**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE W C G A**

**5th FEBRUARY 2023**

**VENUE** : Corsham CC

**TIME** : 10.00 am

**ATTENDANCE** :

G Clift (Shrewton/WGA),  P Stayt (Erlestoke & Coulston CC), G Smith (Chippenham CC), M Smith (B-O- Avon CC & SWCCL, P Sykes {WC Ltd,} P Mortimer (President of Somerset CGA and committee member of WEPL), P Jackson (Corsham CC/WGA), P Meadows (Corsham CC), D Betts (Corsham CC), R Mosdell (Wilts PA), A Frost & G Kirtley Heytesbury & Sutt.VenyCC ), A Short ( Biddestone CC ), k Boulton (Biddestone CC), S Hunt (Bathford CC), M Hunh (Bathford CC) M Butler (Calne CC), P Jeggo (GMA & G Gill (Guest Speakers)

**APOLOGISE** :. G Gaiger (Potterne CC)) M Mikurenda (Fonthill CC) , R Todhunter ( Whitly CC), D Fry (Avebury CC), P Dennis (Steeple Langford CC), I Soutar (Redlynch & Hale CC), P Stayt (Erlestoke & Coulston CC)

**PREVIOUS MINUTES** :

The minutes were adopted as a true record: Prop: M Butler Sec. : A Frost Carried from the floor.

**MATTERS ARISING** :

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**CHAIRMANS REPORT:**

**Chairman’s Review of 2022/23**

* Good morning and welcome to everybody. Thank you for taking the time to join us today. We intend to get through the main elements of the AGM agenda as quickly as possible, so that we can give more time to our guest Speakers.
* We are very lucky to have to several guest speakers with us today, Pete Sykes of Wiltshire Cricket limited; Phil Jeggo of the Grounds Management Association; and Gordon Gill formerly Head Grounds Staff at Bath Cricket Club, and widely experienced and respected Grounds Manager across the country.
* This past season was not an easy one for grounds staff. The beginning of the year was very wet, making it difficult to get on the square and then as we got close to the start of the season the sun baked everything dry. Getting enough water into the pitches became a major issue for clubs. Here at Corsham we watered the square every day at the start and then 3 to 4 days a week during the season. This was hard and very time-consuming and not all clubs would have found this easy.
* A few clubs had issues with pitch marks during the season, but our close working with the Wiltshire County Cricket League meant that the Association was able to offer support and advice on how they might improve the situation.
* Despite these difficulties, we still saw another great season of Cricket with people of all ages, gender, and ability being able to take part. This amount of cricket could not have been achieved without the fantastic work undertaken by Grounds Staff across the county. In particular, the volunteers who give up their time and effort to enable this great game of ours to be played to the highest standard possible. I’d personally like to thank everyone for their efforts.
* Last season, the Association continued with trying to organize “Bite Size” training Sessions for people to come along an learn about some of the basic elements of grounds management and maintenance. Thanks to Patrick Stayt at Earlstoke, we were able to run a session on Pre-Season pitch preparation and set up: and with Thanks to David Cobb of the Somerset Cricket Grounds Association, we joined a session run by Gordon Gill on end of season renovations. Both were well attended. We intend to do similar sessions this year, on **12 March,**(Venue TBC) covering pre-season work; a session on **4 June** (Venue TBC) covering pitch preparation and maintenance; and finally, on **5 August**, an end of Season renovations session (venue TBC). We found that the joint session with Somerset CGA went really well and following some brief discussions we are looking to work closely with them again this season to help improve the opportunities for training and development.
* Once again, John Wilkins and Richard Mosdell were out on the road taking our Renovations trailers around the county. We had another good take-up again this year, which was despite us having to raise the charges to help us cover our costs. I’m sure everyone still found us pretty good value for money. Thanks to John and Richard for all their efforts and to everyone else who lent a hand with the work.
* I would like to finish by thanking my fellow committee members for their continued help and support. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share, have a great network of contacts on which to draw on, and don’t mind rolling their sleeves up and getting stuck in. I should make a special point of thanking George Clift, our Secretary and Treasurer, who remained in post this season despite planning on giving it up at the end of last season. We do need to find a replacement for him this season, but would like to think he’ll continue to be an active part of the association moving forward.

**SECRETARIES REPORT** :

The WCGA committee as before, have continued to meet monthly, with Pete Sykes (MD Wilts Cricket Ltd), and Phil Jeggo (GMA) in attendance offering guidance , support and updates.

The two trailers were deployed again in the autumn with a good degree of success, with more teething problems than last year and it was also nice to see a few new clubs coming on board with the renovation package on offer. 31 no Clubs hired the trailer system for renovations in 2022 a 20% increase on the previous year.

Clubs are reminded for those wishing to hire the trailer for Autumn renovations 2023, to contact the WGA Secretary / Chairman to book early for next year’s renovation work .

**TREASURERS REPORT** :

The treasurer reported a closing balance for the year end, of **£8,757.60** asat the date of **30th September 2022** a more detailed balance sheet will be submitted to Wiltshire Cricket Ltd and posted on to the Wiltshire Cricket Ltd Groundsman’s link together with a copy of the minutes from this meeting should you wish to view. A new budget for 2023 will be compiled for approval by P Sykes and the WCGA Committee, for various strategic activities throughout 2023 / 24, at the committee’s next meeting. The current balance as at the time of this meeting stands at **£4,634.34 ,** with all invoices paid up to date.

The trailer system was sent out on hire and undertook works to 31 cricket clubs, (33 Squares), this brought in an income of **£11,790.00,** with outgoing transport and operator costs of **£7,254.00**, leaving a balance to add to the WCGA Account of **£4,536.00.** Repairs and servicing this year and during the renovation program were a bit excessive **£1,033.79**, We managed to procure a replacement second hand scarifier , a SISIS 602, at a cost of **£2,750.00,** this machine was deployed during the 2022 Renovation program, we will be looking to advertise and sell off the Mark 5 Scarifier in due course. John and Richard, have encountered weather problems and this has set them back with the spiking programme in their respective area’s.

Report adopted as a True Record : Prop. By : M Smith Sec By: P Meadows Carried from the floor.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** :

The Chairman asked the members if any member present would wish to stand for office in any of the roles listed

**Chairman** : **P Jackson :** Elected en-bloc

**Vice Chairman : M Smith:** Elected on-bloc

**Secretary :** Vacant position GC Standing down : Position not filled

**Treasurer :** Vacant position GC Standing down : Position not filled

Both roles to be discussed at the first committee meeting, GC to attend on a temporary basis until positions sorted to allow for smooth transition.

**WGA Board Representative :** **J Wilkins :** Elected on-bloc

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** P Jaggo (GMA)

G Gill (Westbury Ex Wilts PA & Bath CC Head Groundsman)

**PETE SYKES : MD WILTSHIRE CRICKET Ltd.**

Pete talked about the development of Wilts Cricket Ltd over the last 12 months, and how they are now back to running normally, since the pandemic. He reported that they now have 10 members of staff one of the roles being a Safeguarding Officer to ensure cricket is now inclusive. A new report is imminent looking at ways of driving inclusitivity forward.

Pete thanked the WCGA committee for all of their hard work that they have undertaken over the many years and for providing a strong link to WC Ltd. and for the reputation that they have built up over the past years as one of the more progressive CGA’s in the country.

Pete also thanked all the clubs for continuing to support and host junior county games throughout the county and then mentioned that an email had just been sent out to clubs with details of the launch of the “County Grant Funding Scheme”, together with a Audit form for clubs to fill in as part of a “facility Strategy”.

**A O B** :

It was mentioned by P Jackson, that Somerset Cricket Grounds Association are holding an event at Taunton CC Ground on the 8th March 2023 (details to be posted on the Wilts Cricket site) Main exhibitors Dennis SISIS and many more, complimentary lunch provided and free entry.

The date for next year’s AGM will be the **4th February 2024 and the venue to be confirmed.**

The AGM finally closed at : 10.45am

Then our two guest speakers Phil & Gordon, took to the floor and gave a very informative insight on pre season rolling methods, do’s and don’ts and then covered a wide range of topics relating to pitch preparation & how to deal with worm infestation etc, a good insight for our members from two highly experienced exponents of cricket groundsmanship.

A big thanks to Pete, Gordon, Phil and Phil Mortimer (Somerset CGA President) for taking time out to attend and support our AGM.

**G W Clift (Hon.Sec. / Treas.) Date: 6th February 2023**