

Pontesbury Sports Association – review of 2023

Pontesbury Sports Association

As I reported at the 2023 Parish Meeting, the committee of the Sports Association was about to undergo a major change in personnel. I am pleased to report that the new committee has been energetically working on projects both on and off the field.

The new executive committee has representation from across the member clubs (Cricket, Football, Bowls and Rounders). Off the field we have updated the Constitution to bring it into line with current best practice.

I would like to place on record my thanks for the support of the Parish Clerk and members of the Parish Council in the last 12-months.

The flagship project for the PSA and member clubs has been the redevelopment of the pavilion, which will be covered later.

4x4

At the 2023 Parish Meeting we reported that we were in need of a replacement 4x4 to pull the gang mowers. Fortunately, we were able to secure a suitable vehicle before the start of the cricket season.

Pontesbury CC

Clubmark

We are pleased to report that we have successfully maintained our ECB Clubmark.

Juniors

We were able to run coaching sessions from May through to September holding sessions on a Monday and adding a session on a Friday evening so we could manage the groups and maximise the opportunity for children to participate. This included boys and girls from 4yrs to 15yrs.

We were able to run the ECB national programmes (AllStars 4-7-year-olds and the Dynamos programme for 8-11year-olds).



We have juniors playing for the County teams (1 x girls U11, 3 x girls U13 and 1 x boys U12)

For 2024 there will be a mixture of softball and hardball for juniors so that we can provide opportunities for children of differing abilities.

Women & Girls

The Women & Girls section continued to go from strength to strength with over 30 ladies playing softball cricket and hardball cricket. In recognition of the continued development of our Women & Girls section the Club was awarded Shropshire Women's Club of the year 2023.



Seniors

Shrewsbury and District Evening Cricket League. We ran one team in 2023, which was primarily a development team to introducing juniors to adult cricket.

In The Shropshire County Cricket League, we ran three teams. Two teams playing Saturday and one on a Sunday. For 2024 we will continue with two teams in The Shropshire League, but the Sunday team will revert to friendlies.

Flooding

As reported last year the new drainage ditch around the bowling green has helped alleviate the flooding at the wood end of the playing field.



However, during this winter we have experienced multiple and significant flooding from the brook which runs between the PSG and Mary Webb playing field.



We have engaged a contractor to review remedial work to clear vegetation from the brook and re-establish the channel. We are currently in discussions with stakeholders to enable the work to be carried out this Spring/Summer.

Worthen Juniors

For the 2023/4 season Worthen are running both a women's team and a new adult men's team (mostly U18) from the PSG. Both teams playing competitive league and cup fixtures.



With the women's football team there is additional incentive to improve the changing facilities.

Bowls Club

Bowls continue to struggle for members, but we are hopeful of increasing numbers for 2024.

Mytton Rounders

The rounders section has now expanded and includes the teams that play at the Mary Webb. So for 2024 we will have 4 teams playing under the umbrella of the Sports Association. Two playing on the PSG and two on Mary Webb.



We have reached an agreement with Mary Webb over the use of the rounders pitches on the school field which will help the provision of rounders for 2024.

Pavilion Project

This project to make improvements to the showering / changing facilities at the pavilion to make sure that it's fit-for purpose for adult and junior sport, satisfying the safeguarding requirements of the FA and ECB.

We secured an ECB County Grant Fund (£10,000) which helped us with phase 1 – the internal reconfiguration of the changing rooms / toilets / showers to create a new changing room for women/girls and juniors. With additional funding from the Parish Council, Shropshire Homes and club funds the building work was completed.



In addition to the work on the changing rooms / showers, thanks to additional support from Good Neighbours and a legacy from Sue Sycamore. We were also able to take the opportunity to refit the kitchen, replacing all the old kitchen units and equipment.



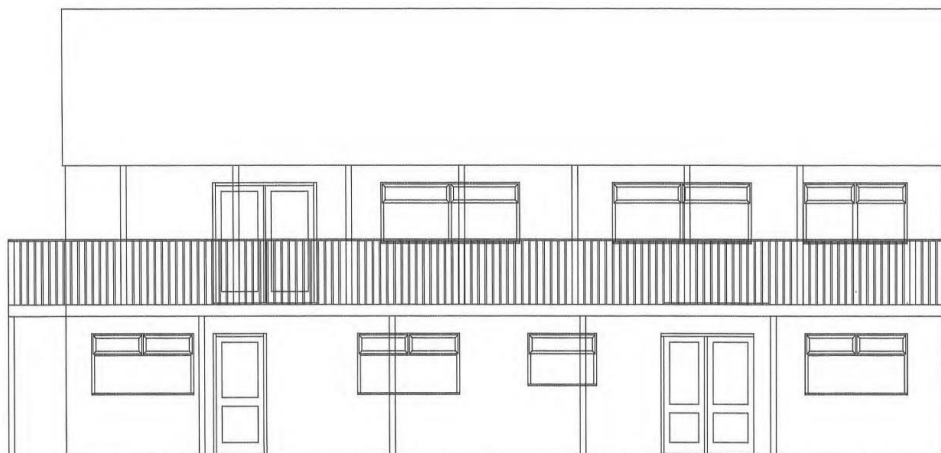
With the building work completed we are now painting!

To complete Phase One – we are also looking to create a patio area where players and spectators can relax and enjoy the sport in an inviting space. At the time of this meeting, we are getting quotations and looking to secure the necessary funding.

The carpark has been renovated with 60-tonnes of stone to fill in all the potholes!



Phase 2 would be to expand the pavilion by going up a level to provide a cub room and viewing area. The Sports Association will be engaging with interested stakeholders during the coming months to plan the best way forward.



Proposed Front Elevation

PSA Giant Fun Day -13th April

Celebration of sport in the village. Grand opening of the refurbished pavilion, giving our supporters and sponsors the chance to view the progress to date and see our future plan.

The fund day will also be an opportunity to raise funds for the ongoing refurbishment of the pavilion.

All welcome from 12pm.



Tim Barber – Chair Pontesbury Sports Association & Secretary PCC

March 2024