

Stoolball England Chairman's report 2018

Well it has to be said my first year as chairman wasn't quite what I expected.

All though I have been involved for a number of years it was only when I became chairman that I fully

realised how hard the committee work behind the scenes. I am really grateful for all of their efforts in trying to promote the game and driving the game forward. We are fortunate to have a number of experienced campaigners as well as younger members with their fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

A great deal of work is done, lead by Anita, in trying to bring stoolball to new participants. This is done by participating at fun days & fetes, helping set up indoor leagues, trialling walking stoolball, networking with other sports through active Sussex, Kent and Surrey as well as further afield and preparing funding bids to train coaches who can then to go into schools. Recently we have had encouraging meetings with Wave leisure (Lewes, Seaford & East Grinstead) and Impulse leisure (Lancing, Steyning & Storrington) who are keen to get staff qualified as coaches so they can go into schools and also have their facilities used for all forms of stoolball. As a non funded governing body it is really difficult to compete with larger well funded sports but that doesn't stop us from trying.

Despite the magnificent summer it conspired to rain on the original date of the Ladies and senior England matches, these being re-located to Hailsham at the end of September. I am grateful to all who made the day a success which resulted in a win for the President's team in the ladies match and a win for the East of England in the senior game. Particular thanks to everyone that helped on the day, the selectors for the ladies teams and Karen and Mo for managing and selecting the senior teams. The under 21's match took place at Worth Abbey school in July and a very close and competitive match saw the Chairman's team win in the last over. Again my thanks to the selectors and all who helped on the day.

Something of a surprise to me when taking over as chairman was the realisation that not all leagues played to all of the rules. I am pleased to report that after some discussions and meetings this situation has been resolved.

The most disappointing thing of all though is the resistance to the new policies by some regarding young players. As a governing body we have a responsibility to have policies in place and believe that those that have been introduced are reasonable and proportionate. This is an area that had been neglected for too long and stoolball cannot be exempt from the expectations and requirements of the 21st century. All affiliated clubs are required to ensure these rules are followed.

I would like to finish by thanking Trevor for his long service as treasurer, you will be missed, not least because of your BBQ' ing skills!