*Chairpersons Report AGM 2021*

Another unusual year for us all, but we survived! When we had the AGM last year, I could not have contemplated that, a year later we still would not be back up and running properly. I don’t think anyone expected the impact of the pandemic to be so great or to last so long. Let’s hope we have had our last lockdown though and can look forward to things becoming more and more normal! For us that means some of our normal face to face sessions are starting again:

-          October 7th Thursday Multisports

-          October 10th Aqua Fit

-          October 11th Monday Compass Dance

-          October 31st Sunday Multisports

We are so excited about that as, although Zoom has been great at keeping people engaged and connected, it's certainly not the same as seeing your friends and coaches in real life! We are introducing sessions in a phased approach, with limits on numbers at first to see how it goes. Hopefully we will be back to full strength with our full programme of activities running soon. Zoom sessions will continue for Saturday dance and Friday Fitness and we are trying a hybrid approach for Compass Dance on a Monday with joining by Zoom as an option if you cannot join in person.

As I mentioned we continued with our programme of Zoom sessions throughout the year. These were well attended, and people certainly looked like they were having great fun. Thanks, so everyone who joined in and to our amazing teachers Mike Glanville, Lee Davis and Chloe Munday who continued to find new and innovative ways to deliver the sessions remotely. Thanks very much also to our dance volunteer Maggie.

We have also continued our bingo and quiz nights. Club members have continued to stay in touch using the Whatsapp groups and chat.

We also launched a new social club in September, our first face to face session since the pandemic started. We are very excited about it as it is a great collaboration with Eastleigh Mencap and the QE2 Activity Centres. By coming together, we can get better numbers of people at sessions and split the cost which makes it more cost effective to provide. The first one was oversubscribed, and everyone had a brilliant night, bowling, playing table tennis and pool, artwork and eating yummy hot dogs expertly cooked by Sandra and her incredible assistant Dave!

The brilliant Solent Dolphin was back this summer – hurray! Members had some lovely trips around the Solent. If you haven’t ever been then do think about it for next summer – it’s a great trip out. We did manage a couple of golf lessons in October and November, but then unfortunately our coach Miles left East Horton which meant the lessons stopped.  We are trying to find a new teacher and golf course.

Unfortunately, the lock down at Christmas meant we couldn’t have our usual trips to the theatre to see a panto. We did have a fantastic Christmas quiz night online though and included a bit of cookery which was excellent fun and a huge success as people made their own pizzas and shared pictures afterwards. We also did an epic pancake making night in February with another fun quiz.

The committee have still been working hard to keep the club going with meetings over Zoom, and we are delighted that Sandra and Dave joined us as committee members and have become our cooking experts as well as our quiz masters. Sandra, Dave, Sarah Jane and Susan all completed food certifications so they so can serve food safely.

If anyone has any thoughts or ideas about the club we would love to hear them, or anyone wants to join the committee and get more involved in running our club please get in touch – we would love to hear from you!

We have had a few people fund raising for us this year – thanks so much and Phil Smith will be running the Great South Run for us so please sponsor him if you can – you should have had the email link but let us know if not. Please remember if you are online shopping, you can raise money for us by going via Easy Fundraising and Smile. Amazon. It really helps!

We were also very lucky to receive some sponsorship from a local business, Wildcamp Camper Van Conversions, who gave us £2,000. The Wildcamp sponsorship and a grant from Sport Education funded the zoom sessions which meant we didn’t have to charge members. We also had another fun online balloon race which helped to raise funds. I hope you all enjoyed seeing how far your virtual balloons made it!

Without the sessions, running costs have been minimal and we do have funds in reserve, but we could always do with a little bit more so if anyone has any fundraising ideas or business sponsorship suggestions then let us know. You will all remember we took the decision to defer the annual membership renewal. If our plans to get the sessions going again continue, we expect to start the membership again from January 2022.

We use email as our main way to stay in touch and contact people. Please make sure you let us know if your email address changes. Also it’s best to add our email address info@multisportsclub.org.uk to your contacts list as we know sometimes the email systems think our emails are spam and put them in your junk folders! It’s a good idea to check your junk/spam folders every week just in case!

So, to finish the review of our second unusual year I just wanted to say thank you so much to our members and their families, carers, and friends for continuing to support our club. We think it is special and we hope you do too! Thanks also to our incredible coaches, teachers, and volunteers – we could not do this without you.

Special thanks to Deborah our volunteer auditor who keeps our affairs in order. Thanks finally to the amazing people who sit on our committee and make everything happen.

Looking forward to seeing everyone as soon! In the meantime, take care and stay in touch!