



Chapel Allerton Lawn Tennis and Squash Club is a well established and friendly tennis and squash club in Leeds which includes a well equipped fitness centre. Club membership accounts and facility booking are all managed by the use of specialist sports club administration software called "Sports Soft".

The Brief

Chapel Allerton sports club needed a complete upgrade to their IT network. Currently operating in a workgroup environment they required the ability to share access to company information for greater number of users. They also required an effective backup solution and comprehensive anti spam management, as their single POP3 mailbox was overrun by spam emails. A high priority for this small business was to keep the costs of the implementation to a minimum.

The approach

The strategy was to move them to a Client/Server infrastructure providing a central repository for the clubs data and applications whilst allowing them to maintain secure access to sensitive information where required.

The Solution

We sourced and supplied a new server, along with a new workstation to replace their original workgroup server used in the Reception area. The server was installed and configured with SBS2003 premium as this is a cost effective way for small businesses to get an up to date robust operating system with key applications such as Exchange and SQL Server included.

Once configured, we created user accounts for existing employees, then migrated their original POP3 mail box to the Exchange server and created individual mailboxes for the management and administrative staff. We installed GFI MailEssentials Anti Spam software which is a proficient and cost effective anti spam management software which has the ability to automatically adapt to the email environment to constantly improve spam detection; this has helped to reduce the amount of spam received dramatically.

Working with the suppliers of the Sports Soft software we transferred the applications database to the SQL server on the server and configured it to be accessed by a number of different PCs.

We then reconfigured all user PCs to connect to the new domain, installed the latest Microsoft service packs and security updates and installed McAfee Antivirus applications and Outlook 2003. Next we transferred all company data held on individual PCs to a central repository on the server, using the newly created logon accounts to provide secure access to sensitive membership and accounting information.

As staff at Chapel Allerton sports club are relative novices to a computer environment we were able to supply training where needed in the use of Outlook and in accessing and saving information to the server.

Using an external hard disk and CD writer we were able to implement a cost effective backup solution, using scripts to transfer data to the external hard disk daily and set up a process of copying data each week to a writable CD to be taken off site.

We completed the network setup by installing a Wireless router which will be used in the future to allow members to gain internet access via their own laptops from the bar area.

The Future

As there is no person solely responsible for IT on site we continue to support this network through the use of Units and also by conducting monthly health checks which ensure problems are found and resolved before they become major issues.