

## Senior Spireites AGM 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Secretary's Report

I would like to start by thanking the committee for their support throughout 2023 and especially Paul Markwell for taking on a lot of work from me and for making such a success of the web site. Thank you all for attending today and for putting up with my lapses of memory through the year.

It has been a year of steady growth for the club, growing from 106 playing members and 12 social members at the end of 2022 to 111 playing members and 21 social members at the end of 2023. Now increased to 115 and 19. We have welcomed several new members through the year but have also seen quite a few move to social membership due to injury or long-term illness. Sadly, but to be expected in our age range, we have also had to say farewell to some of our friends and just recently this has continued with the loss of Michael Wilson, for whom our mourning is very fresh.

The playing sessions at Dronfield and Hasland continue to be successful although the Tuesday evening session and the Hasland session have currently reached capacity, with a waiting list for new members. The loss of the fourth pitch at Dronfield is also becoming an issue for the Monday and Friday sessions as participating numbers grow and the committee has had to devise a cunning plan to handle the situation in future if more than 42 members turn up to play. The condition of the pitches and toilets at Dronfield is also an issue which the Akademy management is well aware of and trying to improve but finance is a major stumbling block. We are in contact about it and will advise if there is any improvement planned.

Meanwhile, continue to enjoy your football, remember, and try to live up to, our motto of Fun, Fitness and Friendship – no running, no tackling from behind, minimum physical contact and no arguing with the referee, who is always right, even when he's made a mistake.

Thank you, and I hand over to our esteemed treasurer, Neil.