



WATTON SPORTS

ASSOCIATION & SOCIAL CLUB

Watton Sports Association 2021-2022

2021-22 has seen a slow but sustained growth at the Sports Centre as the community has recovered its confidence in socialising, playing sports and generally getting together again for celebrations.

December 2021 and another rise in infections meant more cancelled bookings. We closed for a week after Christmas and then experienced a very quiet January. Again, we were eligible for further funding to help compensate.

Since then, we have seen a sustained rise in footfall to the centre and have tried to provide events and sports for all ages and abilities to get the community 'out' again.

The centre has survived the lockdowns, it is in a much healthier financial position going forward and although we all know covid is still with us, we are expectant, that as a whole, all of us now have to live with it and hopefully be able to return to forecasting/ budgeting effectively for the long term.

We have worked hard this year to begin necessary repairs needed to the sites infrastructure and looking at new ways we can deliver a new and improved service.

There is not too much more to say about this financial year other than we got through it and are a more efficient and cost- effective business going forward.

Looking forward to this summer we have several large outdoor events booked this year on the grass areas including a Car Show, a football Tournament, organised by the charity 'Lee Rigby Foundation' and a large Hockey Tournament and Craft Fair to raise funds for the resurfacing of the Astro, organised by the Hockey Club, to name a few.

We will be looking to provide free sports on the field such as rounders and volleyball when the weather improves. There will be BBQs and a general willingness to promote a safe and happy environment for all families and different social groups to enjoy and relax in the outdoors without the limits of lockdown.

Indoors in the Social Club, we have lots of themed party nights to look forward to including Family Discos, 90s, 80s, and 70s nights, Easter Egg hunt and a Beach Party, all open to everyone and free entry.

We would like to thank Phil Kibler and the Loch Committee for our continued collaboration and support as our neighbours and specifically for the return of park run follow the lifting of covid restrictions. It always looks well maintained even after dozens of runners pass through every Saturday morning.

Our affiliated clubs have seen their memberships reduced and struggled with fixtures as a direct result of having to navigate covid but hopefully as we learn to live with this virus they will be able to recruit the numbers they had before 2019 from the surrounding community.

Contrary to a conversation on The Watton Community Facebook page recently, the centre is not just about Hockey and football these days as we have a wide range of sports and activities for all ages and all abilities and always looking to add more.

We have a few projects in their infancy where we hope to add and improve what we have on offer, more news to come on those later in the year!

The Men's Shed are increasing their membership week by week and we are providing a venue for Watton Medical Practise to enable them to deliver some of their workshops. There are new classes such as New Age curling, Yoga, a Church Service and Car boot on Sunday mornings.

During the week, we have Badminton, Table Tennis, Walking Football and Netball, Fit 50 and Fit 60 classes, indoor and outdoor bowls, Kuk sol woon martial arts, Zumba gold, pickle ball, squash, pilates, snooker, pool and many more activities.

We are always looking to collaborate and or support new initiatives at the centre and welcome all enquiries and or suggestions as to how we can get that positive message out there.

Finally, we very much look forward to the finalised Future Breckland project for both Watton and the other 4 market towns of Breckland and the progression of the neighbourhood plan.

The conversation has been so negative in Watton for so long as a result of missing out on investment for whatever reason but hopefully these projects can bring hope for future benefits for the community.

On behalf of Watton Sports Association

David Childerhouse

Chairman of Trustees