

DUMFRIES SPORTS CLUB 2022 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The past year was the first full year following the pandemic and it is fair to say that we should be pleased with the progress that has been made. All sports connected with the club are now virtually back to normal and this is reflected in our membership numbers which are now back to pre-pandemic levels. It is good to see members once again enjoying their sport with no restrictions.

Although from a sporting perspective we are nearing normality there have been financial pressures brought to the club particularly due to inflation and increasing energy prices. The government grants that have helped us greatly during the two-year covid period are no longer available and these combined factors have affected our finances in the short term, and we have shown in our annual accounts a small operating loss for the first time in many years.

However, our underlying financial situation remains very strong, and I am confident that with the progress we have shown in the past year that progress will be maintained moving forward and that our financial position will remain robust. The management committee are well aware of the challenges we face from factors out with our control, and we constantly monitor costs to ensure that we can offer our members the best of service and facilities at affordable rates.

One example of our prudent financial management is that we entered into long term energy contracts around three years ago and this has greatly helped given the current energy crises. However, these contracts are due to expire within the next year and we are currently discussing with our agents what our options are to ensure we get the best possible contracts in place. We cannot hide from the fact that present financial pressures will undoubtedly have to be reflected in some way as we review membership fees for next year.

We do however realise that it is also a very difficult time for many families and any increase has to be kept to a minimum and be fair to our members. The recommendation that we put forward is to increase annual fees by £5 across all categories but for those who pay by monthly standing order there will be no increase. This will be only the second time in eight years that we have increased fees and I am confident that members will understand that there is a requirement for this small increase and will support the club during these challenging times.

Sporting wise you will see from the various section reports the achievements that have been made throughout the last difficult year and that as a club we continue to do very well both locally and nationally.

Finally, my thanks go to all my fellow management committee members for their hard work, help and support throughout the year. Let us all remember that we are all volunteers who spend a significant amount of our own personal time to ensure we provide the very best for our members. I am truly appreciative of their efforts, and I am sure this is reflected in the wider membership.

John Glendinning
Chairman