

Kettering Town Sports Club
Founded 1885
Headquarters : Northampton Road, Kettering, Northants

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Dear Members,

I trust this letter finds you all safe and well in what has been a very difficult time for all sport. Hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel and we can hope to return to some sort of normality as we progress through the year. I felt it appropriate to bring you all up to date as to where the Sports Club stands at this time and our plans for the rest of 2021 and beyond.

Going back to the first lockdown this resulted in all sports played at the club coming to an abrupt halt and at that time no-one really knew what was going to happen next. The Sports Committee were concerned that the future of the club was going to be under financial strain given that two of the main sources of income, bar takings and outside functions came to a halt. Therefore a letter was drafted to be issued to all sections setting out the position that we faced. Whilst some expenditure could be avoided or reduced, some other commitments remained in place, such as the insurance of the building, the security/alarm company costs, the general upkeep of the grounds and basic heating and water costs.

Within the letter it was asked that all members consider their own position first and then decide if they felt able to continue to support the Sports Club and their own separate sections by still paying their memberships for the 2020/21 financial year. I am delighted to advise that the committee were overwhelmed with the loyalty shown by more or less all members of all those sections who, at that point in time, did not even know if they were going to even play their sport in 2020.

Things then improved further as the government began to issue grants to compensate sports clubs forced to close and the monies received from this coupled with the waiving of business rates for the year gave the Sports Club committee confidence that we would be secure enough to see out these uncertain times.

Gradually as lockdown eased further all of the Sports Club sections, with the exception of rifle, were able to at least see a much reduced season. For instance cricket managed an eight week fixture list starting in July. This in turn did give the Sports club additional income by way of bar takings.

At the same time the committee were still looking at other funding that remained available and we were successful in obtaining grants from Kettering Borough Council and the Mick George Foundation which meant that, in conjunction with using matched funding from members subscriptions already received, we were still able to go ahead with the planned refurbishment of the ladies and disabled toilet facilities.

So things were on the up and when your Hockey season started on time all looked promising. However, as we all know, things did not go as planned and the season was put on hold and then leagues were cancelled, so you all ended up in a very similar position to the other sections.

So what the committee are looking for now is your support for your Sports Club in the same way as we have been fortunate to have seen from others. We are looking to further improve the clubhouse for all sections so that when you hopefully entertain your visiting teams in the club house after games next season, you all will see a difference from your last visit.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

Regards

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