

Pavilion Secretary's Report, Annual Report 2016/17

The past year has certainly been challenging and a lot like the curate's egg with some good parts and some not so good. This was true in both the catering and bar arrangements and with the refurbishment of the pavilion.

In considering the refurbishment of the pavilion, the development of a satisfactory and acceptable design solution that meets the requirements of the club has taken an inordinate time and I thank our members for their patience during the past 18 months or so. However, after much vigorous discussion between the club, Newland House School and their appointed architect a design scheme which reflects the originally stated club's requirements has been agreed and the architect is currently preparing an application for detailed approval of the Local Planning Authority. The proposals will reform the Tea Room and adjoining external areas providing a vibrant internal and external space which will greatly improve the club bringing life to the former underused part of the pavilion.

At the start of the year it was obvious that improvements in the catering provision were needed and with the club planning a major restructuring a fresh approach was considered necessary and efforts were made to engage a catering company with suitable experience. After a few "hiccups" a firm was taken on with an agreed trial period and they commenced in September of last year. Initially there was an improvement in catering and those of us who sampled it were very happy. Sadly, at the completion of the agreed trial period both sides were unable to reach a satisfactory working agreement and it was agreed to part company.

Since then we have managed catering arrangements internally using members within the club and I must applaud the sterling efforts of young Nathan Smith together with Lorna and their band of helpers in seeing us through a difficult period. We have now managed to lure Sarah Irwin back to manage the operation and I look forward to projected changes to the summer menu.

As part of the club's restructuring we will be revising the Licencing arrangements, letting go of the existing Club Premises Certificate to be replaced with a Premises Licence which will provide the flexibility that we now require for the future benefit of the club. This change requires the bar licence to include at least one member to hold a current Personal Licence and accordingly Nathan and myself have undergone training and obtained the relevant certification.

I look forward to the improvements that the refurbishment works together with our new licencing arrangements will bring to the club over the following year,

Pat McLoughlin
Pavilion Secretary, 2016/17