

Annual Report

2020/2021

This year's annual report bears the marks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sports activities first came to a standstill, then slowly restarted in the course of 2020. Luckily, outdoor sports such as tennis remained available pretty much throughout.

In the autumn of 2020, the Board received a request from KRAS for a contribution to rent the ice rink in Kardingje for their members, as a replacement for the cancelled trip to Weisensee. Unfortunately, this plan also came to nought as Kardingje had to shut down completely. In the end, ice skaters did have a good season after all thanks to a fantastic natural ice rink and a real bout of Elfstedentocht fever.

In addition to the decline in sports opportunities due to COVID-19, the Board also discussed alternative subscription forms, to investigate the possibility of expanding subscription options for current and prospective members? Following an extensive discussion, the Board concluded that alternative subscriptions such as 10-stripe tickets presented too many difficulties, and it was decided to retain the current range of subscriptions.

In other news, a research study on exercise among staff members was carried out at the UG in the context of the U-Move project. The trainee who carried out the study formulated a number of recommendations on how to encourage employees to exercise more. This interfaces both with BALANS, the initiative of the UG Health, Safety & Sustainability department, and SPR. After all, UG staff have access to the Sports Centre facilities via their SPR membership. The Board will discuss the results of the study and follow-up study in further detail in the coming year, after the study has been processed by the Board of the University.

In the past year, SPR once again succeeded in offering a wide range of sports activities. In consultation with ACLO, we opened up some hours for Padel Tennis, a mix between tennis and squash. Also, the BALANS and HanzeFit courses have led to new sports being included in the SPR sports range, including kickboxing and Pilates.

SPR membership dropped as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time in years, we have fewer than 1,100 members, although luckily, this figure is once again on the rise.

In the past months, the Board frequently conferred with the Sports Centre management concerning services (including costs) based on the existing Servicing Agreements (DVO), among other things in response to the findings and questions of the audit committee with respect to the 2020 annual report. This mainly concerns some ambiguities surrounding a number of cost centres and accompanying amounts, as well as questions concerning the basis underpinning costs and charges. This has led to SPR formulating Annual Agreements for the sports year 2021/2022, specifying deployment of sports instructors, use of locations, and Sports Centre services. These agreements are due to be reviewed and approved on a yearly basis.

In addition, the existing agreements with ACLO were further defined and approved, and an addendum was added to the ACLO/SPR contract concerning agreements between the two ice skating associations, Tjas and KRAS.

Besides the financial agreements, the Sports Centre and SPR also agreed that SPR members will be allowed to make use of the Sports Centre facilities for 42 weeks a year, thus granting our members an additional 2 weeks a year in which to enjoy the sports facilities.

In other news, the SPR logo was changed to reflect the UG and Hanze UAS colours (red and orange), and our new website was launched in September.

In October 2020, Harold Hofenk was re-elected as member of the Board. In March 2021, Herman Blom was also re-elected, while Anne Bouwmeester and Teye Marra were both elected for their first term, having attended the Board's activities as prospective members since October 2020.

Concerning our vision for the future, next year we plan to organize a new meeting to discuss how we wish to come across and operate as an association. Ours is a hybrid role: sports in the context of an association and as a hobby. We are not a 'real' association, with volunteers in the sports canteen. However, the sections, such as the fishing club, the seniors, the tennis club, and KRAS, do qualify as real associations in this sense.

Do we wish to work more with committees? How can we involve our members more closely in what happens to the association? What do we want to focus on as an association? So many questions for us to answer together. In other words, there are enough challenges, not counting athletic challenges, to keep SPR members busy! Such as the challenge of filling Board vacancies, which turns out to be no easy task.

Board November 2021

Irma Koornstra – Chair

Harold Hofenk – Secretary

Herman Blom – Treasury

Niels Idsinga – Member

Anne Bouwmeester – Member

Teye Marra – Member