

## **RICHINGS PARK SPORTS CLUB LIMITED**

THE PAVILION  
WELLESLEY AVENUE  
RICHINGS PARK  
IVER  
BUCKS  
SL0 9BN

Telephone: 01753 651320  
WEB: [www.RPSC.org.uk](http://www.RPSC.org.uk)

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## **Annual General Meeting**

### **Accounts for 2008-2009**

As in previous years we are presenting two sets of accounts for the Annual General Meeting. One is the formal statement required under the Companies' Acts. This is posted on a notice-board in the Club House and also on the club's web site from where it can be downloaded. Copies will also be available at the AGM. However, the grouping of costs and income does not lend itself easily to understanding the financial picture of how the club actually works. Therefore, a summary set of income and expenditure accounts which, hopefully, is easier to analyse is also being provided. The commentary below relates to this latter set.

The format of these accounts breaks the club into three areas:

- bar and social club operation
- sports and grounds maintenance
- general administration and building upkeep.

**Bar and Social Activity:** Cash turnover for the year rose by around £7000 but most of this was due to price increases resulting from increased product costs. Our overall volume of drinks sold stayed around the same as the year before. However, this is certainly better than the national average performance of pubs and clubs. We continue to be highly dependent upon private hire bookings for bars and grounds to keep this figure up. The use of the bars for casual drinking continues to fall in line with the trends noticed in the general pub trade. Customers increasingly only visit bars and pubs for event or food-led reasons. However, whilst they are there they drink.

As a result of not having a bar or entertainments committee, we are now incentivising our bar managers to stage events themselves. If only we could return to the days when sports and social section members happily volunteered to stage such events themselves under the guise of fund-raising.

The payment of temporary staff for function hire is now "off the books" and handled by the bar managers using the hall hire fees which are also "off the books". This accounts for the reduction in staff costs and also in rental income.

We are now separately accounting for bar support expenses such as free snacks, disco hire, bands etc, which hitherto were amalgamated into other areas, thus, the appearance of £1771 in our accounts under the heading special events.

As we are all too well aware, energy costs have risen considerably and these have taken an additional toll of £2.5K off our bottom line. Waste disposal costs have also increased significantly.

Our dual price tills were upgraded during the year to recognise membership swipe cards. This has added around £1000 to our bar running costs. We continue to have problems with this in terms of non-members circumventing the system and getting cheap drinks to the annoyance of members who have paid their dues. The

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idea of scrapping dual prices and raising everything by a couple of %age points has been mooted but has divided opinion sharply.

The use of the fruit machines has now almost gone into free-fall. At this rate it might not be long before they do not pay their way. A key cost is the Excise Gaming Licence which our type of machines full under. Machines that give smaller pay-outs attract a less costly licence. We may therefore swap them out rather than lose them altogether.

**Grounds Maintenance** : Capitation charges now provide us with our main source of dependable revenue for maintaining the clubhouse. This is a reverse of our earlier years when the bar trade not only kept the clubhouse going but also provided a subsidy towards sporting costs.

The DIY approach to grounds maintenance continues to work well and all field sports players owe a deep debt of gratitude towards the entire Sprules family for their dedication and effort towards keeping the playing field area in good condition. It would be great if we could see more of them volunteering their time to help with grounds and building maintenance.

### **General Administration and Building Upkeep:**

As a by-product of the networking opportunities which Bucks County Council has promoted, we found a specialist Sports Club insurance that saved us £6K on our premium. We are now deeply involved with these County Council led initiatives which we hope will lead us to finding best practice in other areas.

Specific high cost items under maintenance this year were work on our drains at £4.5K and a roof repair job at £1.7K.

We have now lost the use of our previous free end-of-year accounting service. Last year we made a donation of £500 towards their company Cricket Team in lieu of their 07-08 year's work. However, we had to pay a £150 fine as they were late in filing our accounts with Companies House. We have now contracted another accountant to do last year's accounts who is charging us a fee of £750. These three amounts make up the total of £1400 in the accounts.

Sundry expenses are the accumulation of all other expenses that did not fit into the other categories. Significant items here include the purchase of a Barbecue ( £350 ) and a walk-in theft from the till ( £190 ).