

Wilson Southport & District League Chairman's report to the Annual General Meeting.

When this report is delivered to the Annual General Meeting hopefully I will be enjoying breakfast overlooking Darling Harbour in Sydney NSW.

The past fourteen months have been particularly trying for Kathleen and me. As many of you will be aware Kathleen went for a knee replacement operation in Wrightington Hospital in August 2010 which was cancelled at the theatre door because of abnormal heart readings.

After numerous tests it was decided that a heart bypass was required and in late November she had a quadruple bypass in Manchester Royal Hospital.

This was successful and she was rescheduled for the knee operation in early April.

Unfortunately shortly after last year's AGM I suffered a couple of strokes (the only symptom being a temporary loss of peripheral vision, the stroke being diagnosed by my optician). I was admitted to Southport Hospital for a few days observation and tests, being discharged with medication to take. I was also not allowed to drive for six weeks.

However, the worst was over by the start of the tennis season and I was able to go and watch some tennis at Ormskirk Tennis Club and Wimbledon.

Fortunately my main task of preparing the schedule of League fixtures had been completed so my incapacitation was not a problem to the committee.

During the year committee as usual carried out their tasks in an exemplary way.

Barry continues in his own inimitable fashion visiting all the League clubs and encouraging all the players. He never misses any finals and was again present at the Presentation Evening at Campion offering words of praise and thanks to all. (He is not too good at quizzes!)

This year Hilary was aided by Neil Leadbetter and his subcommittee to deal with any contentious disputes. In fact they were called upon during the first week of the season! Hilary and Neil will advise the meeting later of their activities.

Despite the availability of this committee the position of the match secretary is still onerous and requires much diligent work. The League is fortunate that Hilary, with the assistance of her husband Roger, is still willing, after ten years, to continue in the role.

This year Mary is retiring after six years of being League secretary, a role she agreed to do on a short term basis! We are fortunate that Michelle McNulty has stated a willingness to take over the role.

After two years our treasurer Chris Cresswell is settling into the role of Treasurer and should be advising the meeting of a financially successful season. The only worrying part is that he feels unable to commit more than five years to the position.

The Team Tournament Secretary and website expert George Coulthard is also retiring after 6 years because of increased personal commitments. He has however agreed to continue to support the website. Unfortunately to date the executive has not been able to find a successor and if one is not found the team tournaments for 2012 will not take place.

Fortunately Terry Barham is willing to continue to organise the Spartans' Trophy.

Bill Core and Mick Fradsham continue to promote the individual tournaments held at Southbank Road with varying levels of success in attracting entries. The winners who attended the presentation evening all appreciated their efforts.

Terry & Chris Parkes assumed responsibility for the Junior section of the League and enjoyed a highly successful year with well over a hundred matches in the junior tournament held at Argyle. This will be shown in Terry's report to the meeting.

Finally the Annual General Meeting last year created the new position of Vice-Chairman of the League and Rob Hemmings agreed to take on the position. With my trip to Australia he is taking my place and will be the chairman for this meeting.

I hope that all the representatives of the clubs attending will afford him the support and cooperation that they have given to me over the many years in which I have chaired the meeting,