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

**4th FEBRUARY 2024**

**VENUE** : Warminster CC

**TIME** : 10.15 am

**ATTENDANCE** :

G Clift (Shrewton/WGA),  P Stayt (Erlestoke & Coulston CC), P Mortimer (President of Somerset CGA and committee member of WEPL), P Jackson (Corsham CC/WGA), D Betts (Corsham CC), A Short ( Biddestone CC ), K Boulton (Biddestone CC & Guest Speaker), M Rae ( Avebury CC), P Dennis (Steeple Langford CC), J Wilkins (Goatacre & WCGA) G Cuthbertson (Warminster CC) (11no in attendance)

**APOLOGISE** :. G Gaiger (Potterne CC), T Gent (Avon Valley CC),P Sykes (Wilts Cricket Ltd), P Jeggo (GMA), M Butler (Calne CC),R Mosdell, (Wilts PA)

**PREVIOUS MINUTES** :

The minutes were adopted as a true record: Prop By: P Dennis Sec. By : J Wilkins Carried from the floor.

**MATTERS ARISING** :

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

 **CHAIRMANS REPORT:**

**Chairman’s Review of 2023/24**

**Chairmans Review:**

2023 was another of those years that do not follow the usual weather pattern. Whether it’s down to climate change or some thing else, we seem to be getting wetter and milder winters and extremes of weather during the summer, albeit very hot and dry or as, last year, primarily very wet. I suspect that most clubs struggled to get a reasonable amount of pre-season rolling completed last year which along with other preseason preparations meant we all struggled to some degree with getting our squares and strips to the right standard. As the season progressed, we either had more rain affected matches or were not able to play at all. This contrasted with June, which turned out to be our summer, with several weeks or hot dry weather, meaning we had the hosepipes out for a change. Who would be a grounds manager?

Despite the weather conditions, the pitch Marks for the season were, overall, very good. Most clubs were well above the minimum standard. With only 2 or 3 falling below it. These clubs have all engaged with the association to some degree, so we are hopeful for improvement for next season.

During 2023 we tried to run some of our bite size training sessions. The first, at Burbage CC, went ahead despite the weather, even though we had to run it indoors. The other two, planned for Earlstoke CC and here at Warminster CC were both cancelled due to a combination of poor weather and, more significantly, low numbers available to attend. The association would like to get a feel for what the cause of the low numbers are. Is it dates or is it the fact that all the clubs have covered the topics already and are looking for some other areas of training? Whatever the reason, we’d love to know to allow us to address it. We plan to run 3 more bite size sessions next season, covering pre-season preparation, in season management and end of season renovations. George will mention more about these later. What I must say is a big, “Thank You” to Burbage, Warminster, Devizes, and Earlstoke Cricket Clubs, for supporting our activities. We really appreciate it.

We were hoping that Phil Jeggo, GMA southern region representative, would be able to make todays AGM to talk about the forthcoming release of the Grounds Management App, PitchPower. Unfortunately, he is unwell. This App is due to be released in 2 versions, the pro version, for County Pitch Advisers, and a version, with less functionality, for cricket grounds managers. The App has been in development for some 3-4 years and has been in use by the football association, for the past 18 months or so. The pro version for Cricket is hopefully going to be released in April, with the other version released at some time later. From my involvement, the likelihood is that future grants for things associated with ground improvements and new grounds machinery may require a pitch assessment carried out by a County Pitch Adviser. I do not know the detail, but you will need to watch for updates from Wiltshire Cricket etc.

This season End of Season Renovations went well, with a good number of clubs taking up our offer, I’ll let George tell you more about that.

I don’t know if you’ve had chance to look at the Grounds Association section of the Wiltshire cricket Website, but you might have noticed that during this past year we have reviewed the Purpose and function of the Association. If you haven’t seen it already, please take a look. One of the outcomes for the Association is to try and improve our contact and engagement with clubs across the county. Currently there are around 90 clubs affiliated with the county, but we only have contact with just over a third.

Finally a big thankyou to the continued support of my committee – George, Mike, Pete, Richard, and John. Without their help, support and sharing of knowledge, we would not achieve anywhere near as much. I should also say “Thank you” to Phil Jeggo who, despite looking after all of the southern half of the country, still finds time to dial in each month and offer advice, support and guidance.

There are a few other “Thanks You;’” that we need to cover, but I’ll let our Secretary and Treasurer cover those.

**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 at our regular meetings.

**TREASURERS REPORT** :

The treasurer reported a closing balance for the year end, of **£15,033.87** asat the date of **30th September 2023,** 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 and training strategy for 2024 will be compiled for approval by P Sykes and the WCGA Committee, for various strategic activities throughout 2024 / 25, at the committee’s next meeting. The current balance as at the time of this meeting stands at **£9,932.60** with all invoices paid up to date. (Operators travel costs yet to be invoiced)

The trailer system was sent out on hire and undertook works to 31 cricket club Squares (28 Clubs), this brought in an income of **£10,542.00,** with outgoing transport and operator costs of **£6,663.51**, leaving a balance to add to the WCGA Account of **£3,414.53.** Repairs and servicing this year and during the renovation program costs are **£463.96 (to date)**. We managed to advertise and sell off the Mark 5 Scarifier for **£1,500**. John and Richard, have encountered weather problems again and this has set them back with the spiking programme in their respective area’s. John Wilkins will be stepping down from his duties with the E O S renovations and Adrian Hawkins from Burbage will be taking on John’s role with the E O S works. I think it is fit and proper on behalf of the WCGA to say a big thank you to John for all your hard work, over the many years that you have undertaken this task.

Clubs are reminded for those wishing to hire the trailer for Autumn renovations 2024, to contact the WGA Secretary / Chairman to book early for next year’s renovation work .

Report adopted as a True Record : Prop. By : P Stayt Sec By: A Short 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 GC will cover in the interim

**Treasurer :** Vacant position: GC Standing down : Position not filled GC will cover in the interim

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

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

 **Kris Boulton RE: Umpiring Topics**

**A O B** :

It was mentioned by P Jackson, that Somerset Cricket Grounds Association are holding an event at Taunton CC Ground on the 12th March 2024 (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  **2nd February 2025 and the venue to be confirmed.**

The AGM finally closed at : 11.10am

Then our guest speaker Kris Bou;lton took to the floor and gave a very informative insight on Pitch Markings from an Umpires angle, do’s and don’ts and then covered a wide range of topics Q & A which provided a good insight for our members from a highly experienced umpire.

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

**G W Clift (Hon.Sec. / Treas.) Date: 5th February 2024**