

Newport Sports Committee



MIKE HANNANT

Newport Sports Committee is the organisation responsible for the day to day management of Newport Recreation Ground and consists of representatives of the organisations that use the recreation ground as well as executive members.

Unfortunately the major event in the last six months or so has been a further break-in. This time the Scout Hut was targeted and metal work, catering equipment, cables and air rifles were taken. Other buildings at the Recreation ground were untouched and CCTV evidence indicates that the only target, this time, was the Scout Hut. The break in was similar to that last year in that the stolen items were dragged across the field to a vehicle parked down the bridle path. This is presumably to avoid the CCTV cameras in the car park being used to identify the type of vehicle and registration number. The police are investigating but it is unlikely they will apprehend the villains and, despite obtaining some forensic evidence at the previous break-in, no progress has been made in that case. I believe the losses of equipment are insured but this is no compensation for the disruption and inconvenience caused for the volunteers in the Scout movement as well as the youngsters who are members.

Contract and lease issues continue to delay progress on a replacement Scout Hut (with improved security). A slightly larger building than the current one is proposed, on the same site and you can understand the reluctance of The Scouts to spend money on a building they hope to replace shortly.

Following a dry spring we had a very wet summer which severely restricted the number of cricket matches Newport Cricket Club were able to

play at senior and junior levels. The Cricket Club replaced the artificial strip on the square, mainly used for junior cricket, at the start of the season. The Ladies Rounder's team continued to play their home fixtures on a Tuesday evening at the ground this season. Whilst the wet weather was not good news for the cricket, as all gardeners are aware, it was good news for the turf and at the time of writing the ground is in the best condition it has been in for many years. This is not only thanks to the weather but also the fertilizer and weed killer that was applied during the summer. These annual applications of fertilizer and weed killer are essential to maintain a suitable playing surface for cricket and football. Hopefully we are not looking at a wet winter which will test the drainage system to its full.

Whilst there are a number of planning proposals being considered for expanding the village, including land adjacent to the Recreation Ground, it is unlikely the Sports Committee will invest in drain improvement or improvements to the access until these planning proposals are finalised. Unfortunately we cannot place timescales on this.

We have further developed our relationship with Spartak 78, a local youth football team, who have hired the Recreation Ground on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons for the 2012/13 football season. Although they are Saffron Walden based their numbers include Newport residents and it is hoped that their use of the Recreation ground will encourage more Newport youngsters to join them. They are a well established club and run teams for youngsters from under 7's to under 18. I was lucky enough to be at the Recreation Ground when they ran a Saturday Morning training session for the younger age groups. This involved at least three practice matches as well as coaching sessions for both boys and girls and it was a joy to see The Recreation Ground so full of youngsters enjoying sport.

We continue to discuss with the Parish Council how The Sports

Committee can effectively manage the Recreation Ground without a formal lease that will incur legal fees for both organisations. It appears the way forward is to operate the Committee as a sub-committee of the Parish Council, similar to the way the Village Hall is run and managed. This still needs agreement of both the Parish Council and The Sports Committee and discussions are ongoing.

We continue to look at improving facilities at The Recreation Ground and are currently looking at adding a Multi Use Games Area behind the Youth Centre and Scout Hut. This will require moving the cricket nets, whose artificial strips are in need of repair anyway. This area would be fenced off, be an astro turf surface and suitable for a wide range of sports including football, netball, basketball, hockey, tennis, some forms of junior cricket, etc. It is proposed to provide floodlighting and security and that the facility will be open to the general public as well as the primary school. These facilities are not cheap and initial quotes indicate we need a budget of £150,000. It is hoped that we can fund the development from the many grants they are available post the London Olympics so watch this space. If anyone has experience of such projects and is willing to assist in some capacity I would be more than happy to hear from them.

Members of the public are permitted to use the Recreation ground field and the vast majority are welcome but, as always, there is the small minority who leave litter and do not clear up after their dogs. I would like to thank those members of the public and dog walkers that continue to advise us of misuse and, as I have personally witnessed, clear up other people's rubbish.

The organisations that are currently represented on the Sports Committee are: The Cricket Club, Newport Football Club, The Croquet Club, The Scouts and The Youth Club. The executive members, who are volunteers, include Sid Brockwell, Tony Phillips, Mike Spraget (Secretary) and Yogesh Bhagalia

(Treasurer). The Parish Council also send a representative to meetings.

The Ground, as well as the Rob Nicholl Meeting Room, are available for hire from the Committee and anyone interested should contact Mike Hannant on 01799 541063. If you are interested in joining any of the organisations that use the Recreation Ground please contact the appropriate person listed below. **NN**

Croquet Club

Roy Darling
Tel 01799 540998

Cricket Club – Senior

Chris Rix
Tel 01799 540609

Cricket Club – Junior

Alan Williams
Tel 01799 541933

Football Club (Saturday)

Newport FC
Mike Hannant
Tel 01799 541063

Scouts

Email: JIKES@hotmail.com

Brownies

Cynthia Jennings
Tel 01799 541408

Youth Club

Andrew Yarwood
Tel 07714708815

Tennis Club



SEAN MURPHY
(07767 795018)

Newport has a great community facility. Two lovely courts resurfaced last year and in fine condition available for everyone to play. Booking sheets and the key are held at the Village Stores. Or you can join a small but lively and thriving club – Newport Village Tennis Club.

Membership is great value at £35 a year for an adult and only £12 for a junior with a great rate for families. Membership forms are at the Village Stores or on the notice board by the courts. If you need to learn the game, then we have a fully qualified LTA coach in Ollie Toms.

Informal doubles are played every Saturday from 9am – just turn up and play. Ladies play on Tuesday mornings, and Social tennis is on Thursday evenings, whilst the light lasts. Lots of competitions are held with local villages and many social events as well.

Now we have a grand slam winner in Andy Murray there's never been a



TOP: WINNERS KEITH GUMMERY AND JOHN TRUEMAN RECEIVE THE PRESIDENT'S TROPHY FROM NETTI HAYES.

BELOW: THE MILEHAM TROPHY IS PRESENTED BY MIKE CHAHIN TO PETER VENUS AND PETER TOMS.

better time to play.

Lots more detail are on our website, and I look forward to seeing you soon. <https://sites.google.com/site/newportvillagetennisclub/> **NN**

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