

Minutes of the A.G.M. of the Chester Seniors League held at Upton British Legion, Tuesday October 17th 2023.

Present There were 45 members present. (Names on file)

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone saying that his remarks would be brief and it was good to see so many in attendance.

Obituaries A minute's silence was observed in memory of those who have passed away during the last year:- Joe Rowe, Barrie Hipkiss, Frank Bate, Cynthia Dodds, Jim Smith, Derek Garner, Wilf Holroyd and Stan Gilford.

Apologies were received from Dot Whalley, Andrea Lockwood, Alan Pimm, John Burgess, Jo Sugarman (Waverton A & B), Ailsa and David Clegg (Hoole E), Pat Evans (Tower), Mary Moore and Peter Johnson (Hoole F).

Chairman's Report . The Chairman commented that it had been a good season, the League won again by Hoole A but with new runners-up, Upton. He congratulated all the winners of both League and Cup Competitions. He reminded the Meeting that the Burrows Cup should be for the Merit winner from each team.

The Minutes of the Previous AGM (2023) which had been previously distributed via email and on the web page, were proposed as a true record by Lol Jarvis, seconded by Alan Hickson and adopted unanimously.

There were No Matters Arising.

Secretary's Report. Briefly the Secretary congratulated the winners and runners up of the League and the winners of the competitions and thanked the Host clubs for their support. She was delighted that history had been made with the all female Final of the Burrows Cup. She thanked the Chair, Treasurer and Vice Chair for their continued support, Martin Amesbury for doing the job of webmaster and fixtures and complemented the members on a good season.

Briefly, she reminded the Meeting of seven extra things – Players must have played 2 games to be eligible for the Hermitage and American Plaque, postponed matches must be played within 21 days, the only reason for not fulfilling a fixture is inclement weather or death of a team member, no Municipal greens are opening this winter, the state of greens and facilities at Stocks Lane and Hoole, Groves SL's new green being technically out of the area, (but a proposal will be put forth later in the meeting) and the league may start and finish slightly later next year because Easter is so late. (Full report on separate file)

Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer gave her final but, what was, as usual, a very comprehensive balance sheet and report. She felt that there was no need to increase the league fees for 2025 although this may need to happen in future. She thanked the Auditor Martin Amesbury and the Secretary. The Accounts were accepted, proposed by Brian Turner and seconded by John Griffiths. (Account sheet on file).

There were no questions for the Treasurer. The Chair thanked her for doing a splendid job throughout the last 12 years and, on behalf of the Meeting, wished her a long and happy retirement.

Safeguarding Officer's Report. The Safeguarding Policy can be viewed on the website but Brian spoke of some of the more important points – very briefly - all inappropriate actions or words should be reported, disabilities may not be obvious so if a team has such a member, the opposing captain should be informed with that player's approval. The full report is available to see on the website under Safeguarding. (This full report is kept separately on file)

Election of Officers. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Safeguarding Officer and Auditor all agreed to continue and were re-elected, en masse, proposed by Rob Seabrooke and seconded by Rosina Williams. As there were no volunteers to take the Treasurer's job, in spite of Liz assuring the Meeting that it was "not a big job," Brian Turner generously agreed to "caretake" it for a year or so until a new Treasurer can be found.

The Presentation of a leaving gift was made to Liz Thornelaw by the Chairman on behalf of the Meeting.

Proposals:- There were three proposals which had been received prior to the Meeting and one from the Secretary as a result of her Report.

1. Proposal One. That a maximum length of 38 metres be introduced for the 2025 season. Brian Turner spoke in detail about the reasons for this proposal. Rob Seabrooke spoke against it. A simple show of hands vote resulted in its DEFEAT so it will not be adopted for 2025.

2. Proposal Two. That practice times are restricted on the day of the match. Following a discussion, the proposal was altered slightly and it was agreed that the AWAY TEAM should not practice until 1.10p.m. then have sole use of the green for the last fifteen minutes – 1.10 to 1.25p.m. This was voted upon and CARRIED.

3. Proposal 3. That a fine should be introduced for non-attendance at the Burrows Cup was voted upon and CARRIED and the fine was set at £10 with the approval of the Meeting

4. Proposal as a Result of the Secretary's Report That the boundary of the League is extended from a five mile radius from Chester Cross to an 8 mile radius. After a short discussion this was voted upon and CARRIED.

The Venue for the Burrows Cup. ('25 and beyond) Upton will host it in 2025 and Groves SL(at Whitby Park, their new home) in 2026

Presentation of Prizes for 2024. The Chair and Treasurer presented prizes to the top four teams in the League and the Semi Finalists, Runners-up and Finalists in the Hermitage, American Plaque and Burrows Cup.

Close. There being no further business the Chairman concluded the meeting by again thanking everyone for attending and The Meeting Closed at 3.40 p.m.