

Tonbridge Sports Association Annual Report 2010/2011

In presenting our Annual Report we strive to record new events and not be repetitive of previous year's reports. We have achieved this over the past few years with new and improved facilities and a number of new initiatives. However we cannot help once again report on the successes of many member clubs and also confirm our ongoing commitment to provide the means whereby sport can be enjoyed by as many people as possible.

Tonbridge, and its surrounding areas, which form the area under the remit of our Association, is very Club orientated. We have over 60 Clubs, in the Association, who engage in 20 different sports. The accumulated membership role of our member Clubs is over 6,500 taking part in indoor sports activities and winter and summer outdoor activities.

When you consider these figures, together with the fact that the age range, from the youngest to the oldest is around 75 years, one can judge the enthusiasm that requires good facilities and good Club organisation. All the Club's require the obvious facilities, with almost all being provided by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. In addition there are facilities provided, and constantly being upgraded, for casual users to enjoy their sport or leisure activities perhaps prior to joining one of our member clubs.

The Tonbridge Sports Association has evolved over the last 90 years, becoming not only an organisation that acts as the representative of the Clubs. We also work in every respect, in partnership with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, in the provision of good and improving facilities as well as seeing that the use of those facilities is provided in an organised and simple way. The sports men, women and children, in Tonbridge, look forward to participating each week in their designated sport. They want to arrive at their sporting location and take part in their sport with certainty of ground conditions, no administrative problems and at a fair and reasonable cost.

This starts with our well organised member Clubs. We all recognise the many hours spent by Club committees organising everything from the hall, pitch or facility, to the training and development and the arrangements of the home team and opposition for matches. Next comes the administration of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council which provides the good facilities, assistance with sports development and the match day communication. Next comes the liaison work with the Tonbridge Sports Association that assists with sports development, review of the sporting activities and acts to clarify issues in order that there should be no disruption to the Clubs activities.

This is achieved by our communication and our regular Liaison meetings. The sporting activities of the Clubs may not function as smoothly as they do without the 10 formal 3 hour TSA/Tonbridge Council Liaison meetings each year, with minutes and actions noted in order that nothing escapes the rolling agenda. Recently the Chairman of the Tonbridge Sports Association was asked to attend a meeting with the newly formed Snodland Sports Association to consider how they could start to achieve what our

Sports Association has achieved over our 90 years. It was obvious from the discussions that our Liaison meetings with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council were a key aspect.

It has now become very obvious, from the sports reports in the local newspaper that Tonbridge Clubs are continuing to succeed in the playing of their sports. Bowls features with individuals and pairs, both in Seniors and Juniors, doing well in Kent matches. Tonbridge Judo Club has a number of members who are winning medals in National individual and team events. The Club training and coaching deserves mention as this is also recognised by countries that will be visiting for the Olympic Games and have arranged their training camp in Tonbridge.

Tonbridge Athletics Club is another club whose success is being continually reported. This could well be another Club and sport that will benefit from the training camp, in Tonbridge, and the Olympic legacy. This summer Cowdrey Cricket Club will play in the Kent Cricket League for the first time. The next winter season will have Tonbridge Juddians as the first Club in West Kent to play National League rugby. The success of these Clubs has come about through the dedication of the coaches and players and a strong back up of players at all levels, a junior section and good Club organisation. These Clubs, and many other member Clubs, would admit that the work committed to the junior sections, in the past and still continuing, is a key element of why success has been achieved. To see the numbers involved in midweek cricket coaching, the mini soccer on a Saturday morning and the mini rugby on a Sunday morning, is a picture of why success for the Clubs may well continue for many years to come.

Another key element is the forethought of those in Leisure administration in past years to provide the facilities that Tonbridge, and surrounding areas, currently enjoy. The Tonbridge Sports Association is always pleased to record that these facilities are constantly under review for improvement. This year we have seen improvements to Tonbridge Farm and Frogbridge facilities. Tonbridge Sports Association has supported the nomination to the Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge of the adjoining areas of Frogbridge, Woodland Walk and Scotchers Field.

The very successful joint venture between Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Tonbridge School for the community use of the floodlit Astro turf has seen a constant week's timetable full of local junior football clubs. We have now moved on and, only a matter of weeks ago, the new 3G floodlit facility at Hayesbrook School was opened. This, once again, has a Community Use agreement which will see Tonbridge Clubs having priority on two evenings a week.

Therefore, once again, our member clubs have improvement to the facilities for the training and playing of their sport. The Tonbridge Sports Association, by its representation of all the Clubs, continues to monitor, review and co-ordinate, in partnership, with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, the facilities, the administration and issues arising from sports activity. This gives our member clubs all the opportunities to be successful and it can be seen that our clubs have achieved that in their numbers.

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