

The Bluesletter # 13

April 2022

Two years on from CoVid...

When the club was required to close the doors and all sport suspended in March 2020, we didn't know what would happen next or how long covid might affect us; looking back, our working assumption was that after two or three months, we would probably be able to re-open and carry on as normal. At that time, there was no thought that it would take two years to get back to where we are today.

.... And today of course is very different again, with its own set of challenges not least rising inflation, well documented in the media, which affects virtually everything we buy. As we look forward to what we hope is a busy summer, there will be some decisions to make in the coming weeks, not least around our long term development plans, which were understandably put on hold during Covid after the replacement of the Green Pitch, but to which we are now re-focusing efforts. There will be much more of that to say in the coming months but for now we are optimistic for the new season and looking forward to some good weather !

Decking / The Great Timperley Auction 2022



Probably the most visible planned development in 2022, will be the replacement of the decking area, which proved so popular during Covid. When we moved into what we still call the 'new' clubhouse, almost twenty years ago now, we had no idea that so many hirers of the club, particularly in the summer, placed a value on the outside social space.

As you'll recall, all funds raised from the Great Timperley Auction of 2021 were set aside for its replacement in 2022 and since then we have managed to secure a further grant from the English Cricket Board towards improving spectator facilities which has also been targeted as part of the facility. But... 180sq meters of decking will not be cheap and although we now secured around £16,000 from the two sources (above), we are still some way short of the £35-40k we have budgeted for.

So... the Board have agreed that everything raised from the 2022 auction will also be directed to this project. The dates for the auction are currently being finalised and will be posted on the club website and emailed around members in the coming weeks.

Please support the project by donating unwanted, gifts, sports equipment, wine or anything else suitable as auction lots, and join in the bidding to help make this a third successful fundraising auction and get this project done this Autumn.

1 2 1 with..... Fred Croxton

The first of an occasional interview with individuals who have been part of the TSC family for more than a few years.

To start with we've invited one of our Honorary Life Members, **Fred Croxton** to put his memory to the test.

Can you recall when and how you joined Timperley Hockey Club?

In 1972, I was working for a multi-service electrical heating and ventilation company in Croydon and they opened up a subsidiary office in Salford. I started playing badminton at an evening class and happened to mention to one of the other players that I was looking to join a Hockey Club, I was given the name of Paula Entwisle, whom I was told played for a good local club (Timperley) and that was it. I had just bought a flat in Sale and in September 1973 I started playing.

What were your first impressions?

At my former club in Wallington, we rarely mixed with the Rugby and Cricket players as at that time, they played at different venues so Timperley was quite different to what I had been used to. A multi-sport club, cricket, hockey lawn tennis, all on one site, with 4 Men's teams and Ladies hockey teams. Lacrosse had started up as well and it was very different.

How did your involvement with the club, progress.

I started off in the 4th team which was the correct level for me, although, over the years, I did play some matches for the 3rds. I can recall playing with Ian Hornby, Graham Parker (who played in goal), Lyndon Carthew and Martin Williams who both also played tennis. Two other people who were to have a greater influence on my life were Peter Christie and John Greer; 4th team umpire and player respectively. It was at a social event that I met Margaret, John's sister in law and we eventually married in 1985.

Can you recall who were the prominent members of the club at the time and what do you remember about them?

In the higher teams, John and Nigel Wood, John and Neil Entwisle & Chris Ryder were very strong players. Both John and Nigel also played 1st XI Cricket

What do you recall about the social life within the club and what were popular events?

The big Social event of the year was probably the New Years Eve Party, and I also enjoyed going to Llandudno each Easter for the annual Hockey Festival there.

The first major "off field" event was without doubt the raising of funds and installation of the first Astro Pitch. The building of the new clubhouse and 2nd artificial pitch were major landmarks in the club's history, although they were both after we moved to Cheltenham. I did attend the " Last Night of the Shed" and still have the T shirt to prove it !

What did you do in your professional life and how did that fit in with playing your sport at the club?

As an accountant I was approached with a view to taking over as Club Treasurer when the previous incumbent retired. Being on the 'Exec' meant that I got to know some of the non-hockey members, most notably David Shuttleworth, Alan Holdsworth, David Cain and Pete Roberts, Cricket.

What led you away from the club, to where and have you maintained a connection with the sport..?

In 1988, Margaret and I moved to Cheltenham. Margaret had lived all her life in Sale and we decided that we would like a complete change before we were too old to take the plunge. So I ended up at Cheltenham Hockey Club which, at the time was a similar sized club, 4 Men's teams and 3 Ladies teams. I was Fixture Secretary there for a few years and took over as Treasurer for a few more years. We also managed to get funding for an artificial pitch based at a local school, which we have sole use of each Saturday. Like Timperley, the club has grown considerably in the last 20 years, both regarding adult teams as well as Juniors and I'm still a member there as well.

How do you keep in contact with Timperley now and what are your thoughts looking ahead?

I try to attend as many of the former players lunches as I can and the Life Members dinners. If I didn't live so far away I would like to attend more often.

I look forward to reading Shelagh's regular news items and am really impressed and proud of how the club has made such huge strides forward, both on and off the pitch. Like most clubs, this is due to the amazing work done by club officials and volunteers.



Fred Croxton (centre) with Timperley HC at the 1980 Llandudno Easter Hockey Festival.

Goings and comings on the bar....

Firstly, we wish Mike Olin well as he sails away into the distance having joined the Royal Navy. Mike started with us as a temporary part time member of the bar staff back in the lockdown summer of 2020 before eventually becoming Duty Manager last year. This was always an interim job for Mike until he was able to join the Navy, but even so we're sorry to see him go. All the best...

Last autumn a former Lacrosse and Hockey junior member, Matt Stewart, returned from University and started playing Hockey again. Matt is completing an online course at Salford Univ whilst setting up his own PC-based graphic business – whilst he does that he has taken over Mikes role supporting Jane in managing the bar and club facilities.

It was always our intention, once we got out of covid restrictions to have three full time members of staff and for about a week, just before Mike left, we thought we'd cracked it. But things change and we had to advertise the post externally.

Remi Lawrence responded and started working with us, just a week or two ago. Remi comes from Sale and has a young family. He brings plenty of experience of the trade having worked in a similar capacity in several local hostelry's - so it's only the sporting side of things that is new to him



Matt



Remi

2022-23 TSC Subscriptions

The Board reviewed subscriptions in February and consulted with section committees in March on the proposed increases for 2022-23 and agreed a small increase in Subscriptions to contribute to increasing costs (linked to inflationary rises across TSC expenditure).

The headline TSC Subscriptions for 2022-23 (from 1st April) are:

- Senior (aged 18+) Playing Member: Full (£190) and Concession (£95)
- Under 18 Playing Member: £90
- Non Playing Full Member: Aged 18 to 65 (£60) and Aged 65+ (£35)
- Non Playing Associate Member (non-voting): £35

See full details about Membership and subscriptions on the website <https://www.timperley-sports.com/a/membership-50198.html> TSC Subs contribute to the running of our facilities (pitches, clubhouse, staff etc). Additional Fees for each sport and related to the cost of delivering coaching, training, playing and cost running the sport. If any member is facing financial or other difficulties, please contact your section chair or coach initially to discuss as the club (and sections) will support where possible.

We have three main sources of income: Subs; Bar Surplus and Hire fees (pitches and club) and we are working hard across all three to increase income to cover costs and investment in the club. Sections using the ATP's have also agreed an increase in the hourly rates they pay to reflect greater use of the pitches by sections and reduced external hire income opportunities. Members are thanked for their continued support.

Renewing or paying your 2022-23 TSC Subscription

Last year we introduced our new online TSC Club Management System hosted on the First Sports International (FSI) platform. As with any technology change it was not without

challenges and we thank everyone we signed up and paid using the system for their patient whilst we bedded in the new system.

The good news for members who signed up and paid via the system last year the renewal process is working well and pretty straight forward and showing benefits already. Cricket have already had 100 members pay 2022-23 subs in a week (new and renewal) which is a huge step forward and will show how the system can help save huge amounts of volunteer time in chasing subs and put this back into running our sports and the club.

We are currently collecting the following TSC Subs (and section fees) that are now due:

- Cricket (TCC has set a deadline of 1st May 2022 for payment)
- Non Playing Members – full and associate (TSC deadline is 31st May 2022)

We are working with Lacrosse, Hockey and Junior Football to finalise their playing fees and will be launching renewals for these membership types in late Spring (due by 30th September)

For members who paid using the FSI System in 2021-22 here's what you need to do

- Go to <https://timperley.first-sports.com/> and log into your account
- Check all your personal details are correct
- Click on 'Buy Membership' and select the membership type you want to pay for
- Click the GIFT AID OPT IN available on all U18 memberships if you are able to support the club in this way (Gift Aid reclaimed funds go back to each section to invest back into their sports)

For first time members or those who didn't play TSC Subs via the FSI system last year:

- Go to <https://timperley.first-sports.com/> and log into your account
- Click on 'GET STARTED' to open an account (to be completed by parents for all U18)
- Set up your account and click on the validation email you will receive
- Parents if u18's can then 'add family members' to their account for any U18's
- once your account is set up click on 'BUY MEMBERSHIP' and select the membership type you want to pay for
- Click the GIFT AID OPT IN available on all U18 memberships if you are able to support the club in this way (Gift Aid reclaimed funds go back to each section to invest back into their sports)

See the website <https://www.timperley-sports.com/a/membership-50198.html> for more details and a guide for parents signing up U18's

Any queries contact your section or info@timperley-sports.com

Member cashless cards

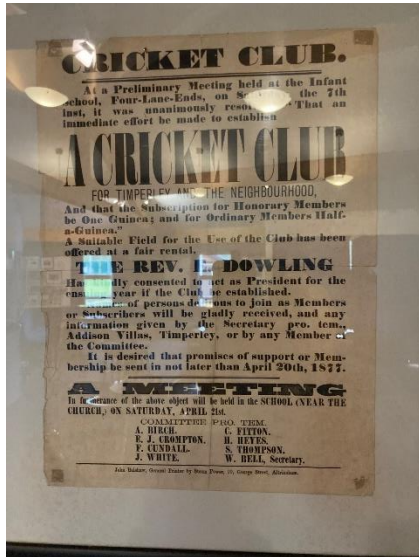
If you log into your TSC Account on the FSI system members aged 18+ will be able to see your 'Cardless Account' showing a barcode, balance and transactions. The Cashless Account (and Barcode) replaces the old plastic bar cards – if you have an old plastic card this can still be used but if not the new system works by showing the barcode on your phone.

Access your accounts and cashless bar code on your phone. You can then add credit to your cashless balance at the bar (by CC or DR card or cash. For eligible bar purchases you'll receive a 10% discount when you use the cashless bar code on your phone (or old card).

New sign ups to the FSI system will be contacted once their membership is approved with details to confirm that their cashless account has been set up.

Sam Thompson and the beginnings of TSC....

Under the TV in the clubhouse there is a framed poster announcing a meeting to be held to declaring that there should be a meeting to set up Timperley Cricket Club on 20th April 1877. One of the founder committee members mentioned is a Mr Sam Thompson who would go on to become a prominent local dignitary of the time.



Born in 1860, Sam lived at 'Brentwood' in Altrincham and schooled at both Altrincham & Manchester Grammar Schools before gaining a degree in London, graduating in 1881. He trained as a solicitor and qualified in 1884 joining Redfern, Son & Thompson with offices in Manchester, Altrincham and Oldham.

His cricketing career lasted until 1897 and it seems that he was primarily a 1st XI top order batsmen. He scored 1048 runs in 161 matches at an average of 7.03. His top score was 51 on August 11th 1883 against Greenheys Wanderers. 1883 was also his most prolific year in terms of runs scored (200) & games played (17). He held 75 catches in his 161 games. He will have scored more runs than this but records of the early seasons for the club are scant.

He married Sarah Bell who was the sister of William Bell, the clubs secretary.

Sam became the Honorary Secretary of Altrincham Golf Club for its first two years and it's Captain in the third.

In 1886 Sam assisted with the formation of the Hockey Club and was captain in its first season. He was a centre forward and had some talent for he represented and Captained Cheshire in the first fixture against Lancashire, a game in which he scored two goals in a 4-2 victory. In 1888 he was concerned with the formation of the Northern Counties H.A and was made a vice-president.

He was also involved in local politics and was appointed Mayor of Altrincham in 1899 and was a leading light in the Altrincham Conservative Association.

In later life he faced double tragedy in 1926 when his wife died suddenly and on news of her passing reaching her brother, George Bell, he collapsed and died too.

Sam died in October 1932.

145 years later, almost to the day, TCC and Timperley Sports Club keep rolling on....

Football



As we approach the business end of the season there is plenty of great stuff happening across the football section.

Our U17 sides have made a fantastic transition in the TDJFL Youth Leagues – a first for the club and great that we have taken three times on that journey too.

We have several teams - 15's Sapphires, 14's Barca and Boca, U13 Santos, U12 Scorpions all in the running for league titles with the other teams putting in strong seasons and very much building again for next season. Our U13 Santos had a great run in the Cheshire County Cup and 14's Barca have made the Final for the Competition in their age and face Barnton at Macclesfield Town on the 1st of May.



As our photo shows work continues on the Devisdale project with Kirk Malone and James Naylor along with fellow / Coaches, parents and players and the very generous support of several organizations, turning the former AGGS pitch in to a new glory and home for our ever growing girls section. The pitch will be available to all teams for 'light night' training and a home for our SMGFL games.



March saw the launch of our Wildcats sessions; this is an FA initiative to introduce 5-11 year old girls to football in a safe, fun and inspiring environment. The sessions are every Friday 6-7PM on the Astro and for more info please email timperleyfcwildcats@gmail.com

Hockey The best season ever!

Hockey recommenced on 1st April 2021 after Covid lockdown 3 restrictions were lifted - and we've not had a week without hockey over the past 12 months! This is down to the hard work of all our volunteers who have worked pretty much non stop without a break and are desperately in need of time to recharge their batteries over the summer. On behalf of everyone aged 5 to 75 who played hockey in the past 12 months **THANK YOU** to everyone whose #MakingHockeyHappen - our captains, coaches, managers, academy admin team, coaches, covid marshals and the core hockey committee.

It is perhaps no coincidence that after so much time and effort put into our hockey, that the 21/22 season just concluding now, has been our most successful ever!

Lets look at the scorecard – these are just the key highlights ...

National Champions!

- U14 Girls - England Hockey Tier 2 (Plate) Champions - with a 2 - 0 win v Wimbledon at National Finals. Our first ever Junior National Trophy

- U16 Boys - England Hockey Tier 2 (Cup) Champions - beating Hampstead and Westminster 2 - 1 truly putting Timperley on the National Hockey Map for Junior Teams and picking up our second national junior trophy – coming along a bit like buses !



- U12 Boys and U12 Girls - North West Hockey Championships - both were Runners Up and narrowly missing out on National Finals

- U14 and U16 Boys and Girls have **all** qualified for North West Regional League (Tier 2) play off finals on 24th April

- The Men's 1 finished Runners Up in [National League Conference North](#) - in our highest ever finish in senior competitive league hockey and showing whilst room for improvement the club has broken with the years of inconsistency and we are now a serious contender on the national stage.

- Men's 2 were crowned Champions of [North West Hockey League Div 1](#) and move up to North West Prem next season and fantastic to have the 1's and 2's now in the 3rd and 4th tier of national hockey

- Its been a terrific season for all of the Men's teams with Men's 1 - 5's all finishing in the top three in their respective division – must be another club record ! We field 7 senior men team every Saturday.

- Ladies 1 have had a tough season since the start back in February but have finished strong and retained their place in Conference North and we can rebuild for next season and will come back stronger. BUT it gets better than that !! Following a superb victory a few days ago against over local rivals, Bowdon, they have fought their way through to the Semi Finals of the National Womens

Hockey Cup, again a first ! Even better we have a home draw against Premier Division side Buckingham 1's at **12.30 on Sunday 24th April** so do come along and support the girls !

- Ladies 2's finished 4th in NW Division 1 after being close on the promotion front and missing out after a couple of draws in the run end in a good place to press for promotion next season.

- Ladies 3 - 5's had a solid season and lots of positives to take into next season and our newly formed Ladies 6's made up of our back to hockey ladies, academy rising stars and some old stagers were crowned champions of North West Division 7 in their first full league season to gain promotion.

- and to cap off the season the Ladies O45's are off to Lee Valley, Olympic Park, London for the EH T1 Cup final on 1st May v Epsom to see if they can add to the EH Summer Champions Plate Trophy they won last July.

We've also been working hard to develop our pool of umpires this year including young umpires, female umpires and level 2 umpires. Andrew 'Fozzy' Foster our Umpire Coordinator and Nick Burnett Umpire Development have made great progress with 5 umpires gaining their level 2 umpiring award (Timur Asar, Duncan Brown, Matt Michie, Stu Nicholson and Col Taylor), three new Level 1 female umpires (Sarah Impey, Jackie Lord and Ruth Maddocks) plus Alex McBride passed his Level 1 and two young umpires joining the NW Young Umpire Challenge (Tara Bangee and Joseph Williamson). We also have a committed and loyal band of whistlers across all levels of the game and thank them all for their time and tolerance (or sometime frustrated players !) as without them we'd not be able to play.

Off the pitch THC are working hard towards accreditation as one of the **first 37 Club's** in the Country to gain England Hockey 'Talent Centre' (TC) status and this should be confirmed by the end of April. TC is the new 'gold standard' for club development and coaching for U14 - 16 age groups and the clubs wider programme and operation.

We have also been shortlisted to be one of **only 20 Clubs** across England who will run and host one of EH's new Regional 'Talent Academies' that will provide the best development and training opportunities to develop young athletes with high potential in the 15 - 18 year old and feed into the U16 and U18 national age group teams. If successful it will really further put Timperley on the hockey map as a forward looking club developing its own programmes and giving back to the wider sport. England Hockey will announce the twenty club around the end of April/early May. Fingers Crossed!

Planning is now underway for the Summer too - with the Summer 7's Leagues being planned starting in mid May, plus our regular summer tournaments. We have also been invited to host the England Hockey Area Masters Tournaments for The Over 55 Women (21st / 22nd May) and Over 65 Men (10th / 11th June) when players from across the country will be flocking to Timperley to show you're never too old to enjoy and play competitive sport - save the dates and why not pop down to have a look at the hockey !

Cricket...

We are extremely excited to get started next month with almost everything ready and set to go for the new season. After an incredible 2021 with a record high for membership from the past few years, the start of the girls section, the All Stars, Dynamos and Disability Cricket courses, we cannot wait to come back bigger and better! The committee has worked tirelessly this off season in order to make sure we hit the ground running with special thanks to the sports club for their ongoing commitment to our ambitious projects to make our facility the best it can be – watch this space for more news on that front.

New members are certainly welcome, but the fantastic success of recruitment and retention drives over the past few years means spaces at the club are limited. For the juniors for example we have

moved away from cricket's traditional model of U9s, 11s, 13s, 15s and now have the numbers to run a team for every age group, ie. U8s, 9s, 10s, 11s, 12s, 13s, 14s and 15s. While great work has been done to increase the number of volunteers, primarily team managers – more hands will be required in the summer to help with this change at training as support coaches and at matches with umpiring and scoring. Just let anyone on committee know if you can lend a hand! We have our Online Scorers Course running on Sunday 20th March (9am-12, will be 2-3 hours) – please get in touch if you would like to sign up, we are covering the cost of the course, so it is free of charge.

Provisionally, our training schedule is very packed so to be able to fit everyone is a monumental task! We are looking currently at the following and hope to stick as close to it as possible, but timings may change in some areas to make sure we can slot everything in:

Mondays – All Stars (17:30-18:30 – 8 weeks starting May 9). U8s/U9s (17:00-18:30). U11s (18:00-19:30)

Tuesdays – Seniors (17:00-20:00)

Wednesdays – U12s (17:00-18:30). U13s (18:30-20:00). Girls (17:00-18:00).

Thursdays – U10s (17:00-18:30). U15s (18:30-20:00). Girls (17:00-18:00).

Fridays – Dynamos (18:00-19:30). U14s (18:00-19:30)

Saturdays – N/A

Sundays – N/A

Membership fees for the season will be due shortly and members will be notified when that can be done through the online system. For the 2022 season we are setting a hard deadline whereby all members have to pay their membership fee (or have signed up to any of the club's payment plans online) by Monday 2nd May 2022. Anybody who has not paid by that time will be deemed unavailable for selection until they have paid or started a payment plan for membership fees. The online system is more functional now than last year but for us to help people to get this done please just look to pay before the season starts so there is time in between to work together. For any new members, a vital source of income for the section is gift aid on the membership fees – it is imperative that the gift aid box is ticked for new and existing members so we retain a vital income stream, further detail will be posted to members on this.

In terms of comings and goings within the First XI, we welcome **Jonathan Fletcher**, last played at Warrington CC and racked up 834 runs last season at an average of 49. Jonathan is going to take up a keeper bat role for the side as well as be an active part of the coaching team so is a real coup for the section. We also look forward to having the experience of **Jonathan Fowler** in our side, coming in from Liverpool Premier League side New Brighton. A Premier League winning captain also in the past in the Bolton Premier League, Jonathan brings a wealth of experience and will be very dangerous with both bat and the new ball in Division 1, Jonathan has averaged below 18 with the ball throughout his time at Premier League level so we look forward to watching him go. Keen followers of the section will be delighted to hear that we have brought back **Abhishekh Chidambaran**, everybody's favourite leg spinner! Abhishekh took 41 wickets in 2019 in all competitions for Timperley when we were in the Premier League. Finally, we should be able this time round to get an overseas cricketer which has been unable to happen over the past 2 years due to covid and if all good **Johan Harms**, a talented top 3 bat and seam bowler will be making the flight over from South Africa in April. Johan has started his club career in South Africa very successfully and is a massive talent who will certainly strengthen our batting and bowling.



Johan Harms

We'd like to thank our departing lads for their efforts while at the club – Furqan Shafiq has been a mainstay of the team over the past 4 seasons, an electrifying talent with bat and ball we wish him all the best at Hoylandswaine CC near Sheffield. Jake Sandham and Alex Paterson also move on to pastures new while Dominic Ashling and Chris McCarthy are looking to have Saturdays to themselves this summer – we will see them for a drink and hopefully twist a couple of arms there as we go!

We'd like to especially thank our sponsors for their continued support – Candour Solutions, J Davidson's, Passenger Cars and Ringway Roof Repairs. Candour Solutions, a wonderful recruitment company, have been our lead sponsor now for the past few years and we continue to be grateful for their support. If anyone you know is in the tech and digital industries, then please send them Candour's way!

See you all down at the club!

TCC Committee

Diary

Just a few dates to note

Fri 22nd April – Hockey Dinner

Sat 23rd April - First Cricket matches of the season and social

Fri 29th April - Cricket Sportspersons Dinner

Fri 6th May – Lacrosse Senior Awards evening.

Sun 8th May – Hockey Academy end of season and Lacrosse Junior Awards event.

Sat 21st / Sun 22nd May – England Hockey Womens 55s Regional Tournament

Sat 11th / Sun 12th June - England Hockey Mens 65s Regional Tournament

Fri 8th July - TSC Hon Life Members, Vice Presidents & volunteers combined BBQ

Sat 23rd July – Timperley Lacrosse 50th anniversary 6s tournament.

18 years ago.....

Just a flavour of what was occupying our minds in 2004

- Then Chairman, Colm O'Neill launched a plan to replace both of our artificial turf pitches within the next 2-3 years. The total cost was estimated to be c.£350k but we would need to raise an additional £75k in that time. (note: We did raise that sum and both pitches were re-furbished two later in 2006)
- A £5,000 sponsorship deal with Linden Homes was announced which would be targeted at our 'junior development programme'.
- The Lacrosse section announced that its two coaches would be Ailsa Stott, an England international and Kevin Finnerty from Long Island, USA.
- The 'new' junior Hockey Academy had just been launched. Each week 35-40 youngsters turned up to be coached by Dave Hardern, Gary Shuttleworth and Steve Davies and it was hoped that each team would benefit from its own coach and manager.
- Brand new state of the art, 'electronic tills' were being installed !

Finally....

Here's to a more 'normal' season and we look forward to seeing members at the club over the coming months for to play or watch sport or meet up with friends for a drink. Don't forget we've our monthly 300 Club Draw on the third Saturday of the month too, and look out on the website for details of our Friday Cocktail Special's.

The Board and management team thank everyone for their support, and we're now working hard review and develop our plans for 2022-23, including our AGM in July. If you're interested in getting involved to help run and develop the club there are lots of ways to get involved with TSC as well as our sports sections and we'll be sharing details over the next month or so.

Your Timperley Sports Club Limited Board

Alan Holdsworth, Shelagh Everett, Nick Burnett, Richard Knill, Bob Page, Haroon Bangee, Phil Hartley, Jarrod Sykes, Mike Welton, Rob Matthews and the TSC Staff Team Jane Ashcroft, Matt Stewart, Remi Lawrence, Andy Horsfield and Col Taylor

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