EPC Grant from Horsham District Council has also been applied for. The grant for £60,000 would be used to improve energy consumption around the site. An EPC report has been completed and reported that the energy rating for club is satisfactory. The funding could be used for new windows and doors. We are still waiting for confirmation of this grant.

Other funding during 2020 came from HDC for £60,000 and a crowd funding scheme that raised almost £13,000. These vital incomes helped to keep the club operational during lockdown.

Finances

Following the pandemic, The Holbrook Club lost about 550 members, which has had a significant effect on the income of the club. Membership income is now around £19,000 per month, down from £30,700 in February 2020. We have plans to increase the number of members in the coming few months by running several promotions including working hard to make the most of the normal tendency of people joining gyms in January.

Your Zone 45 has been bought out by 3D Leisure, and with their expertise in using social media to market the brand and the facilities we have available, we expect to add a significant number of new members to the club.

Currently there is no access to any funding through government, local council or Sport England. The club will however, continue to monitor the situation.

Club Facilities

The club is always looking to improve the club's facilities, so I'm pleased to report the following:

- New power rack, 7ft weight bar and weights in the gym
- New basketball nets in the sports hall
- New 11 a side goals and nets
- Painting the exterior wood

Change of Directors

At the 2021 AGM, there are six new members to be voted on to the board. Ian Etherington, Donald Preston, Colin Christensen and David Gill and Mike McGilligan, and Shane Bussi will seek election to the Executive Board, Tom Chapman is offering himself for re-election.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon Charman, Paul Finn, Craig Peters, Gavin Hockley, Ben King, Lucinda Brock, Amy Tucker, Jonathan Booth and Martin Jeremiah who have stood down from the Executive Board, for all their efforts in helping keep the club afloat during very difficult times. In addition, I would like to thank Amy Willis-Whitlock for her role as



General Manager during this challenging period and Yvonne Martin who has been the club accountant for over 18 years. I wish them both well in the future.

Finally, thanks to all our staff who have shown great resilience and adaptability during the last two years.

Michael McGilligan
The Holbrook Club Acting Chairman