



KIPPIE AT 50 YEARS



Welcome to a very special edition of our newsletter. As we celebrate 50 incredible years of Kippie, we are thrilled to present to you this commemorative 50th anniversary newsletter.

In these pages, we invite you to take a trip down memory lane, explore our history, and join us in celebrating a half century of cherished memories.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

1973-2023

@kippielodge

kippielodge.com



50TH CELEBRATIONS





WHAT STARTED AS A DREAM...

It was the summer of 1971 that the late Jack Pillow first had an idea of opening a club catering for the thriving oil industry.

After canvassing friends and colleagues a committee was formed to look into two possible locations, Norwood Hall and Kippie Lodge.

BLOSSOMED INTO THE SUCCESSFUL CLUB WE ARE

Thankfully, due to the amount of land that was included in the sale, they opted for Kippie Lodge and named it 'The North Sea Petroleum Club'. Its grand opening took place in March 1973.



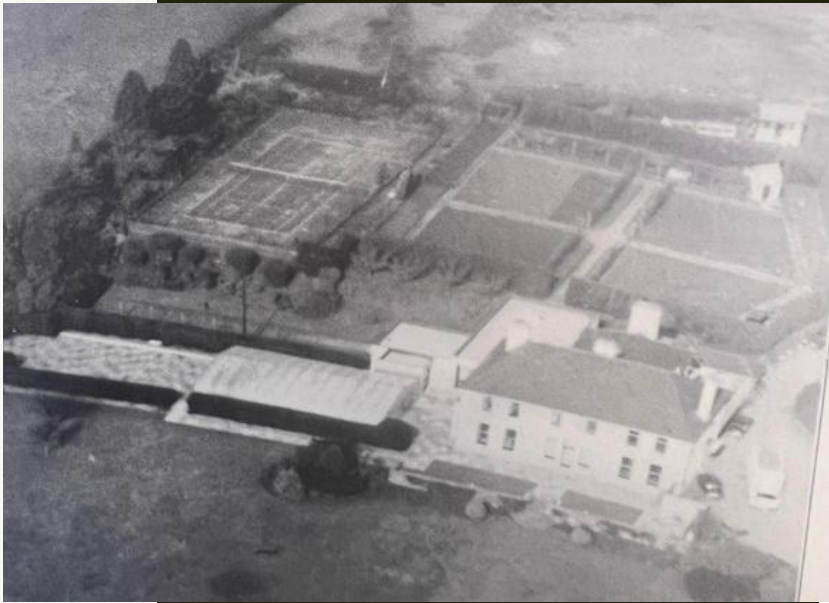


SPORTS

The sports side was gradually introduced in 1975 with the opening of the swimming pool which began the shift from being a social hub to a sports & fitness venue. The first pool was in the greenhouse (see above) which is still standing today. The pool played a role in the club's success as individuals of all ages turned to swimming as a means to stay active and lead a healthy lifestyle.

The sports complex was built in 1982, totally transforming the membership. The inauguration of the complex was not merely the opening of a recreation facility it was the start of a sports journey that would shape the club's future.





IN THE EARLY YEARS

You can see in this photo the greenhouse, then swimming pool, and you will notice the tennis court at the top left.

All the vegetables used at the club were grown in the current car park!



THE COMPLEX

The Sports Complex was built in 1982 which housed the new pool, small gymnasium, 2 squash courts, a small studio, a bar with snooker tables and 'The Griddle' (family dining area).

The catering operation was moved from the Lodge to the Complex just after it opened. The Lodge continued to host Friday and Saturday Dinner Dances. The Griddle was located at the front of the current gym, and the Bar, housing 2 snooker tables was located at the rear. Both had viewing areas to the pool.

Kippie's Creche opened in 1989 encouraging more family members to join.



WE HAVE BEEN MEMBERS NOW FOR 30 YEARS AND NOW HAVE THE THIRD GENERATION OF THE FAMILY ATTENDING KIPPIE AND LOVING IT AS MUCH AS WE DO. WE LOVE EVERYTHING WE GET FROM BEING A PART OF "KIPPIE LIFE"

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU, AND THE STAFF DO TO MAKE IT PLEASURABLE. JAYNE AND JIM LEITH



1990'S



The 1990's saw the biggest change in Kippie's history. The Club was given an added boost with the decision to add an £150,000 extension to the Complex. The then Chairman, Tony Dawson oversaw the operation stating in the Kippie newsletter "I am sure the members will see this latest extension as a major step forward".

The extended Complex allowed the opening of Kippie's Hair & Beauty facilities offering a touch of luxury to the Club.



a beach theme was painted on the pool walls by Gray School of Arts Students



With the extension of the Complex, all the catering facilities moved down to the Lodge, allowing the gym to expand and open the studio on the first floor.

Fitness classes increased in numbers and more and more families joined for the introduction of summer camp and splash time sessions in the pool.



Alan Lamont with Stuart Holden & Gavin Clark circa 1993

Iain & I returned to Aberdeen in 1988 with our two boys Alan & Gavin, having met as students in the 70s. My school friend Moira Holden was Manager at that time and she suggested we join Kippie. It was probably one of the best decisions we ever made. It instantly gave us a social life. We met lots of lovely people who have remained our friends over the years. We used to meet every Friday night after work and have something to eat upstairs where the gym studio now is, whilst the boys run around, letting off steam and leaving us in peace.

During the summer, the boys spent almost every day at Kippie playing tennis, in the swimming pool or just running around. There were no camps in those days. It was up to Mum to organise their time, but that was no hardship as there are lots of other Mums to socialise with. The boys learned to play tennis with Alan Lamont and it has been a source of much amusement that three generations of the Clark family have done so. How old is Alan L

The highlight of the social calendar was the Sparks charity ProCelAm golf event which culminated in a dinner held in the marquee on the lawn outside The Lodge. Over the years we enjoyed the company of several celebrities at our table. They were great nights hugely enjoyed in the company of good friends.

Kippie has remained a constant in our lives over the past 35 years; Iain still plays tennis and golf regularly and I have a dining membership. It has always been a welcoming place and some of the staff remained for many many years and have seen our family grow up and be extended with grandchildren Eli and Emily and Caenan and Emerson enjoying visits there and sampling the sizzling fajitas!

I am forever grateful that we decided to join. Kippie has been a great place for us all.

Regards

The Clark Family



FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR REFIT!

The improvement programme at the club has gone into overdrive with a whole host of new facilities now open or in the course of development. The changes have been made possible by the decision to move all catering facilities to the Lodge.

This move has paved the way for a major reorganisation in the Sports Complex making use of the extra space now available. The first change which is already operational is the new exercise room in the area formerly occupied by the bar. The extra space has provided the opportunity to expand the range of fitness machines which now makes the Kippie Gym the best equipped in Aberdeen!

The £20,000 investment has provided the latest running machine on the market, free standing weights machines upper and lower body work, a top quality range of cardio vascular equipment and much more besides.

Following on from this change is the development of the specialist aerobics studio. This purpose built facility will



OUT WITH THE OLD -

The Crandall Family were the first Guests at the sports complex restaurant.



IN WITH THE NEW - Enjoying the first Coffees under the new arrangements in front of a roaring fire are Mrs Cordner and Leesie.

include a Junker sprung floor, comfort cooling and will be fully mirrored. A vast improvement on the current use of the squash courts.

Other facilities which will follow on in the development programme include specialist rooms for use for aromatherapy, massage and physiotherapy, a fitness testing centre and a steam room. There will also be improvements made to the changing areas.

Accompanying these alterations has been a reorganisation at the Lodge which is now open from 9am - 11pm seven days a week. Members and their guests are now greeted at the new reception desk. Meals are available from midday either from the 'a la carte'

or snack menu and the Burgundy bar has been reorganised to cater for the differing requirements of diners.

This pooling of catering has the added advantage of reducing running costs of the club and will provide members with a better service and better value from their subscriptions.

-  FITKIDS fitness classes
-  Young Enterprise Europe
-  Picture Gallery
-  Golf News
-  Easter School
-  Chairman's Review



A STEP FORWARD ...



Step class in new aerobics studio

Aberdeen Petroleum Club steps towards the end of a year which has been one of dramatic change - and certainly a great deal of achievement.

The transfer of all catering from the sports complex to Kippie Lodge ... the expansion of Aberdeen's best equipped gymnasium ... the opening of the purpose-built specialist aerobics studio... the introduction of beauty therapy, reflexology and physiotherapy.

All this - and many less significant changes - has contributed to a new-look APC in an on-going programme of improvements which reflects the club

management committee's awareness of the need to give members and their guests the widest possible choice.

The club's corporate image, too, has taken a decided step forward.

The recent award of the Investors in People national standard not only represents a commitment to the development and training of club employees. Participation in the nationwide scheme has given the club an ideal opportunity to assess how we do things, identifying a number of areas where it has been possible to not only improve but extend activities and introduce new interests.

Likewise, the decision to hold two conference Open Days, - designed to project the club's conference, training and leisure facilities to the local business community - must be seen as a positive move in a commercial sense.

Yes, Aberdeen Petroleum Club has come a long way down the road of non-stop improvement in 1994.

But there must always be new milestones... the possibility of a new conservatory at Kippie Lodge, a review of house rules and the long-term ambition of developing the ground purchased from Culler Estates.

We trust this issue of "Kippie News" goes some way to reflect what has taken place at Aberdeen Petroleum Club in recent months. Equally important, it looks to the future.

And, given your support, we know that will lead to a progressive 1995.

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- 12 Chairman's Review



THE LODGE

Kippie members watched with considerable interest the construction of the conservatory in 1995. The new area provided a much needed area for families to enjoy a meal and entertainment.

The Braemar (pictured left) was Kippies main function room which is now studio 2 & 3 and Dunnottar room. The snooker room also opened upstairs which remains there today.



KIPPIE EVENTS

Every year without fail during the 1990's Kippie played host to big gala events such as "The Chairman's Ball", Hogmanay Ball, the IADC and more importantly the Pro-Cel-Am.

This event, over the years, raised over 1 million pounds for Sparks, the childrens charity. Many celebrities flew up from London to take part and help raise money, such as Ronnie Corbett, Mike Reid, Robert Powell to name but a few.





KIPPIE NEWS

Aberdeen
Petroleum
club
Sports and Country Club

▶ ISSUE 7

WINTER 1993

Pro-Cel-AM Record

-That's official!

SPARKS collected another record cheque this year after the APC Pro-Cel-Am golfing extravaganza. A grand total of over £26,000 was donated to SPARKS Charity - Sport aiding Medical Research for Children.

Mike Reid the popular comedian and Eastenders star once again lent his name to make this high profile event go with more of a swing. He was joined by other famous names such as Tim Brooke Taylor, Scott & Gavin Hastings, Russ Abbot, Johnny Herbert the Formula 1 star and most of the cast of Take the High Road.

The build up to the golf included a tense cricket match between the Enterra (UK) Ltd eleven and a celebrity team which was played at Aberdeen University. Veteran player Brian Close the former England and Yorkshire star won the man of the match award following an outstanding performance.

After partying into the wee small hours when Brahms and Listz wasn't just the name of the entertainers the golfers took to a blustery Deeside course. Spectators, as well as enjoying some memorable golf were able to sample a remarkable BBQ which featured everything from burgers to



Mike Reid loosens up before his round in the main event.



Ron Neave, Barry Buchanan and the BBQ team.

pheasant. They were also able to watch an amazing trick shot show from Noel Hunt. The show featured everything from 18" to 12" clubs and even one with a rubber shaft.

Running out as winners in the main event were the GAK sponsored team of pro - Glenn Taylor of Newmarcher, amateurs David Yates and George Forbes and celebrity Frank McGarvey the former Celtic footballer who lifted the Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy.

The organising committee would like to thank all sponsors including Press & Journal, Loffland Nabors, Airport Skean Dhu Hotel and British Airways without whose support the record fundraising effort could not have been achieved.

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page 12

Kippie Life done Gordons' style

When stories were requested to celebrate Kippie's big birthday, it hit me that our family life has been intertwined with Kippie for over 25 years...

We have been members all that time, which is testament in itself to the place, but then I thought a bit more and reflected on some specifics:

- Our son, Fraser, learned to swim at Kippie. And then a good few years later he was a lifeguard at the very same pool.
- Our daughter, Amy, was born just a few hours after Fraser and I had been to Kippie with friends and I had to chase him around the playpark to catch him to go home. Not a pretty sight.
- Then one of Amy's first outings at two weeks old was to the Kippie Halloween party dressed as Piglet. She's then gone on to waitress in the Lodge during university holidays. She'll not be happy I told that story.
- My husband, Graeme, got two of his holes-in-one on the golf course (on the 2nd and the 6th).
- Every week I thrash around at Body Attack with Michelle, punch imaginary lights out at Body Combat with Amanda, and lose innumerable golf balls whilst playing with the ladies of the Kippie Golf Association. Thank you all for your friendship and fun.
- The 'Body Attackers' have had many a good night in the Lodge – including doing a dress-up murder mystery at Christmas time. The waiting staff were immensely patient with our noise and nonsense!

**Thank you Kippie for all of this and much, much more!
Here's to the next 50 years.**





KIPPIE EVENTS

PRO CEL AM

SUNDAY 31 JULY 1988

Golf tournament commences 0730 - Come along and watch Scotland's top golfers from the Tartan Tour and 40 celebrities from the showbusiness and sporting world.

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ROBERT POWELL



LANCE PERCIVAL

The pictures tell the story. Here are the smiling faces of two of the regular attendees, Robert Powell and Lance Percival, showing how much the celebrities enjoy the Pro Cel Am Golf Tournament.

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Amongst the celebrities we are hoping to welcome are Colin Deans, Jim and Findlay Calder, Roy Laidlaw, Andy Cameron, Robert Powell, Peter Duncan, John Spencer, Eric Sykes, Bernard Cribbens and many others (all subject to last minute - watch Club noticeboard for up to date information).

Other entertainments include; raffle - gopher raffle - the red tomato bouncy castle - also hamburger stand & refreshments.

The Organising Committee invite ALL members to come along and support the Club's main fund-raising event of the year for the SPARKS Charity.

In the past 11 years we have raised £103,500 for medical research into all forms of crippling diseases - our target for this year is £15,000 - WE CAN DO IT - BUT ONLY WITH YOUR HELP.





THE KIPPIE CADDIE

Your Guide Around Aberdeen Petroleum Club

November/December 1996



On Course for Golfing Development

The numbers finally came up for Aberdeen Petroleum Club as we hit the Jackpot with the announcement of a significant financial grant from the Lottery Sporting Fund. This welcome aid will contribute greatly to the total amount required by the Club in its

efforts to finally realise a dream of having a course that it can call its own.



The Lottery handout, which totalled £278,800, will be used in the construction of a 9 hole Golf Course and new Changing Facilities, to be located to the west of the Sports Complex in the the large open field and spreading over 3 adjacent fields, north of Culter House Road. With planning permission already attained, work is expected to begin in late autumn 1996 and completion is scheduled for the end of 1998, with limited play possible earlier that year.

This new development should prove to be a tremendous acquisition for the club and should help maintain Kippie's position as the leading Sports and Country Club in the North of Scotland. Already the interest that has gathered

work is expected to begin in late autumn 1996 and completion is scheduled for the end of 1998.

following the announcement has been tremendous. As yet, no decision has been made by the Club Committee as to how membership for the course will run, although existing members are



The ladies (and a few imposters) give it their all in the Mum's race at this year's Kippie Family Fun Day. This was only one of many memorable events on a gloriously sunny day at the Lodge, where over 350 members enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon that included a mini-carnival, treasure hunt, bouncy castle, family races, football, karaoke and the infamous egg-toss.

Olympic Golden Boys to appear at Kippie
See page 4

assured of access to the course.

The development should also see the increased provision of practise facilities at the club and attempts will be made to establish the course as a leading centre for coaching. This will surely bring substantial benefits to players of all standards, who may have limited access to other courses at the moment.

This news is also particularly welcome to the Aberdeen Petroleum Club Golf Association, who currently hold the unique distinction of being the only Association affiliated to the Scottish Golf Union without a home course.

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LATE 90'S

Kippie was delighted to open its 9 hole golf course in Autumn of 1998 albeit it with limited play. The course was an immediate success with members and their guests. The official opening tournament which was held on the 16th May 1999 was hampered with terrible weather however 140 golfers braved the elements.

The gents golf assoc (APCGA) was established in the late 1990's giving male golfers the chance to play in monthly medals in other golf clubs under the Kippie name.

Re-established in 2016, the ladies golf assoc has between 60 and 70 members of all levels ranging from complete beginners to experienced golfers and is continuing to grow.

Work was completed in the late 1990's on the changing rooms in the complex, giving members more space and updated facilities. The gym was extended through to the old aerobics studio and Hair & Beauty reopened with a brand new look.



The Kippie Grounds Crew, Colin Esslemont (Maintenance), Martin Dodds (Greenkeeper) and Bob Taylor (Head Groundsman) take time out from their work around the course and on the grounds for a photo.

It's a great space/place you can come to and do so many wonderful activities of your choice and meet so many fab people and you don't need to know their life/lifestyle if you don't want to. Kids activities are superb and I cannot wait until my grandchildren are old enough to participate. Thank you Kippie ❤️ Jackie Riches



2000'S AND BEYOND

The last two decades has been a time of immense challenges and transformation for the club as it has had to adapt to meet members needs.

The year 2000 ushered a growing emphasis on health and wellbeing. The club needed to increase fitness classes resulting in the opening of studio 1.



The new studio transformed the club's fitness offering with the introduction of spin and strength classes such as kettlebells and pump which requires equipment.

Studio 2 was then opened in 2004 giving the club a smaller studio for wellbeing classes (where the current physio room is).



2000 CONT

Kippie continued to grow its membership during the 2000s, the Aberdeen economy was booming, and the Club's membership grew to over 1400 families. This enabled the continued investment in the facilities. A third tennis court was added, the gym equipment was updated, and improvements were made to the golf course. Much-needed extra car parking was added.

The economic turmoil post 2008 did not affect Aberdeen as badly as other parts of the county and Kippie's membership remained full.



TENNIS DOME

In November 2003, Kippie opened Scotland's first 'air bubble' over its two tennis courts providing members all year round play. The Dome served its purpose for many years however due damage caused by a storm, the Dome was dismantled.

In late 2022, Kippie was delighted to take ownership of its double skinned Tennis Dome.

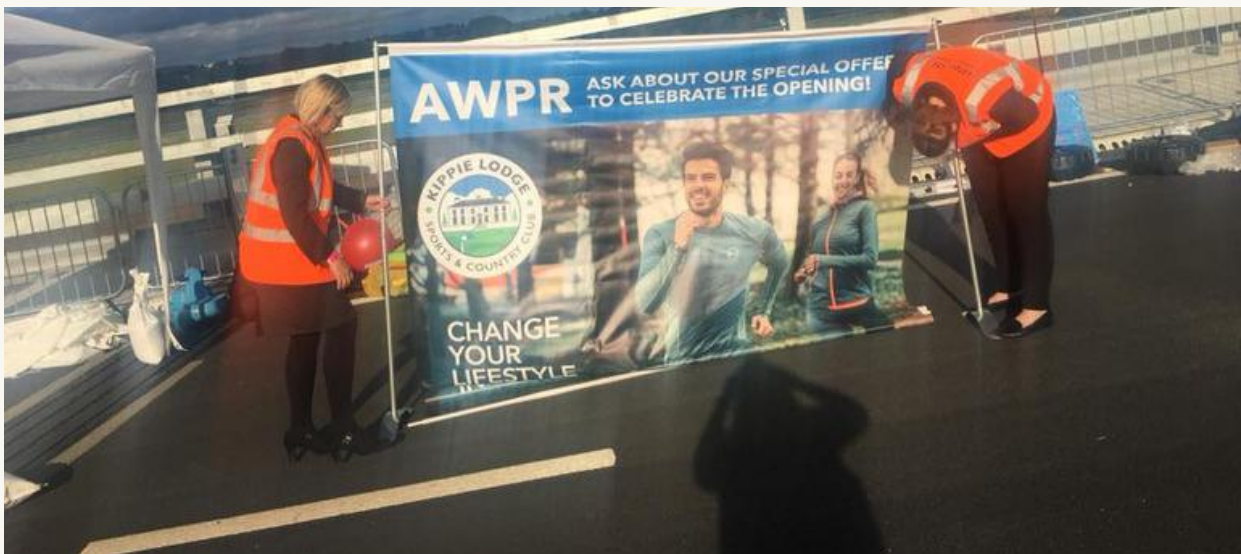


2000'S CONT



In the mid-2000s the route of the new Aberdeen bypass (AWPR) was announced to be immediately adjacent to Kippie. Lengthy legal delays held up construction until 2012 and the road finally opened in 2018. The road opened new markets for Kippie with Dyce and Stonehaven now only a short drive away.

Kippie weathered the local recession in the mid-2010s and was just beginning to recover when COVID-19 caused turmoil for everyone. The lockdowns and restrictions were financially challenging for everyone and if it were not for the support of the members, who continued to pay their membership fees throughout, the Club may have failed.



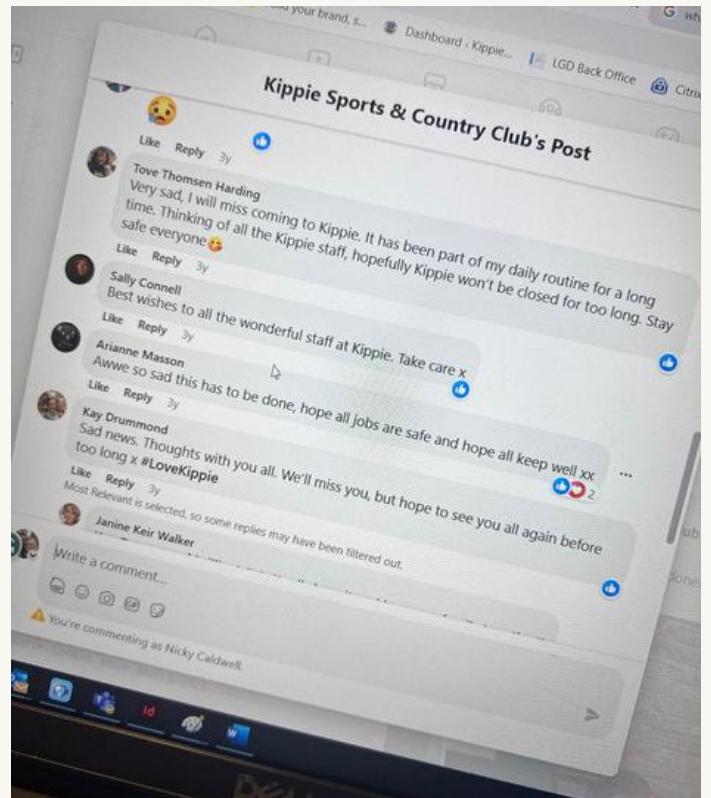
"It is with deep sadness that we wish to inform you that due to the current situation and government advice that Kippie will be closing with immediate effect for the coming weeks.

In these uncertain times please stay safe and look after yourselves and your families.

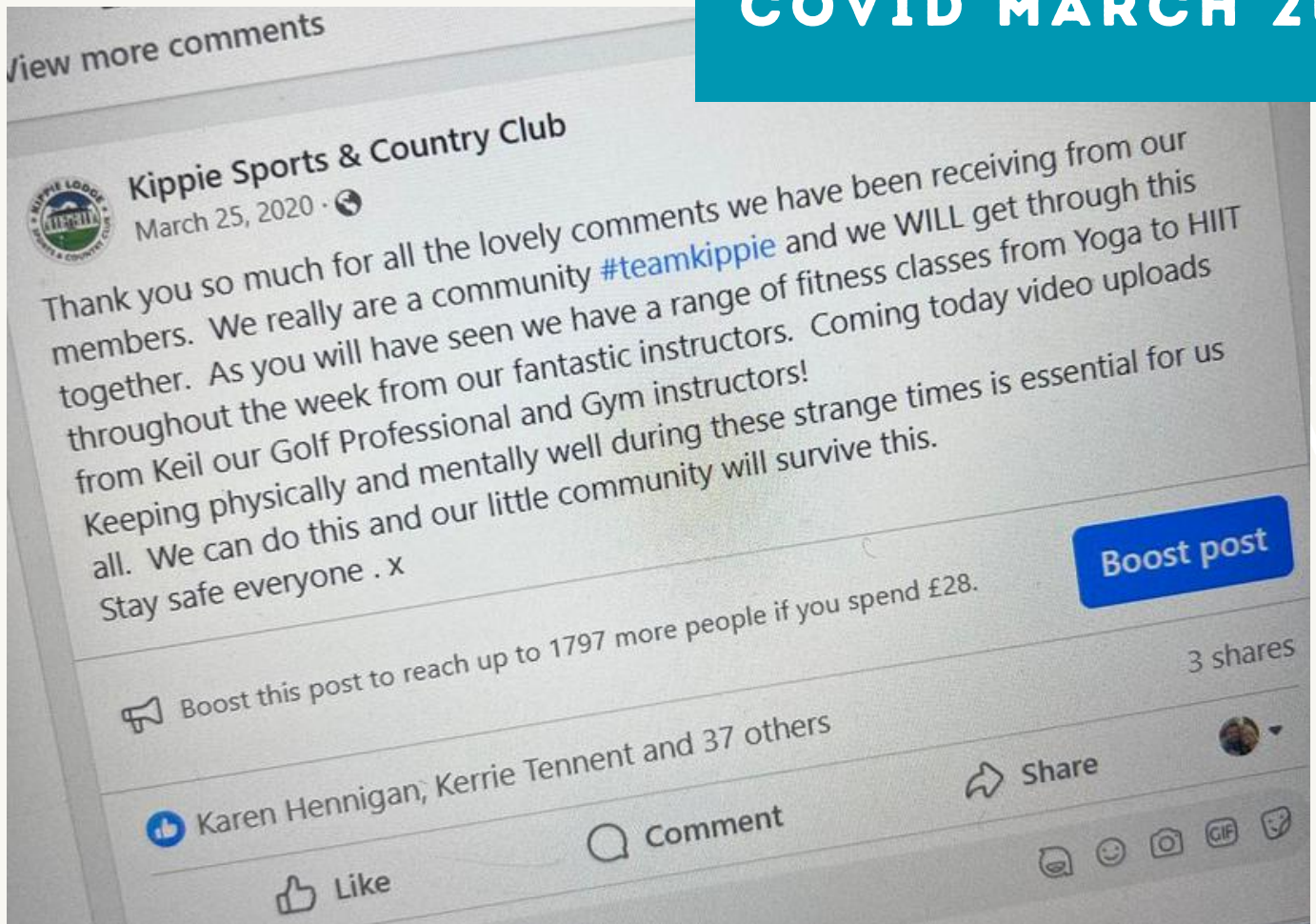
We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support through these challenging times."

The Kippie team



COVID MARCH 2020



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The team at Kippie did a great job keeping the Club spirit alive, a range of online classes were offered, and regular quiz nights helped reduce our members' feelings of isolation.

A Kippie portal was created so members could log on, take part in classes and to interact with each other.



COVID CONT

We were inundated with messages of support from members which kept our social media alive.

Kippie gradually opened up, firstly with outdoor sports - golf and tennis.

The Lodge started selling takeaway coffee and meals and then our marquee was erected for covered fitness classes to take place.

After many months we got the go ahead to open fully albeit with restrictions in place. The club was once again a hive of activity.



DID YOU ENJOY YOUR WORKOUT?



Nicola Stalker is 🥰 feeling energised at **Kippie Sports & Country Club**.

1 h · Aberdeen · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

What Monday mornings were made for !!!

Amazing first class back, missed these wee faces soooooo much, I feel so lucky and grateful to be back teaching. Fab work from everyone it's like we've never been away, Kippie Family 💕💕💕💕



In the two years since the end of the last lockdown the Club's membership has bounced back and is currently at the highest level since 2017. This growth in membership allows the Club to invest in the facilities and keep Kippie fresh and ready for the next 50 years.



2023

The club will always strive to make Kippie one of the most desirable sports & leisure clubs in Aberdeen offering unparalleled facilities and great service.

As we reflect on the past 50 years, we look forward to the future with optimism and excitement, knowing that our journey is far from over. With members by our side, we are confident that the coming years will be filled with even greater accomplishments and shared successes.

Thank you for being an integral part of our story. Your support has been the key to our longevity, and we are honoured to have you as members of our community. Here's to the next 50 years of continued collaboration, growth, and shared achievements.







@kippielodge