Vice Chairman’s Report 2020

Dear Members,

It was decided at our December Committee meeting the position of Chairman of our Club was to remain vacant, in respect to Mr Jim Wright, and, I would continue as Vice Chairman until this AGM. The first function of the Committee in their next month’s meeting will be to elect your new Chairman.

Once again we come to the end of the Club year, a difficult year in more ways than one, however, as the financial report shows, we continue to maintain headway in uncertain times. The elephant in the room is the ongoing Coronavirus crisis and as we await further direction from the Government and Association of Conservative Clubs, we have decided to cancel all entertainment, Snooker, Pool and Darts matches and the Thursday afternoon bingo until further notice. The AGM currently remains programmed for the 26 March but may be cancelled at short notice. Club membership stands at 471 with 57 not renewing their membership at the time of writing and with Members’ support we will look to hold a couple of Open Days later in the year to try and recruit new members. Notwithstanding this, I am conscious that the Club remains a Private Members’ Club with agreed Rules and Regulations and as such isn’t suitable to all. Of note our RESPECT notices received mixed responses. The majority of Members supported this self policing policy of treating each and everyone and the club with respect however a small number appear to have issues with it, it was never meant to offend or discriminate, only protect the Members and property alike, enough said.

Our current refurbishment continues and hopefully will be complete in the not too distant future. The intention then will be phase three which will be the bar and surrounding area. The Committee are conscious that it has taken a little longer than expected although in mitigation we were caught a little short with respect to events late last year. Thanks very much to our President, Denise, for her technical design skills and to Ron for taking over the supervising of the different contracts, whilst also undertaking a demanding work environment outside of the Club.

Our Staff have continued to keep the Club on the straight and narrow albeit in the kitchen, at the end of a mop, or behind the bar. Their commitment to our Club is obvious and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for this, and their Charity work. We have recently presented a cheque to Kingsbridge Dementia Friendly Community for £1650 raised over the past 18 months from the Horse Racing Night, Charity Raffle, and Coffee Morning. They are a group of volunteers who focus on raising awareness of dementia so that they can support people in the community of Kingsbridge and the surrounding area including Stoke Fleming, Blackawton and Dartmouth.

It has been a very difficult last few months and I have been extremely impressed the way your Committee has rallied to meet the additional challenges after the loss of our Chairman. Their commitment to our Club has been inspirational and they look forward to welcoming our newly elected Committee Members at their first meeting on Wednesday 1 April. There is no doubt in my mind that our relatively strong financial position is due in part to the hard work, tenacity and ingenuity of our Treasurer, who continues to provide the Club with an outstanding service, thank you Trevor. Audrey maintains the club administration and membership to a particularly high standard and has guided me through the nuances and delicacies of the Club’s correspondence. Steve Hawke, our health and safety guru and bar supervisor, has, despite being Chairman of the Rowing Club, holding down a full time career and dealing with a very demanding year at home, given his all to the club, yet again, hats off to you mate.

Thank you for your support over my last 2 years on the Committee and I now look forward to supporting the team from the terraces.

Mike Jones