

AGM FOR CAG NOV 2014

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Welcome to the 8th AGM of the CAG

As ever our work has been influenced greatly by the weather.....but this year we have been exceptionally lucky!! Two years in a row is quite unusual in this era of unpredictable climate change.

The past year has been relatively quiet at CAG; we have held both IOG Foundation courses and also the Intermediate & Advanced courses which have been well supported. Our thanks to Brian J for all his organising and Warrington Sports Club, The Heatons Sports Club & latterly Barnton CC for hosting the events. As always the progress in quality of the grounds is inevitably gradual but especially those in the TACS & Alliance leagues are making strides in the right direction.

I think the added knowledge and skills acquired from education in this field greatly enhances both the finished product & the job satisfaction gained in producing "a real belter".

I hope you all managed to complete a thorough renovation this autumn; whilst the dry September was ideal for the work the rain in early October has greatly assisted with germination & establishment. We may all struggle a bit with our bowling & batting crease areas due to the compaction but a bit of extra work now will pay dividends in the spring.

Dont forget to keep your eye on the square over the autumn & winter!!

As you all know the CAG holds equipment for clubs to use FOC for renovation & winter aeration works. Sadly this has been greatly underused in recent years. I know that transporting it to your grounds always creates a problem but the cost of hiring a small van for a day should be hardly prohibitive to clubs bearing in mind the benefit gained.

The Outreach programme which was so successful last year is being made available for clubs in the Cheshire Alliance league. They have been asked to provide details of up to 10 clubs if they wish to participate

The results of the research into Aeration have been published & have been available since earlier in the year. Members can access them via the CAG website or directly via the ECB website. If you have not already seen it then I strongly recommend it as part of your winter programme. It is extremely detailed & provides many useful guidelines & covers much more than that which we understand by aeration

Finally I would direct you also to the guidelines for rolling pitches which again are available via CAG website or ECB website. Whilst this activity will not be taking place until March/April next year it is imperative that rolling takes place in the right soil & weather conditions and that pre-season rolling is not excessive. Do not roll for 30 hrs because that is what you have always done; it is generally a waste of time & money!!

Finally the more observant among you will be aware that I am not standing for re-election as Chairman this year. I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for their help & support during my term as chairman & I wish my successor good luck for the future

Thanks to Timperley CC for use of this room & the opportunity to put some money behind the bar!! Also thanks to Ian Ellis for his input & we look forward to hearing from Dave Hodgson after the interval.

Thank you all for coming and a safe journey home

