

CAG Meeting minutes – Wednesday 10th June 2026

Chair introduces the meeting and thanks everyone for a well attended meeting.

Acting Sec reminds all those presented that today's meeting agenda can be accessed by all members of the committee currently in our WhatsApp group. This link was shared 7 days in advance of the meeting.

Chair continues and assesses that 20 Pitch Power assessments undertaken by himself and other CAG advisors by the season close would be a good figure to work towards. Mike Cook agreed.

Discussion naturally diverted to Scholes where a pitch assessment had been undertaken by the chair and findings are initially that it is currently not viable to play cricket safely on the site. Mike Cook and Stan Aspinall agreed.

Andy Welsby GMA - pitch advisor, currently charges the association £150.00 per inspection he undertakes on our behalf. This was unanimously agreed by those in attendance to be a fair cost that the association will continue to make.

Mike Cook outlined that he would aim to assess 5 pitches initially with a view to doing more if needed/feasible.

Mike Cook also highlighted that Robin Williams may be a potential candidate for a pitch advisors role. This role is for the Chester and Wirral areas. Robin would require training prior to taking on the role. CAG committee agreed the association could cover or subsidise the costs of the training.

Prior to closing on the topic of assessments chair raise that he'd like to keep the assessments a rolling process beyond any pitch power campaign. But, equally admitted the league or CCB may have to financially contribute to make that a reality.

In a continuation of the chairs opening discussion points, Andrew also highlighted that the ECB had released a new round of funding for clubs in the 2026 cricket season. This funding it is thought will follow a similar set of criteria as last years round of funding (Women and Girls cricket, In a lower income area, Support for ethnic minorities.)

Stan Aspinall however pointed out that only one club actually applied for this funding last season (Appleton CC at The Grange, Warrington). Stan also asked if CAG can in some way offer support to clubs in the funding application and process thereafter. He felt that clubs hit at stumbling block at the application stage and feels we could offer more direct support at this stage. Stan noted that a discussion would need to be had with Dave Atkinson (CCL) to determine if this was possible and what the process would be for CAGs involvement and what the criteria is for this years round of funding. It was mentioned by other committee members to that Banks statements, constitutions and Lease agreements would need to be provided by each club if CAG was to be able to support with the application process.

The chair continued with an update on the constitution templates he had requested from Andy Welsby. But, hadn't yet received anything from him. Chair suggested he would ask for

the templates again upon Andy Welsby's return to the country from annual leave, next week.

Finally, in the chairs opening agenda, He provided an update on the Statement CAG released in April regarding the abuse and further issues grounds managers received when trying to cancel games of cricket due to weather conditions. As a result of this the chair discussed the issue with league officials, who thankfully agreed something must be put in place to prevent this in the future. It has been decided that the CCL will implement a similar system to the GMCL by employing "rain umpires".

Rain umpires would attend grounds prior to the day of the game when grounds managers are unsure if play is possible and are concerned a decision from the grounds manager themselves maybe be highly contentious within his own club or/and the opposition. To alleviate this the rain umpire would attend and make a decision as to whether the ground is fit to play. The finer details of payments for the umpires and how many umpires would be available to commit to this has yet to be determined. Andy will ask for a discussion on this subject at the next 4C's meeting on 8th July.

Acting Secretary update highlighted the early success of the CAG Magazine, having launched the first issue in April. A-sec updated further a provided the analytical numbers to support the interactions, reach and further numbers the first edition obtained. A-Sec mentioned that sponsorship/paid advertisements where in the process of being collated with Indigrow already committing to £150+VAT for their 2 page advertisement in June's edition of the magazine.

Sec asked the committee to support the magazine as much as possible by sharing it with their WhatsApp groups, on social media and with anyone that might be interested in its contents.

Sec wanted to put on record his huge thanks to Vic Demain – Head GM at Durham CC: for not only contributing an informative and detailed article for June's edition of the magazine but also for agreeing to be this years EOS Seminar main speaker. His support to grass roots cricket in Cheshire this year via CAG has been invaluable.

Finally, A-sec asked for as much volunteer support on the day of the seminar from the committee. The bulk of the organising this year has happily been done by Alex Fitzgerald and he asked the committee to help with advertising the event to gain as close to or over 30-35 attendees on the day. This was agreed is more than doable. Alex also put on record his thanks to Brooklands Sports & Health club for being more than accommodating of our seminar, booking and food arrangements. This years function room booking was FREE as result of Alex Fitzgerald working at Brooklands as GM.

Treasurer updated the committee and posted that the bank account currently holds £7862. The outgoings suggested that Chair Andy Horsfield was still owed Food at the AGM last year and another invoice, which was to be determined of a nominal amount. Also included in the outgoings was £750 which included the cost of pitch inspections/ GMA

membership/ training/Website maintenance. Finally, Dave Twinney told the committee that the association was due it's annually £1005, from member club subscriptions.

On the subject of member subscriptions, chair raised a point that the number of CAG member clubs suggested by the treasurer of 87 seems incorrect. Dave Twinney recommended we contact the treasurer at the CCL and they will be able to provide a definitive number to us. This raised a further point by Alex Fitzgerald and Mike Cook that supports the need for CAG to create its own database for its member clubs and include pitch inspection details, club details and other items within it. This was generally agreed amongst the committee to be something that we should begin in the 2027 season.

Also raised as a point of order during the treasurers update was that CAG have paid for inspections for some clubs who play within the Liverpool Competition. This would mean, if they are not member clubs of CAG that the Liverpool Comp should have paid and undertaken these pitch inspections. The chair mentioned that a sum of money may therefore be owed to CAG as a result. The Sec agreed to contact both the Liverpool comp and CCL treasurers to determine the facts and accurate numbers, before deciding via the committee how to proceed. Mike Cook suggested this situation would change when the leagues merge in 2027.

Agenda Item 2.1 – Constitution updates & changes – Item 1 deferred by unanimous agreement of those present until the next committee meeting. This is due to the constitution templates, due to be provided by Andy Welsby, are not yet available.

Agenda Item 2.2- Officers & Changes – Vice chair and Honorary President roles, Mark Sameru WhatsApp incident –

The committee used it's constitutional right to elect members to an Honorary position within the committee. As such, the committee in attendance unanimously voted that current Honorary Vice-Chair Richard Cragg, should be elected to the role of Honorary Vice-President with immediate effect.

Honorary Vice-Chair Richard Cragg wanted to place on record "how flattered I am. It has been a joy to sit in the meeting so far this evening and hear and see the commitment and attention to detail. It has been pleasing to listen to". Richard continued "I'd like to thank the committee I had in my time as chair and it's great to see the current committee being ran so well by the chair and committee members involved, including the AGM I previously attended."

Mark Sameru Whatspp Incident – Stan Aspinall assessed that there have been a number of occasions in the past where Mark had offered to take up a commitment on behalf of the association and hadn't seen through many of those commitments, he raises the point that Mark has contradicted his own remarks on WhatsApp.

This point was widely agreed by most of the committee but it was countered with a point raised by treasurer Dave Twinney. Dave feels Mark points where in regards to 'some things' feeling as though they were being decided without the committee. This point was then

countered by AF, MC, SA and AH chair suggesting that by actively getting a seminar organised on behalf of the committee, without making any financial commitments unless decided by the committee, is in fact just the role of the secretary. AH commented that AF had give significant contributions so far to the committee in way of the EOS seminar, magazine and social media, all of which was agreed requires very little wider involvement from the committee. Besides this, AH couldn't understand what specifically Mark felt was "decided without the committee" and when asked to provide what he meant on WhatsApp, he declined to do so on a handful of occasions.

Additionally, the committee in attendance all agreed that there had been a lack of meetings since the last AGM, which will improve. But, that Mark's issue he raised in WhatsApp that committee meeting minutes need to be made available for the last 3 years. Dave Twinney mentioned on this point that alls minutes from all meetings over the last 3 years where always available via our website.

Alex raised whether Mark's outburst on WhatsApp where he directly questioned the integrity of the CAG committee, was acceptable or not and if it was deemed acceptable by the committee, where is the line in future instances. Dave Twinney directly stated to Alex that "he is being too sensitive". Alex replied that the issue was being raised on behalf of committee members other than Dave who may have been made to feel uncomfortable or questioned by Mark's comments. Alex raised that all committee members are volunteers and don't need to listen to their integrity being questioned by a fellow committee member who is rarely involved or present at meetings.

Stan Aspinall questioned whether it was worth the consideration of the committee to remove Mark from his position and if this was possible per our current constitution. This wasn't something anyone present had an answer to for sure, so the point by Stan Aspinall was acknowledged but deferred until an answer can be determined, with a mind that the constitution will be updated as some stage during 2026, with stakeholder approval.

Chris Burnett further added that interpretation of comments can sometimes be an issue via WhatsApp messages and any future issues Mark Sameru or others have, should be raised initially with the chair or failing that the entire committee. This point was unanimously agreed to by all present.

Agenda Item 2.3 – EOS Seminar planning

AF announced to the committee that Vic Demain has agreed to be our main speaker at this event and would like to take the committee up on their offer at overnight accommodation the night prior to the seminar day (15th August-16th August).

AF asked the committee what kind of budget they'd like to spend in booking Vic's accommodation. It was agreed around £150 would be adequate for a hotel stay, evening meal and breakfast at the near by Airport Premier Inn North. Since the meeting AF has determined this will cost in total £123.99 to book for this night with added meals

AF also announced that Andy Mackay ECB Pitch advisor has also agreed to be a speaker our EOS seminar. Additionally, AF and AH will online to obtain speakers for seed, amenity and loam before the event.

Agrovista have committed to sponsoring the food for the event to a total of £350-£400. The committee were presented with the available food options at Brooklands

Cold Buffet £16.96ph

Hot & Cold Buffet £19.95ph

Large pizza of choice - £10-£11ph.

The committee voted and unanimously agreed that we should take the large pizza option and work on the basis of half a pizza per person. This would require 15 pizzas if 30 people attended on the day, making the cost £165 for 15 pizzas. It was also agreed that we would purchase 2 large catering trays of fries, a cost that is yet to be agreed with Brooklands but is expected to be a minimal amount. This amount may change based on attendee registrations when the registration link is live from w/c 15/06. Any adjustments will remain within the budget set by Agrovista's sponsorship.

AH raised a point of order to offer the seminar registration to other grounds associations in the locality of Cheshire. This will be done via Andy Welsby and potential AJ at CCB.

AF asked all members to share the registration links as far as they can once it is released. Again the aim of number of attendees will be set at 30-35.

Agenda Item 3.1 – Loam Offer

AH provided some ideas of what could be provided via the loam offer provided to us by both Battersby's and Agrovista. At the moment, the committee felt neither could be taken up and it would be best to assess any offer for the 2027.

There was a concern raised by AF that managing offers is important as due to Agrovista's interest in sponsoring the seminar, we would be unable to offer the same or involvement from Battersby's this year. The committee commented on both offers being equally of use to member clubs for varying reasons. This will be reassessed towards the end of this season in time for the start of the 2027 campaign.

Agenda item 3.2 – Subscriptions to CAG for 2027 season.

Although there was no real interest from most of the committee to increase club subscriptions AH and AF suggested that going forward this may need to be reviewed, in line with increasing our outreach and services as an association. MC commented in agreement that if and when our activity increases, subscriptions from member clubs would need to rise to support our work. SA agreed with this sentiment, as did CB.

It was voted unanimously that subscriptions will be frozen at their current rate for the 2027 season.

Agenda item 3.3 – league matters

¾ club forums have already taken place to discuss the league merger. There is reportedly little to no push back so far in regards to criticism of the idea. Some clubs have highlighted their concern that bigger clubs will only get bigger but there's nothing to stop smaller clubs disappearing. Stan mentioned concerns some clubs may have re their 2nd team playing their first team potentially in the new layout. Stan reports that there will still be one overseas male player allowed in each team but there will also be an additional women's overseas spot now made available to clubs.

Lymm requires an initial pitch assessment to determine if cricket is possible on their allocated school site. So far games have been played on the artificial wicket at the venue.

Irby cc's outfield at their second ground requires another inspection due to issues with works and lack of grass growth ect in recovery. This assessment will be deferred until a time more suitable. No cricket has been able to take place there this season.

MC and Ian Barber have visited Alderley Edge CC. Contractors have returned to top up drainage runs and the grounds manager is now in a position to keep topping them up.

Agenda item 4.1 – Passing of grounds manager

AH highlighted and informed the committee of the news that a grounds manager had sadly passed by suicide in the Derbyshire area. AH asked the committee if we could start a crowdfunder to install a bench or similar at the ground managers club as a permanent memory and recognition of his work.

AF added that the news was posted on to Brian Sandalls' "The Cricket Groundsperson group" by the contractor who the grounds manager worked for at the time, having worked at the cricket club prior to them employing him. AF said he will see if he can find out more about the news and if the family would appreciate such a donation in the circumstances.

DT recommended that it would be best if the crowdfunder was started on the page where the news was first posted. This was agreed by all members present. However, we will seek to find out more without disturbing privacy and if it is appropriate CAG will look to support.

Agenda item 4.2 – Seed factory tour

AH will look into the possibility of arranging this for the end of this season. He will report back to a meeting once he has more details,

AOB –

SA informed the committee that Bancroft Amenity had offered CAG members, via the association, the opportunity to have vertidrainage done on their outfields for £350 special offer done between October and November. SA suggested could CAG take on a recommended contractor. AF and DT mentioned this could be seen as conflict of interests

on CAGs behalf to take a contractor as a recommendation from the association, however both suggested we still could provide the offer to clubs. This will be discussed in July's meeting.

No further contributions where put forward.

Meeting end.