# Chairman’s Report – September 2022

**Summary**

It has been another turbulent year. Dave Cooke resigned as General Manager in March this year and with the slow down over Christmas and the New Year, things were not moving in the right direction, at least financially. We did approach the Horsham Football Club for support, but they declined to assist us.

To replace Dave Cooke, we appointed Mandy Martin as the new General Manager, and I am glad to report that things are getting much better, largely due to the tremendous effort that Mandy and her team has put in over the last few months. We still have much to do but the club is in very good hands, and we are making progress in all areas of the club. One new innovation is that we have appointed Alisha Martin as Junior Marketing Associate on a Marketing Internship. We will be investigating other volunteering alternatives and are already in discussion with Horsham District Council with the prospect of appointing more interns and/or apprentices and a greater utilization of volunteers in the future.

## Finances

Our membership numbers have reduced over recent months meaning the membership revenue has not increased as hoped following the membership fee increase. On a positive note, non-member accounts have steadily increased meaning more and more non-members are using our facilities without the need for a monthly financial commitment.

We are making improvements with new gym equipment and outside guttering, that has already been installed, and plans to reopen the kitchen are well advanced.

We are in a relatively healthy position with respect to our finances and are taking measures to reduce our utility costs, but this is in the early stages. We will be continuing to look for further ways to cut costs.

The event’s calendar is looking very busy for the next few months, and we are preparing for the November Rugby Internationals and the FIFA World cup which will keep us very busy till mid-December.

**Club Facilities**

## Baseball has been introduced into the club and has been very successful, particularly the junior baseball and there has been plenty of sporting activity with regular Stoolball matches throughout the summer.

## On the football front, Holbrook FC has merged with Horsham Olympic FC to form Holbrook Olympic which will have two teams.

## Girl’s football is also taking root, the Horsham Sparrows now have Holbrook as their home club for their Under 8’s, 9’s, 10’s and 11’s and they play their games on Sunday morning.

## Change of Directors

Over the last year we have had several directors resigning. Ian Etherington, Donald Preston, Colin Christiansen, and David Gill all had to resign. In addition, Judith Packer and Shane Bussi are unable to stand for re-election.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all the directors for all the valuable work they did, it is greatly appreciated.

Peter Baker and Bryn Panther have been co opted on to the board, Peter is now the new treasurer.

Michael McGilligan and Elaine Overington will be seeking re-election and Peter Baker, Bryn Panther and Becky Hodgson will be standing for election to the Executive Board for the first time.

Due to the large number of resignations, we have looked at the operation of the Executive committee and have discerned that we no longer need to have nine members of the board. We have therefore proposed to change the constitution of the Holbrook Club and reduce the number of directors to five. We will of course continue to ask individual members to assist us as non-executive members of the board, from time to time.

Finally, thanks to all our staff who have shown great resilience and adaptability during the last very challenging year.

Michael McGilligan

The Holbrook Club Chairman