

Wellington and
District
Sports Federation
Secretary's Report
2011

David Derrick
November 2011

What a year 2011 has been for the Federation!

I say that with an immense sense of pride and fulfilment as I review the past twelve months of operation and it makes sense to go back to just before Christmas 2010 to pick up the story; 2010 had been a hard year for the Federation as we lost Secretary/Treasurer Mike Sertin (we also lost original Treasurer David Jones too) and this combined with other matters saw the organisation flounder and come to within an ace of folding and so, on the back of Wellington CC's Simon Rudd making an enquiry regarding the website that bears the Federation's name, Federation Chairman Roger Nunn, aided by Jane Browne of Wellington Swords, called a meeting to which all previously signed up members of the Federation were invited to see if they wanted to disband and call it a day or continue.

I think it fair to say that Roger and Jane attended that meeting thinking it would be a case of calling it a day and then dividing whatever monies were in the Federation's name up equally and everyone would go their separate ways – that notion could not have, happily, been more wrong as the Clubs who attended voted for the continuation of the organisation and for a reinvigoration of its activities.

An interim working party of me, Roger and Jane met the week after and started to draw up a blueprint for a new Federation, one with new ideas and a new vision and thinking. Work was performed with haste through the Christmas and New Year period so as to have a draft constitution, an interim Executive who were available for formal election, a solid membership base which had been widened to include Clubs outside of the Town itself, but that were within accepted Wellington boundary limits and local dignitaries who could add value with their advice and wise counsel were recruited; this was all accepted en bloc by a well attended AGM and then the real work started.

By the end of January we were engaged with Taunton Deane Borough Council in respect of working with them to deliver quality facilities improvements and solutions to both Wellington Playing Field and Wellington Recreation Ground as a result of the Section 106 finances attached to the Cade's Farm 1 housing development – this work is still continuing and at the time of writing this report has reached an important point in the process as we work towards delivering a plan of requirements and costs to the Council. This work has been intense and demanding and is set to get even more so, but through the initial work done through the Federation Executive (thanks to our Vice Chairman Joe Conway for this) and the stakeholder Clubs together with Debbie Arscott and Ann Rhodes of Taunton Deane Borough Council and Steve Major of ISCA Architects we are well advanced with this matter and can look forward to vastly improved and better quality facilities for sport on these two sites in the future.

We are also involved with the developments at both Jurston Lane and Longforth Farm and the Executive plans to make itself known here too.

I think this is an example of what the Federation should be about and perhaps that was one of its failings come the end of its previous incarnation; no blame is attached here or to anyone, but there was a feeling that the eye was off the ball so to speak at times.

This version does not profess to be perfect and will make mistakes I am sure, but the ethos is different and is more dynamic I would like to think.

Other aspects of the work undertaken in 2011 include July's barbecue and social event and the formation of a sub committee to look at developing and rolling out a specific strategy for the youth of Wellington and using sport as a vehicle for positive change especially for those who are disenfranchised; there will be news of this at the 2012 AGM.

I see 2012 as being a big year for the Federation as we hopefully complete the deal with respect to Wellington Playing Field and Wellington Recreation Ground and begin to see the town's other two developments bearing tangible benefits for the sporting community and all other aspects of Wellington life and not just making housing developers and landowners very rich.

I hope that our Member Clubs have also benefited from being part of the Federation; some may gain more than others and I hope that this evens itself out as time goes on, but there is strength in numbers and being part of a large and influential group can only help all Clubs in their operations and to this end I sincerely hope that all current members stay on board – I thank all Club contacts for their time and efforts this year.

Our President – The Duke of Wellington – and Patrons have a vital role to fill and do so admirably; particularly Cllr Andy Govier who is always supportive and attends all of our meetings whenever he can.

Richard Fox joined us a Patron in 2011 and he has been most active and he is thanked for this; our other two patrons are Martin Pipe CBE and Jeremy Browne MP and whilst they cannot give them direct time and effort that Andy and Richard do they are always interested to hear about our activities and do support us in other ways.

I very much hope that they are all able to retain their involvement with the Federation in 2012.

Our Chairman Roger Nunn and Vice Chairman Joe Conway do a fine job chairing our meetings and keeping all running to schedule and I thank them for their time, effort and work in 2011.

Financially we are managed by Jane Browne, who took on the Treasurer's role and did much work, with Roger Nunn, to unravel a complex financial maze when needed.

Derrick Hodgson is our Auditor and we are grateful to him for the behind the scenes work he does in this respect and for the professional slant such a post gives to our finances.

I wish to thank all the Clubs that have hosted Federation meetings in 2011; we have always been made to feel welcome and I hope we can expand this venues cycle in 2012.

All in all this has been a satisfactory first year for the new Wellington and District Sports Federation and I hope that 2012 brings even greater rewards.

David Derrick
Federation Secretary
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