

Chairman's Speech – Multi Sports Club AGM

Good evening everyone,

It's a real pleasure to welcome you all to this year's AGM - my first as Chair of Multi Sports. I want to begin by thanking our incredible volunteers who make our club what it is. Mitchell, Debbie, Kate, Leah, Phoebe, and Mollie — your time, energy, and kindness have been invaluable. A special mention to Mitchell, who has now headed off to university. We'll miss him greatly, but we wish him all the very best in this exciting new chapter.

I'd also like to thank our dedicated committee members: Sarah-Jane, Susan, Mitchell, Irene, Suzy, Mollie, Sandra, and Dave. Your support throughout the year has been vital. Sadly, Suzy, Sandra, and Dave have decided to step down, and I want to take a moment to thank them for their years of service and commitment to the club. We're also pleased to welcome Issy, who's joined us to support our social media presence and use her social media skills to help us continue the growth Mitchell started.

I would also like to thank all our brilliant coaches; Mike for Multi Sports and Friday Football, Liam for Multi Sports, Daisy for Monday Dance, Chloe for Zoom Dance, Jen for Crafternoons and Trudy for Aquafit.

Club Highlights

Let's start with something that's really helped us stand out this year — our brand-new Multi Sports Club black t-shirts. A big thank you to Sarah-Jane for making this happen. They've given us a fresh, unified look and were proudly worn during our performances at *Move Momentum* and the *Community Showcase* — helping us represent the club in style.

Speaking of performances and events, we've had a fantastic run this year. We performed at the *Community Showcase* at The Point in Eastleigh on 15th June, providing outreach in our local area, and took part in *Move Momentum*, a vibrant dance show at Winchester University on 28th June — both brilliant opportunities to raise awareness and celebrate our members' talents. And of course, we were thrilled to win the *Gateway Trophy for Best Team Spirit* in October 2024. With the next Gateway coming up on 4th October, let's bring that same energy and aim to win again!

We've also made great strides online — updating our website and successfully switching to a new free provider. We've been posting regularly to social media to showcase the fantastic things our club gets up to. Huge thanks to Mitchell and Susan for their work on both.

Trips & Socials

We enjoyed three boat trips with Solent Dolphin — thank you to them for providing such a memorable experience — a chance to relax, connect, and enjoy the water together.

We've enjoyed some wonderful outings to the theatre, including *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, 101 Dalmatians, Madagascar, Aladdin, Jack and the Beanstalk, Wind in the Willows, Elf and Take That experience — magical experiences for our members.

More recently, we held a social walk with litter picking on 20th September with Telegraph Woods nature recovery group, giving back to our community while spending time outdoors. These events reflect the spirit of MSC — fun, friendship, and purpose.

Sessions & Growth

We've welcomed four new members this year — two in Multi-Sports, one in Dance, and one in Football. It's wonderful to see our community growing.

Our Monday Dance sessions saw big changes. Finding a new dance teacher was a priority — we started with Lucy, then Amy went on maternity leave, and we were lucky to find Daisy, who's done a brilliant job leading the group in regular sessions and performances. We've also moved from the D@rt Centre to West End Parish, which will be a huge benefit during summer holidays as it stays open. We decided to permanently move due to the benefit of not being closed on school holidays. And a warm welcome to Phoebe, Trudy's daughter, who's joined us as a volunteer.

Crafternoon continues to thrive in its second year — I love seeing the creativity and joy it brings. Thanks to Jen from QE2 for all the planning and prep she does for the sessions.

Multi-Sports has been packed with variety: cricket, dodgeball, lacrosse, football, basketball, tag rugby, badminton — and recently, bowls! - Thank you Susan for helping us try out! When Wildern was closed over summer, we went bowling, which was a hit with everyone. Providing this variety for members keeps the session fresh and exciting.

Friday Football remains a strong and consistent session, offering a great outlet for energy, teamwork, and skill-building. It's a favourite among many of our members and continues to bring joy week after week.

Saturday Zoom remains our easy-access session, offering flexibility and connection for those who prefer to join from home. Still run by Chloe, our previous Dance teacher, who has recently gotten married and still continues the session even after moving to Doha!

Sunday Morning Basketball is another steady and well-loved session whilst run by Mencap and Eastleigh Borough, it is open to our members and those that go enjoy it.

Sunday Swimming continues to be a staple of our weekly programme — a relaxing yet active session that many look forward to.

Thank you to Irene for arranging and keeping the booking running smoothly.

A special thank you to Susan for all the many things she has done for the club on top and beyond her role as treasurer.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on a successful year, we also look ahead. With Mitchell's departure, one of our key priorities is recruiting new volunteers to help fill the gap and support our growing sessions. If you know anyone who might be interested, please do spread the word — every helping hand makes a difference.

I hope we can continue to grow and try new activities. If anyone has any ideas for new activities they think would be good please let us know and we can take a look.

Finally, thank you again to everyone — volunteers, committee members, participants, families — for your continued support, enthusiasm, and spirit. Multi Sports Club is more than just activities; it's a community, and I'm proud to be part of it.

Here's to another fantastic year ahead.

Thank you.