

DUMFRIES SPORTS CLUB CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Last year I intimated that the post Covid years were challenging and that progress was being made although slower than we had hoped. I am pleased to confirm that our progress as a Club financially, operationally and sport wise has continued and that our key factors are all showing positive signs.

Financially our income has increased and our expenditure has decreased which has resulted in a small operating profit for the year. We also have managed to pay back some of the section loans which were in place. Operationally bar sales have increased by over 10% (thanks to Willie our bar convenor and the hard working bar staff), squash and tennis court usage has increased and membership numbers across our sports have also increased slightly. Willie has also set up a specific fund for improvements for the bar and lounge areas with contributions coming from profits from functions and other fund raising activities and we hope to see the benefits of this shortly.

Although we remain relatively financially robust the management committee remain fully focused in trying to increase income while reducing expenditure. For example, energy remains one of our biggest cost elements and despite reducing this year we feel more work is required and further savings can be achieved. On our committee Hugh has been undertaking some detailed work to highlight potential further savings and we are hopeful these savings can be realised in the coming months.

Given that we are moving in the right direction as a club we are conscious that our progress must be maintained and that we must strike the right balance when determining membership fees. We are recommending modest increases in some fees and some categories will remain at the same level as last year.

2026 also heralds a milestone in the history of the club as it is 50 years since the club was formed. 1976 saw the building of our first squash courts so it is something of a double celebration with the squash club being formed at that time. We plan to celebrate both events and suggestions from members will be most welcome.

Last year I intimated that I would step aside as Chairman however a replacement has not materialised. I have informed the committee that it is my preferred intention to hand over the Chairmanship as soon as possible but would continue in this capacity until this happens. I have also suggested to the committee that some fundamental reform to the internal workings is required to ease the burden on some roles and spread the workload more evenly. I hope to progress this as a matter of urgency.

Finally, I have to finish my report on a particularly sad note. I am sure that most if not all of you are aware that Mac Creedon passed away on Christmas Day. Mac was a member of our Club for over 40 years, was a past Chairman and an avid squash player throughout his membership years. Mac was a friend of many and respected by all who knew him. He was a regular bar devotee every weekend and will be a massive miss to all at the Club and further afield. Our condolences go to his wife Julie, his daughter Amanda and son Mark.

John Glendinning
Chairman
January 2026