

The Bluesletter # 8

21st Jan 2021

Lockdown 3.0 ... the shutters go down again!



Once again, its all quiet at Stockport Road; the pigeons have permission to strut their stuff on the cricket squares and the local squirrel population enjoy unfettered access to the club roof. But, whilst we wait patiently for a change in the season and with it, hopefully, a gradual relaxation in restrictions, we are not at a complete standstill. Since Christmas, essential maintenance to both artificial and grass pitches continues, we are working on a new online member communications and website, changes to our club licence registration are being completed, the heating and air handling system have just been serviced and we have just installed an upgrade to the intruder alarm and CCTV system.

March 2021 sees the end of the club financial year and a financial reconciliation of the first 9 months trading activity up to 31st Dec 2020 is almost complete. The most obvious headline is the loss of approx. 90% of bar trading income during that period but, it's also fair to say that we have been able to cut back on expenditure, access UK Government support and successfully apply for grant support from several schemes. So, whilst we have been able to effectively navigate a way through the pandemic thus far, (perhaps better than most comparable organisations), it is also clear that the club will still face a serious challenge when eventually, we are able re-open, to regain our footing and progress.

With that in mind, the Club Board are currently involved in a planning process to 'Bounce Back', re-establish trading income and encourage member usage so that we are able to continue to re-invest in our facilities through the summer and beyond, once restrictions are lifted. We'd love to hear your ideas contact any board members, section chairs or email to info@timperley-sports.com

Timperley Sports Club and our community

Our vision for the club is to ... *'improve the lives of local people through health, wellbeing and sporting opportunities for the whole community'*.

The Club board believe that we have a wider role to play in local community and just prior to the pandemic, we were looking at ways we might build on our strong local roots, and develop a diverse range of activities that might appeal to all sections of the local community. This is a theme to which the Club Board will return as part of the longer term 'bounce-back' plan, mentioned above, but in the meantime we just thought we'd mention two recent initiatives that reflect this approach.

Firstly, our Christmas **Foodbank Collection**



In case you missed it, in the weeks leading up to Christmas members were asked to drop off a few spare tins, boxes, bags at the club which were then delivered to Trafford South Foodbank. A special thanks to our Football section, who instead of giving their juniors a Christmas selection box, this year made a donation to the foodbank on behalf of all.

This is the link to our website carrying the full story. <https://www.timperley-sports.com/news/big-thanks-to-everyone-who-donated-to-our-foodbank-collection--2592308.html>

Secondly - **a community defibrillator at Timperley Sports Club**

Back in November we were contacted by Hitsy Patel who manages the Nisa Local shop on Deansgate Lane and who, over the years had become good friends with Pat Marston. Hitsy knew of Pats involvement with our club and wanted to recommend us for a community grant, in Pats name, from the Nisa Community Foundation, (<https://www.nisalocally.co.uk/community/>). We were obviously more than prepared to assist with the application and then delighted to learn recently that we have been awarded almost £1,500 for a project that would benefit not only our membership, but just as importantly, our wider community as well. After further discussion we have agreed to use the funds to locate an external public access defibrillator at the club, purchased, and managed with the assistance of the Community Heartbeat Trust. <https://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk/about-us>



This means that if anyone experiences a heart attack, calls 999, they will be given details of any public access defibrillator within 2000 metres of their location. Although located at the club, the unit is purchased with the grant and then maintained and insured by the Trust. We are now completing the paperwork and hopefully the defib will be installed before we re-open.

Tom Einstein

Sadly, we must inform you of the recent and sudden passing of one of our Honorary Life Members and a former Chair of the Mens Hockey section, **Tom Einstein**.



Tom in Eindhoven on tour 1987



Timperley HC, Llandudno Easter tour 1967

As a small boy, Tom, his brother and parents managed to leave mainland Europe and come to England just before WW2. Tom would eventually follow his father into the textile trading industry and joined our club in the mid 50s. In addition to Hockey, Tom also played Tennis (*NOTE: at that time and until 1991, there were 3-4 grass lawn tennis courts, where the new green astro is today*), and he established himself within the club as a fine mixed doubles player.

In the 1960's he started to organise the Easter Hockey Tour to Llandudno. He was 4th XI Captain in 1970/71 and Hockey Secretary from 1972-76. A few years later, having taken up umpiring, he was asked to become Chair of Mens Hockey, a post he was to hold for five years until the Hockey centennial season of 1986. Writing in the centenary

programme, Tom recalls joining the club in 1958 and the changes in the game during those 28 years. He mentions the obvious pleasures of long 'pub to pub' journeys back from away games in those pre breath-test days and of the start of league hockey, which brought with it the concept of improving one's fitness and of, pre-match preparation !

By that time, Timperley had just installed an artificial turf pitch (the first club in the country, as opposed to a University or institution, to have such a facility on site), and Tom looked ahead to a future for the club game on this new surface hoping that despite these changes, Timperley's established reputation for a social atmosphere could be maintained. We know now that Tom didn't need to worry, as this aspect of our Club remains one of our core strengths, and always acknowledged by visiting teams today.

As Chair, Tom was central to the planning and roll-out of the centenary celebrations which enthused the whole club. There were a range of fixtures and events throughout the season culminating in June 1987 with a tour taking three teams (1st XI, Club & vets), to Eindhoven. Fred Croxton, one of Tom's contemporaries recalls how, with a few hours to spare on the way home, they had a walk around Amsterdam and rather than some of the other more obvious attractions on display, Tom only had eyes for the interior shop decorations, which he thought were.. '*wonderful*'.

There was also the well-known story about the section committee. In the early pre-internet & pre-mobile phone era of the early 80s. Team captains and section would assemble on Monday evenings each week to discuss team selection for the following Saturday. On one such occasion Tom became annoyed that no-one appeared to know if a particular player was available or not, and so asked for the players phone number so that Tom could ring the person directly from the club payphone. After doing so, Tom re-joined the meeting confirming that there was no answer. The problem was that one of the committee had written down Tom's own home phone number and he was ringing himself !!....

After that centenary season, Tom decided to '*retire from active service*' and he was elected an 'Honorary Life Member'. He took that role just as seriously and continued to play a part of the club's social life when he could. For a while, he was a regular first XI spectator and in recent years, with his partner, Elaine, he never missed the annual Life Members and Vice Presidents Dinner and was a regular wobbly walker at the quarterly old boys Hockey Lunch's. We now know that he had been ill on and off, albeit not that seriously, for a little while and just into the new year, things worsened and he passed away about 10 days ago, aged 85.

Tom was from a time when personal protective equipment (PPE) on the Hockey pitch was a woolly cricket sweater and a pair of leather gloves, when artificial turf had never been thought of and when hockey goals were literally pieced together by members before and stored away after each match. Peter Christie, who followed Tom as Hockey Chair and who was a friend for over 50s years has described him quite simply... 'a gentleman'.

Those of us who also had the privilege to know Tom, will recall his unfailing cheerfulness and obvious affection for our club, proud of his membership that lasted a lifetime.

£5 Physio sessions

Here's an opportunity for anyone pondering if they could do with some Physio treatment or a consultation. Sessions are £5 with a placement student / physio at MMU's Physio Department - the student is supervised usually by the clinical lead Dr Chris McCarthy.

They are for aged 16+ but there may be options for U16 if you complete and enquiry - but the session won't be with a student and costs may vary. Thanks to Jo Nicholson for forwarding this to share. Open to anyone so feel free to share. Players, parents, family, friends all welcome to get in touch with MMU. See full details <https://www.timperleyhockeyclub.com/news/looking-for-some-physio-for-those-aches-pains-niggles-injury-rehab--5-a-session-2594276.html>

The Great Timperley Auction 2021



You might remember last summer's first attempt was a whopping success with close to £7,000 raised for the club as a result. Well..... we think we can improve on that in 2021. Details and dates are still being finalised but we're looking for a little help.....

We're asking for 2 or 3 club members to volunteer to help gather in 'auction lots' to push the idea within our various sections, but also perhaps to go outside the club to local companies, retailers and other enterprises who might be prepared to donate an item, a service or experience...

It will require someone with a little time, energy and perseverance for maybe 6-8 weeks around May/June...? Can you help?

Please email info@timperley-sports.com if you can spare some time...

Forget Storm Christoph.... It's almost time for Cricket !

....it's hard to believe but if Government and ECB restrictions allow the cricket season is just over three months away. We are planning out the new season and have already entered our senior and junior teams in their respective league and cup competitions.

Men's teams 2021

For the first time in many years, we have entered six senior men's teams: four on Saturday and two on Sunday. The new Sunday team like the 4th Saturday team is specifically intended to provide a pathway for our more experienced junior players into the senior teams.

Junior teams 2021

We will be entering teams in all the relevant age groups of the Cheshire County Junior Cricket League and the South Manchester Junior Cricket League. We anticipate that the ECB All-Stars program for children aged 5-8 will also be restarted in 2021. The exact format of the junior leagues has yet to be agreed and is likely to be a little different this year if exams are curtailed, together with All-Stars we are anticipating an extensive junior program in 2021 which like 2020 may well run on into the summer.

Girls and Women's Cricket at Timperley 2021

With the success of the girls programme last summer and the floodlit girls and women's softball cricket tournaments of on our ATPs in the autumn, we are looking to establish a girls and ladies cricket section at Timperley this year. We intend to recommence the girls and women's softball cricket tournaments in the spring under floodlights once the weather and COVID restrictions allow and continue these on a regular basis throughout the summer. The Cheshire Women's Cricket League are for the first time this summer forming a lady's softball cricket league to complement their existing four hardball leagues for ladies and girls looking to access recreational cricket. I would hope that with the number of ladies and girls playing in our winter sports sections that we could form and enter a team in this league this summer. We are looking for volunteers to help us take women's cricket forward at Timperley if you are willing to help please contact me (bobjpage@tiscali.co.uk)

Scorers and Umpires Courses

We cannot get games on without officials. Every game, junior or senior needs two umpires and should have two scorers (one from each team). We are always looking for parents and siblings to help out scoring and umpiring our junior matches and the 1st XI are also looking for a team scorer for 2021 (and together with the opportunity to watch the best teams in Cheshire and enjoy a free tea the 1st XI will pay £20 a match).

For those that have not scored or umpired a game before it can be some what daunting but speaking from personal experience there is no better place to watch a cricket matches from than from standing in the middle as an umpire and scoring is not as difficult as it may at first appear especially as most scoring is now done using apps on tablets or phones and provides a great way to get actively involved in supporting your children's sport.

To help people get started the ECB offers a range of courses for prospective scorers and umpires including free introductory online courses which provide the basics necessary to start scoring and/or umpiring junior matches.

If you are looking to develop new skills during lockdown and would like to help out over the summer have a look online and give and give one of the basic courses a go you just have to register and they are free.

The full range of courses are available at [England and Wales Cricket Board \(ECB\) - Cricket Scoring](#) try the Basic Scoring (free Online Course) and [England and Wales Cricket Board \(ECB\) - Cricket Umpiring](#) try the Basics of Umpiring (Free Online Course). The Club will help out with course fees if you want to take the more advanced courses and if there is sufficient interest, we will run basic courses at the Club before the start of the season (COVID allowing). Nathan and I are always available to help. Just drop me an email and I'll get back to you.. bobjpage@tiscali.co.uk

TCC Cricket archives.

Gary Fisher has been busy during lockdown!

The complete (almost!) archive of TCC stats and figures and lists and records are here in one place. Hours of fun to be had noodling through names and scores.. Take a peek.....<https://www.timperleycricketclub.com/a/club-archive--records-61210.html>

Timperley FC Wildcats

As part of the The FA's efforts to double participation in female football, they have created 'Wildcats', an initiative focussed on girls aged between 5-11 with no prior involvement in football. More importantly, it's a chance for girls to get active, whilst making friends and having fun! The weekly sessions provided in the fantastic, safe environment of Timperley Sports Club, will see the girls engage in the sport, learn & develop new skills and most importantly have fun.

The sessions will be carried out under the supervision of qualified coaches from the football section at Timperley Sports Club assisted by a group of volunteers from Wellington School. Whilst the pandemic has delayed our start, it has also served to make us even more committed to bringing the very best sessions as soon as we possibly can !

More information will follow in due course but please help spread the word.....

Hockey stop-start-stop ... and a re-start again?

Hockey started 2021 by taking a look back at the ups and downs of 2020 and brilliant response to from across our #hockeyfamily to #makehockeyhappen in their review of the year [2020 Review of the hockey year at TSC!](#)

Now we're back in Lockdown and hockey is suspended the Gate Marshall clipboards are hung up and for the Covid Support Team their is a break from completing the

England Hockey track and trace session registers required for every game and training session - since September when the new system was introduced over 6000 individual player sessions have been recorded - so it may not be hockey as we know it but there was plenty of stick and ball time pre Lockdown 3.0 !

All the various Leagues we play in are now regrouping again to work out how to complete the season with league games likely to be playing into late April / early May so as soon as we can get back on the pitches we will! The National League has been worst hit this season due and everything is still crossed for the revised league to get back under way by Mid March. Hockey are already moving to planning for a bumper late spring / summer of hockey with restrictions permitting all the usual tournaments and summer league.

Congratulations to Goalie **Oliver Evans** who has made it through to the final selection for the England U18 Boys squad - Oli is now having to tough out the wait as the planned trials for January and February have now been deferred. All the best to Oli and would be great to see another 'Blue' gaining junior national honours.

Lacrosse is already uprunning



The coming weeks and months will see Timperley Lacrosse Club challenge its members/followers to run 50 marathons in 50 days, a total of 2110 km. The aim of this challenge is to give the club's members something to strive for whilst lacrosse is curtailed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, whilst also hopefully raising some funds to help the lacrosse club through these difficult times.

Timperley Lacrosse Club has been a pillar of the Timperley & Altrincham community for 50 years, providing playing opportunities for girls and boys along with senior men and women. For a significant portion of our history we have delivered coaching sessions in local primary schools across the South Trafford area, presenting children with an opportunity to pick up a sport which is a bit different from the norm and offers many opportunities. In addition, since the 1980s the club has been partners in yearly exchanges with teams based in the USA (Fallston & Maryland Express), providing local children with the experience of travelling overseas and staying with American families (and vice versa for American children coming over to England) and proudly

had countless members represent England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland internationally.

We take great pride in offering a fun and welcoming sports environment, and we are very much an inclusive club.

This challenge has been organised to raise funds to cover the loss of revenue for the lacrosse club but importantly, as we have entered our third lockdown, to keep our members active and healthy in both body and mind.

Any support is greatly appreciated, donations little or large will go a long way in helping us reach our target of £2,500.

If any businesses would like to donate, please contact directly: timplaxsec@gmail.com

If a donation isn't possible, a simple like, or comment wishing our runners good luck or a share on social media would be very much appreciated!

For those interested in joining TLCs challenge, here's how to get involved:

- 1) Sign up here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8ZZ7YX>
- 2) Check out the JustGiving Page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/timperley-lacrosse>
- 3) Once signed up, further information will be sent through.
- 4) Regular updates will be posted via the Timperley Lacrosse social platforms:
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/timperleylacrosse/>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/tlclax>

The challenge 'officially' started on Friday 15th January and run for 50 days.

The 300 Club

One of the success stories of the last year has been the increased interest in the former 200 club, now 300 - enlarged to accommodate new numbers. This is a really simple way of supporting the club through lockdown for the price of a drink or two.

There are almost 170 regular monthly participants who have set up a standing order and they are joined by anything between 60 and 90 'pay-on-the-day' members. Monthly prizes have increased to reflect the growth. All surpluses from 300 Club are ring fenced to go towards improving our facilities and club development so every £4 does make a difference

Details about how to join as a regular are here <https://www.timperley-sports.com/a/fundraising-and-supporting-tsc--300-club-58959.html> or if you just want to know more, contact Nick Burnett nick@theburnetts.co.uk

Keep walking....

If you are out and about, taking in your daily exercise, there is something you can do. Take a stroll by the club, just keep an eye open for anything unusual. If you see anything that doesn't seem quite right, get in touch via social media.

We know many of you are already doing this - thanks for that – it all helps.

Finally

Whether you play, coach, volunteer or simply support Cricket, Hockey, Lacrosse or Football at Timperley.... It's your club but it's also our club. Help us to keep it going through this most challenging of times.

If you have any thoughts or ideas about the above, or anything else, just drop an email to info@timperleysports.com and we'll get back to you.

We'll keep you updated over the next few weeks as things develop and will share more in Bluesletter #9 which is planned for late February....

Stay Safe.

Your Timperley Sports Club Limited Board

Alan Holdsworth, Shelagh Everett, Nick Burnett, Richard Knill, Bob Page, Haroon Bangee, Phil Hartley, Jarrod Sykes, Helen Cue and the TSC Staff Team Jane Ashcroft, Sam Brooks, Andy Horsfield and Col Taylor

Stay in touch.....

<https://www.timperley-sports.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TimperleySportsClub/>

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