



RAMSBURY RECREATION CENTRE NEWSLETTER SPRING 2022

We hope this will bring you up to date with all that has been going on within The Recreation Centre during the last year and inform you of what is coming up this year. Also included are reports from the member Clubs

From the Chair.....

Last year was another difficult and trying year for a lot of people. But life returned to something close to normality at the Recreation Centre as for much of the year we were able to play sport and although some things were a little different our wonderful facilities were being used again.

So, what has happened there over the last year? The Football Club finished the works at the Pavilion with the paving being laid on the patio area. This has enabled the new benches (dedicated to Clive New, Dave Rushen and Robbie Mills) to be displayed properly. The Cricket Club laid a new artificial strip on the square, the Tennis Club replaced the floodlights on Courts 1 & 2 with LEDs and the Bowling Club completed its extra external changing room. We also overhauled all the paving around the Cricket/Tennis Pavilion and extended the patio area on the western side facing the cricket outfield.

The Tennis Club has also started work on their two new courts to the west of the Bowling Green, but work had to stop in October. We hope to recommence in April when the weather has improved.

The Tennis Club now has a defibrillator, and the Football Club is to have one shortly.

One thing we don't do at the Recreation Centre is stand still! We are always not only maintaining our facilities but also improving them where we can. The bar is set at a very high level, but we aim to keep it that way. In fact, in the Best Kept Village award won by Ramsbury last year the judges said that the 'Recreation Ground is a superb facility – far more extensive than most in villages of this size – and was very well maintained.' Well deserved praise for a remarkable facility and a credit to all those involved. Thank you for all your efforts.

One recent disappointing development was that our tractor has just suffered a terminal failure! So, we have had to buy another second hand one but hopefully one that will give us several years good service. This is pictured on page 3 and has cost about £7,000 which is an expense we could have done without, but there it is! We need the tractor to pull our conditioning mower and the slitter and any other equipment we might hire in, so it is crucial to our maintenance regime.

Well done to all the Clubs for the way in which they have continued to deal with the added pressures of ensuring Pavilions and playing facilities were 'Covid safe.' No small task!

And, what of this year? The Tennis Club hopes to complete the new courts and the Cricket Club will be purchasing a new static net with artificial strip and a new electronic scoreboard. But please do read the reports from our member clubs overleaf.

There is always something to do at the Sports Field. If anyone would like to help, please let me know!

Ian Smith



Ramsbury Football Club Update - 2022

After 2 years managing the restrictions imposed on us all by COVID, Ramsbury FC has thrived with more teams and players than ever before. We now boast a strong senior squad competing in the North Swindon & District League; 10 youth teams competing in both North Wilts and Mid Wilts Youth Leagues and a 30 plus Under 6 Development squad! With over 200 youth and adult players and over 40 coaches and committee members, 2022 sees Ramsbury FC in very good shape and fully accredited by the Football Association. **The future is bright.....the future is Blue and White!!!!**



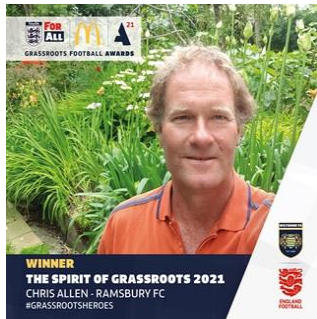
I am sure you will have noticed the changes to our Clubhouse, courtesy of our sponsors Ergo Facilities Management, and especially the upgraded and very clean toilets and showers, new patio and the table football in the Clubhouse Cafe. We now have a fully functioning kitchen and a much nicer area to sit, relax and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee while the kids train or play their matches. We are so grateful to Arthur and Karen Carrington and the whole team at Ergo FM for doing a brilliant job and, also, to those on the Ramsbury FC Committee that have helped making our facilities so good. It has been a great community project and we are without doubt the envy of many bigger clubs who visit the us.



Our Clubhouse Café provides hot and cold drinks on Saturday mornings 0900-1130 during training and Sunday mornings 0900-1130 and we **urgently need volunteers** to help. It is a great opportunity to meet others at the Club, or visiting players and parents who are always so positive about our facilities.

It is a bit like a tuck shop and Molly Watts helps on Sunday mornings as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. It is very relaxing, as Molly can confirm, with a free cup of tea or coffee provided to helpers and if Scarlett (pictured) has baked there is free cake!

If you would be interested in helping out on either morning or both or simply want to come have a look and see what you think then contact Jon Symon who is there every Saturday morning 0845 –1200 or email him on jonathansymon@hotmail.com or call on 07802413246.



Ramsbury FC were again recognised in the Wiltshire FA #GrassRootsHeroes awards with Chris Allen winning the *Spirit of Grassroots 2021* award for his outstanding work as a youth coach and club treasurer.

Chris has now left the club as he and his family have relocated to Cornwall, but he left a fantastic legacy and was instrumental in setting up our current Under 7 and Under 8 teams and also helping recruit both coaches for the U9 teams. For his outstanding work he was also awarded the inaugural Ramsbury FC 'Rushen Shield' as the Ramsbury FC Coach of the Year and he remains a great ambassador for the Club.

RAMSBURY AND ALDBOURNE BOWLS CLUB

- We are seeking to introduce the pleasure of bowling to many more local people particularly as Bowls is truly a sport for all ages and abilities.
- The club holds Gala days where anyone interested can try bowling supported by experienced players. Also, interested people can visit the club on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, all that is needed being a pair of flat soled shoes. To arrange a visit people can call Sara Tiplady on 07919362443.
- Younger players between 10 and 18 are particularly welcome and may progress to higher levels in the sport. Local organisations, such as schools, scout groups etc. wishing to send a group along for an introductory session should also contact Sara.
- For experienced players who wish to join, we play in the Swindon and District League, more widely in the Ashley Baker League and also friendly matches throughout the Summer with many local Bowls Clubs.
- The Bowls Club will be advertising locally throughout the Spring and Summer and, excitingly, have a new website at ramsburyandaldbournebc.org. Please take a look!
- Come and see us at Freshers Day and see what we have to offer!

- ① Our clay courts are playing magnificently and are proving to be extremely popular. With more people still working from home our membership has surged again to record levels. We now have over 470 members of all ages!
- ① Our record numbers have resulted in congestion on the courts and so we started work on our new courts. We had managed to raise the money required (some £135,000) and started work in September but had to stop when it was pointed out to the Planners that our contractors had not quite dug down far enough in laying the foundations. So, we are addressing that and hope to start work again in April, so the courts are in use at the beginning of the summer season.
- ① We have replaced our floodlight heads on courts 1 & 2 with new LED fittings. The result is a major improvement in light quality and no warm up time for the lights either! The upgrade cost us £20,000 but worth every penny!
- ① There are over 200 players involved in the coaching programme which has resulted in taking on a new Development Coach. His name is Matt Rutland and he has moved to us from the Delta Tennis Centre. He starts on the 28th February.
- ① Of the Juniors we have around 20 involved with the County Performance Training Programme.
- ① Our Head Coaches, Lewis and Catherine Fletcher have been appointed County Performance co-ordinators for the 8-14 year olds in Wiltshire.
- ① We run courses for all ages and abilities throughout the year. Please contact Head Coaches Catherine and Lewis at info@tennisxperienceuk.com for more details.

- 🍷 It was great to return to a full season of cricket in 2021. We had mixed fortunes in the league and sadly were relegated to Division 5 however some of the results went against us. Sunday cricket proved very successful, and we saw several new members joining and getting involved.
- 🍷 We have been very successful with fundraising including crowdfunding which enabled us to replace the artificial wicket on the edge of the square which is now a high quality and well used track.
- 🍷 We continue to invest and will have a new practice net and an artificial wicket installed for the beginning of next season. This will enable us to have dedicated batting and bowling practice nets and we will also be holding more fielding and other midweek activities. We will also be investing in a new electronic scoreboard.
- 🍷 We will continue to play cricket in a positive and friendly environment, and we hope to attract more players who can see what a fantastic facility we have. We will be resurrecting our popular Bavarian Beer evening and will have BBQs on some match days. All are welcome to come and watch cricket and of course, there is always a cup of tea available.
- 🍷 If you are interested in finding out more about the Cricket Club please contact Peter Osmond on 01672 514756 or 07971 288761



This is our new tractor - a Kubota 3600. We very much hope that it will prove to be a long serving member of the Recreation Centre!

We are always looking for volunteers to help; some with grass cutting, others to help with the general maintenance. This year as Iain says overleaf, we will need help later in the year with leaf collection, hedge cutting and clearing. Please let Iain or me know if you can help.

MAINTENANCE AND EQUIPMENT

- So far this winter we have seen mostly very mild weather and grass has continued to grow through January and February. It was very wet until mid-January and then we had a sustained dry and very mild period which enabled work on the pitches to take place. The Football pitches have stood up to use quite well and if we get another dry spell we can cut and roll.
- We were in the process of slitting the pitches when our tractor broke down and was beyond repair. We have now purchased a replacement which is more substantial.
- We have been cutting the cricket square which has grown well during the mild conditions.
- Hedge cutting has been completed and we think the area looks well presented (we hope you agree!) although in future we need to tackle leaf fall as the trees get bigger.
- Other work undertaken includes:
Repairs to the drainage pump system serving the tennis and cricket pavilion which is now on an annual maintenance contract.
Widening the tennis court car park to make parking easier.
- We look forward to when we can continue to slit the pitches when ground conditions permit and to the Spring when we can carry out fertilising and weed control. Finally, many thanks to the Football Club who have used common sense when considering the damage caused by playing when pitches are particularly wet.

Ramsbury Netball Club

Ramsbury Netball Club is a social and fun club

We welcome all ages from 12 (if accompanied by an adult) and upwards!

We play on a Thursday from 7pm - 8pm at the MUGA at the Recreation Centre.

If you would like to get fit, whilst playing a fun team sport in your local area,
please come and join us!

For further information call Lynn on 01672 520419 or Linda on 01672 520122

Help Please!

I am putting together a history of the Sports Clubs and wonder if anyone out there has any photographs especially of the Clubs in their early days and in the case of the Bowling, Cricket and Football Clubs before they moved down to the Recreation Centre.

If anyone can help, please contact me, Ian Smith at oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk

RAMSBURY FRESHERS DAY

This will take place on Saturday 23rd April in and around the Memorial Hall between 11am and 3pm. Each of our Clubs will have a stand on the Day and so if you are new to the Village or are unfamiliar with what we have to offer please come along and chat to members of the Clubs.

The day is an opportunity for **all** village clubs and societies to showcase what they have to offer. If you would like a pitch for your Club, please let Ian Smith know at oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk

STREET FAIR 2022

We shall be holding a Street Fair this year. It will be on Saturday June 18th. We will have the usual stalls, games and entertainment. The theme will be the Queen's Jubilee! So, red, white and blue! There will be a 'window dressing' competition. Look out for more details. If you would like any further information please contact Ian Smith.

The Recreation Centre is a registered Charity No. 276739
For further information please contact Ian Smith at oldtiff@hotmail.co.uk