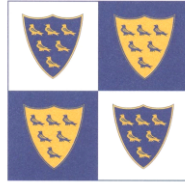


SACG



SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF  
CRICKET GROUNDSMEN

## **Sussex Association of Cricket Groundsmen – 2019 AGM Minutes**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, 7pm  
Blackstone Academy Ground

### **Welcome & Apologies**

Andy Mackay (AM) opened the meeting at 7pm by welcoming the members for attending and introduced guest speaker Chris Coleman who is the Head of Community Cricket at the Sussex Cricket Foundation.

**Committee members/guests present** – Andy Mackay, Brian Sandalls, Brian Fletcher, Chris Geere, Mick Waghorn, Stuart Hellier, Gary Wallis-Taylor, Chris Coleman (SCF), Darren Symonds (IOG)

**The following clubs were represented** – Preston Nomads, Poynings, Ansty, Dormansland, Bexhill, Goring by Sea, Lewes Priory, Brighton & Hove, Henfield, Ardingly, Cuckfield, St Andrews, Steyning, Ringmer, Denton, Dicker, Isfield, Wivlesfield, West Chiltington, East Grinstead.

**Apologies were received from** – Withyham, Lindfield, Southwater, Stirlands, Storrington, Seaford, Scaynes Hill, Steve Pickup (SCF/Committee)

### **Minutes from 2018 AGM**

The minutes from the last AGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were proposed by Jim Gee (West Chiltington) and seconded by Chris Vacher and therefore were **agreed**.

### **Matters Arising**

There were **no** matters arising which were not covered in the agenda.

### **Chairman Report – provided by Andy Mackay**

Firstly, just a brief summary of what we are about as an association. This is best summed up by: 'Improve the standard of pitches in the County in any way that we can.'

Whether we are paid or volunteer, whether we have a large budget and not too many limitations like myself or whether we're having to find inventive ways to solve potentially expensive problems and are scratching around to buy enough seed and loam for renovations, or somewhere in between we are a group of individuals who care about providing the best standard of pitches possible. You wouldn't be here if you didn't!

The Association is there to support you so, as ever, I invite you all to submit any ideas for how we can help. In the last year we have run a few training days, we had:

- Spring groundsmanship course, along similar lines to the IOG level 1 but without any accreditation, but at a fraction of the cost. This was at Blackstone and was well attended 30? I think it was well received, although possibly we tried to do too much in one day. It's something we are looking to repeat for next year and will discuss how we might improve on it at our next management meeting.
- Mini Clinic at Ansty on mid-season repairs and recovering a pitch. This was in an evening and well attended by around 20 people followed by a bite to eat and a pin in the bar.
- Later on, in the season we tried to run two courses aimed at end of season renovations at Glynde CC and Petworth CC. Glynde went ahead but attendance was low and the

event at Petworth was cancelled due to lack of interest. I'm not sure quite why this was a bit of a flop but it's something I think we should repeat next year. Possibly it requires more notice.

We also have three pitch advisors available for hire for either mini visits or full on PQS visits. Details for this are on the website. I urge you to take advantage of this service if you are able as a bit of good advice can go a long way.

We continue to run machinery for the benefit of all clubs. This is available to hire for £100 per day, which includes delivery and collection, which is well below commercial rates. Since Brian F has wound down much of his activities the machinery is now being run by Richard out of Dial Services. I am aware that the booking of these items continues to be hit and miss and this is something we will be looking at during our next committee meeting. I think that we're aware of the issues, but if you have anything you want to bring to light then please let me know. Cards at the front here. The proposal is to leave the prices the same for next year. The uptake for the spiker has been low so far this year, no doubt due to the weather and the fact that a lot of squares are way behind where they would normally be. Just a reminder that spiking much after the mid to end of Jan is not advisable as the holes may not properly close in time for the season.

We have just seen the wettest October and November that I have ever experienced on the turf for over 20 years by some considerable way. If you didn't renovate until the back end of Sept or in October and have struggled on your squares, then you are not alone. We have had a very difficult time of it at Hove too. I was at Edgbaston the other day and their square, in the words of their groundsman looks: 'bloody awful', I know there have been struggles at several of the first Class grounds and there are even some bare ends visible at Lord's... you can't fight the weather! Financially we appear to be on a sound footing, with a small surplus from this last year, which might have been larger had the 2018 renovation costs not been included. Expectations for 2020 are that there will be a reasonable surplus of perhaps around £4000, which may allow us to purchase more equipment for hire. Certainly, the spiker is old and not very cost effective to keep repairing.

Brian Sandalls has been exploring sponsorships and hopefully we will be able to derive a small but significant income from that going forwards. Early days but looking positive. Finally, I am stepping down as Chairman of this association. I will continue to support the association through my role as a pitch advisor and as Head Groundsman of Sussex Cricket, however, the role needs someone who is going to give it more love than I am often able to manage. I would like to thank the membership for continuing to support the association and the other members of the committee for giving up so much of their free time.

### **Finance Report**

GWT reported a healthier financial position of the association with a surplus of £1,500 being carried forward into the next financial year. GWT informed members that all affiliated clubs to Sussex Cricket automatically become members of the SACG through their affiliation package.

Questions from members were:

1. Why were the 2018 trailer renovations included in 2019 finances? **This was because the lateness of invoice received.**
2. Who owns the machinery? **Sussex Cricket**

AM added that the financial objective of the association is to break even so to have a small surplus is pleasing and enables the association to use money for training, machinery/repairs etc.

### **Election of Officers**

AM decided to step down as Chairman of the association, BF thanked AM for all his hard work, passion & enthusiasm a view shared by the members.

BF proposed Nigel Reid from Cuckfield CC as new chair which was seconded by Paul Meader (Ardingly CC).

BF also proposed Nick Blake (Henfield CC) to become a Club Rep on the committee, this was agreed.

There were no nominations for any officers and no opposition to the same officers being in position for 2019, as below:

- Chairman – Nigel Reid
- Secretary/SCF Rep – Gary Wallis-Taylor
- Finance/SCF Rep – Steve Pickup
- Trailer Coordinator – Brian Fletcher
- Pitch Advisors – Brian Sandalls
- Club Representative – Stuart Hellier, Mick Waghorn, Nick Blake
- Coopted Member – Chris Geere

### **Use of Trailer**

BF reported that the trailer visited 38 clubs during 2019. The equipment on the trailer just about made it through the year which has now all been serviced and put into storage for the winter. BF will continue as trailer coordinator but gradually hand over to Dial Post who will be delivering the trailer to clubs. AM thanked BF for continuing to coordinate the use and upkeep of the trailer.

### **Training**

AM via BS provided a report on training during the year:

**March -Training clinic**, was held at Blackstone and was attended by around 18 Groundsmen. Subjects covered was setting up of mowers and preparing the square ready for the season.

**July - Mini Clinic** at Glynde and Beddingham CC was less popular but still worthwhile, pitch repairs and pitch preparation were the subjects. Training in the use of the scarifier was also carried out. The proposed training clinic for the West side of the County (Petworth CC) was called off due to a lack of interest.

### **Summary**

The March clinic was a great success but as I pointed out interest in other training clinics were not so. I believe there a few factors which include location and the fact mini clinics are in the evening where the training day was held on a Saturday. To cover our backs as an association we need to find a way of getting people to attend so we can show them how to safety use the scarifer ahead of renovations, our attempts at providing this training have been a challenge.

Going forward members felt that if dates/venues of courses were communicated to members earlier then it should see a better uptake in sign-ups. The members felt that organizing 3 courses throughout the year would be more than enough – March, June and August. This will be a discussion point at the next SACG committee meeting in January.

### **AOB**

There was no other business to discuss.

**AM declared the meeting closed at 19.52pm and welcomed guest speaker Chris Coleman who is the Head of Community Cricket at Sussex Cricket Foundation to the stage.**

***Gary Wallis-Taylor  
December 2019***