Environmental Highlights 2023

2023 has seen great strides forward on our journey towards making operations at Roehampton Club net zero by 2030, - the Club's ambition agreed by the Board of Directors. Further to this we have also considered how we can encourage our Members to reduce their own carbon footprint when using the Club.
Our high-level, initial assessment concluded that the main contributor to our Carbon footprint was, in the main, our energy use and so our approach to date has been focussed mainly around energy. We have:

1. Considered and implemented methods to *reduce* our energy consumption
2. Reduced the carbon footprint of the services required by Members to use the Club
3. Generated our own electricity and commenced the move away from gas and oil

As a consequence of these tactics we have seen a number of projects come to fruition.
In reducing our energy consumption we have:

- acquired an indoor pool cover so that we don't waste energy overnight both by continually heating the pool when it's not in use and then using air conditioning to remove the heat and humidity in the air above it.
- migrated much of our grounds equipment from diesel/petrol engines to electric; these use far less energy, are much quieter and have a much smaller carbon footprint
- taken advantage of the need to replace the air-conditioning units in the men's , clubhouse changing rooms, by installing highly efficient, air-source heat pumps to provide both heating and cooling. This both reduces our operational costs and reduces our carbon footprint.
- ensured that lights and heating are only activated when required so that energy is not wasted.

We are concerned about ensuring that the goods and services we buy are low carbon. We also want to reduce the carbon footprint produced by Members travelling to and from the Club. We now:

- source much of the food we buy from local suppliers and ensure that all our food waste is composted on site and utilised on our grounds
- minimise printing
- have installed our own laundry thereby cutting costs and reducing the carbon footprint in transporting items to and from site
- take multiple measures within the work of the grounds team to reduce our fertiliser/water use, while increasing the diversity of the flora on-site.
- have doubled the capacity of the bike shelters to encourage increased cycle use
- have in place novel schemes for EV charging e.g. 'solar charging' in the summer, and overnight charging to enable even lower carbon and low-cost charging for EV users, so reducing the carbon footprint of travel.

Finally, in our biggest project to date, we have installed solar panels on most of the available roof space within the Club grounds. The various arrays started to come online in March and the installation was fully completed by the end of April. During the middle months of the year, we generated enough electricity on site to reduce our electricity bill dramatically and on many days completely powered the Club with our 'home-produced' electricity between 9am and 4:30pm. We are ahead of our predictions to meet a 4-year payback for the system which has a 30-year life expectancy.

The next phase of our plans requires us to further reduce our dependence on gas for both water and space heating and look to increase the efficiency of the utilisation of our solar production. The first will entail implementation of heat pumps and possibly a novel solution for heating the swimming pools and the second, high-capacity batteries. As with all our projects we will, of course, ensure that we achieve good value for money for our Members.

David Burditt
Environmental Committee Chair and Board Director