

Chair's Progress Report 24 July 2024

In addition to the regular comms, I thought it an appropriate time for me to provide a quick progress update after approximately 10 weeks in "the Chair".

We are closing in on a final settlement with the insurers, potentially excellent news. In anticipation we have asked the builders, that we are contractually tied into, to commit a date. They have said they could mobilise from November. In the interim we are trying to complete as much as possible, including temporarily tidying up the communal areas to make it more appealing, installing a further shower into the ladies' changing room and the much-anticipated new coffee machine.

I remain committed to using the building opportunity to maximum effect to meet the vision of a thriving squash and tennis club. We, and our architects, continue to explore how many of the essential and desirable features we can build into the club to make it a great place for us all and be fit for the future, whilst taking into account the views from the EGM and the full club membership. I look forward to sharing the proposals with you soon - the architect's brief is outlined at the end of the message.

I had hoped by now to have built this on the foundation of established growth plans for squash, tennis, gym and social. The most challenging remains the plan for squash which is still work in progress.

I am also acutely aware that we are no longer insured for future floods. We have engaged with a specialist Flood Mitigation Surveyor who is preparing a report on recommendations, over and above those already taken, to provide us with better defences going forward. We await the report.

We will have to strike an ambitious balance between investing in facilities for the future, bringing more members/activity into the club and serving the needs of current members. Just as we mustn't have a photocopy of the facilities pre flood, we also can't ignore the membership and demographic challenges we know we face.

It is therefore really encouraging to see the acceleration of activity in all sections: club nights, team matches, new sports, more social activities etc etc. This is the heart of any thriving club and we will need many more to help in this way.

Best wishes

Mark Benson

Chair, Duffield Squash and Tennis Club

Addendum: The challenge to the architects includes:

- Create a street view appeal from the A6 so the community knows we are here
- Create an improved entrance that is easy to understand and gives a welcoming first experience
- Disabled access to all areas into the building including a lift
- Create accessible changing and toilet facilities on the ground floor
- Create upstairs toilet facilities

- Flexible space for classes to enable a far better fitness & wellbeing offering to new and existing members
- Ground floor access to the existing gym
- Improve the lounge and bar area by making it more useable, better shaped and contemporary
- Improve the meeting / eating space
- Reinstate saunas
- Install a quality coffee machine & coffee area

Duffield Squash and Tennis Club