

## **RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB – AGM 2009**

### **CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO MEMBERS**

The past twelve months have been a little topsy-turvy with highs and lows for the Club – which hopefully will now settle down for this coming year.

The year has been quite a busy period for the Management Committee meeting on a monthly basis. In addition, due to the lack of a Bar committee, we have now started to hold separate meetings with the Managers to improve communication for day-to-day activities and the forward look as to the Clubs sustainability through income from functions and grounds hire.

During the past year the Club has been able to complete most of the refurbishment works in the Function Room, including the Kitchen and the Bar itself, plus the re-cladding of the southern external wall, which now draws a line on our capital expenditures in the short term.

These past works during the year have put a strain on our recent cash flow, which hopefully will now stabilise before any large amounts of capital is expended.

The building, car park and access roadway continue to deteriorate – but without an ongoing sinking fund being available we can only progress these items as and when they become essential.

The continuing contact (by G. Young) with Bucks Sport has enabled the Club to be singled out with six others in the South of the County to receive further assistance in ongoing Business Development, and Sports initiatives for 2009 / 2010 to improve the sustainability of RPSC.

You will be aware that our redevelopment proposals for the Clubhouse were put on hold pending the improvement of the housing market – this will be reviewed with a series of Development Partners during the next twelve months to assess viability. (Alternate schemes are now in circulation).

The Football Section developed by Steve Burke plays a major role in the Club's finances and sustainability, not only for their capitation payments, but also for the increased use of the function room for their events and the weekly use of the Bar. (We hope this will continue).

It is noted that little support is given to the Clubhouse by some of the established Sports sections and this needs to be addressed to see how we can reverse this trend.

The decline in the overall membership of the Social and Sports sections is following a national trend, thus, with fewer local residents using the Club, we need to review our marketing and outreach policy with the community and local businesses to capitalise on this unique asset here in Richings Park.

On a positive note the Club is still surviving in these difficult times for Sports Clubs and Public Houses, and the improved image over the past year should enable us to attract new members and increase income from outside function hire.

The Sports sections are in a similar position to previous years with a reduction in members, hence lower income, requiring again a drive to market their facilities to attract new members as part of an overall marketing objective.

I would like to thank the committee for their input during the past year, and also those members who work for the Club in the background for their ongoing support, and particularly to my colleague Graham for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Club and the Community as a whole.

In the very immediate period we will be embarking upon a new Strategy and Business plan for the whole of Richings Park Sports Club, and will be looking for expertise and members participation in the development of this Strategic Plan.

I would like to close by thanking our Bar Managers, Roy and Pauline, and all the staff who have worked behind the bar for their efforts during the year.

Thank you all for attending.

**ROGER SPRULES**  
Chairman