



Cheshire Association of Groundsmen

www.cag.org.uk

Chairman

Brian Huxley
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Saugall Chester
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Secretary

Brian Jarrard
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Treasurer

Dave Twiney
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Timperley
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Minutes of AGM held at Timperley Sports Club on Monday 24th October 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Present Brian Huxley, Dave Twiney, Brian Jarrard, Geoff Tomlinson, Patrick Hutchinson, Brian Birtles, Ian Schora, John Petch, Sean Nichol, Chris Price, Iain McKillop, David Hurst, Mark Samaru, Callum Morgan, Paul Heades and Paul Agar (15)

Guest Ian Matther Brewster

Clubs represented Hale Barns, Saugall, Timperley, Ashley, Oakmere, Winsford, Sale, Oxton, Appleton, Ashton-on-Mersey, Glazebury, Warrington and Tattenhall (13)

Apologies Bob Williams (Wallasey), Tony Skewes, Andy Holt (Romiley), John Davies (Malpas), Mike Boffey (Cholmondley), Jon Bardsley (Broadbottom), Nick James (Pitch Advisor), Tony Collard (Chester C.O.), Bernie Bishop, Mark Spencer (Crewe Vagrants)

Minutes of the last AGM

Accepted as a true record, proposed by Dave Twiney, and seconded by Nick Patrick Hutchinson, and signed by the chairman.

Chairman's Report

Brian Huxley thanked everyone for attending the AGM, and reviewed the progress made by CAG over the previous 12 months.

Brian told the meeting that 2016 had been a trying year financially. The forced increase in subscriptions had caused some problems, but these have now been resolved, thanks mainly to Dave Twiney, and CAG is in a decent financial position.

CAG held 2 successful Foundation courses both at Warrington Sports Club, after a clash of dates for the Autumn Course due to Bramhall's success in the T20 competition. Brian thanked Paul Agar and Warrington for their help in hosting the course at such short notice.

Brian highlighted two issues for CAG which hopefully will be discussed under AOB. One being participation from groundsmen, and what they expect from the CAG, and what CAG can do to help them. The other being underuse of the CAG equipment and the best way forward.

Foundation courses are being planned for 2017 and an assessment of demand for the higher levels will be considered.

There will be a reintroduction of the Outreach program in 2017. Clubs are welcome to apply and CAG will work closely with the groundmen sections of the various leagues.

Brian finished by thanking Brian Jarrard for all the work he has done in his position as Secretary of

CAG. Brian Jarrard has decided not to seek re-election so there is a vacancy for this role.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Twiney reviewed the finances over the previous year.

The year started with a balance of £1,608 and finished with one of £3,369, this was due to smaller numbers of groundsmen attending the 2 Foundation courses in 2016. Dave Twiney also explained that there had been little funding for the Outreach program, and expenditure on machinery repair and servicing. Dave therefore recommended that subscriptions remained at the present level.

Election of Officers

There is a vacancy for the office of Secretary, but there no nomination from the room. It was suggested that the committee produce a CV for the role and see if Mike Woollard at the Cheshire Cricket Board could help with finding someone to fill the position. The rest of the committee were prepared to stand and were voted en masse, with Dave Twiney covering the Secretary role temporarily. Mark Samaru showed an interest in being a general committee member.

The new committee is-

Chairman	Brian Huxley
Vice Chairman	Paul Agar
Treasurer	Dave Twiney
Secretary	Dave Twiney
Pitch Advisors	Paul Agar Nick James
General	Mark Samaru

AOB

There were 3 items on the agenda for discussion.

Groundsman participation

The CAG committee were finding it hard to get members to participate in open meetings, and wondered what the way forward was, and what members expected from CAG.

This brought a lively discussion from the floor, and several ideas were put forward for future discussion at CAG committee meetings. The ideas included local discussion groups in a small area with the pitch advisors, social networking especially a Facebook group, and interesting speakers at open meetings.

Underuse of machinery

The CAG committee was aware of the lack of use of the 4 machines. The cost of insurance was expensive, and repairs and servicing in the past had been high. From the following discussion, it was unanimously decided to sell the machinery, thinking it would be netter to fund training and pitch improvement by the outreach program.

Pitch marks

The umpires pitch and outfield marking was discussed at great length. The main points to emerge were that the marks were a general guideline for clubs, and only a concern if there are really low marks of less than 12, or certain sections of the marks were consistently low such as spin or carry. The CAG are trying to improve the communication of these marks and hope to put them on the website with a full breakdown of the marks to help clubs and groundsmen.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

The meeting then enjoyed a very entertaining and informative talk by Ian Matther Brewster on his new role as area pitch advisor for the ECB and IOG which includes rugby, and football as well as cricket. His presentation showed the help given in Cumbria last winter where sports club were devastated by the flooding.

Thanks to Timperley for a good venue and all clubs for attending.

Date of next meeting

The next committee meeting to be advised in the New Year.

Date.....

Signed.....