

Prees Cricket and Recreation Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 12th of February 2020

Welcome

Mr Ray Grocott, Club President, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 88th AGM and our 14th year in this clubhouse.

There were 18 members present with 3 apologies received.

Ray reported that the Club had another successful year in 2018. He thanked Gary and Jan and all the bar staff for the great job they do. Also, Kevin, Duncan and Len for the way they keep the grounds in such good shape, Phil, Duncan and John for keeping the Club well maintained and improved, Alan and Kris for the great job they do with junior football, Lawrence and Maggie with entertainment and functions, Paul keeping our books balanced and Vinny in the Chair. On behalf of the Club Ray expressed his thanks to all the volunteers and sports coaches who give their time to the club since without them we would not be where we are today. He said he was proud to be part of a great Club and please carry on.

2. Members Remembrance.

A period of silence was held to remember Rose Grocott, Dennis Batkin, Reg Cartilage, Sue Slater and Ian Clinton who had sadly died during the year.

3. Presentation of the Simon Lines Shield

The Chairman presented the Simon Lines shield.

The 2019 winner is Len Gibbons

His nomination read:

Len has, for many years, bowled for Prees. Len gives his time to providing and looking after the flower displays around the bowling green which are greatly admired and which help make the grounds so attractive. He also helps with work in the Clubhouse. Many people are not aware of what Len contributes to the Club as he goes about the work quietly and efficiently and is a worthy winner.

4. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 13th February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the chair.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman said he wanted give a special thanks to Ray Grocott for what he does, and has done, for our Club. Not just financially but for his ability, business acumen and drive. Without his vision the fantastic facility we have here would not exist.

He also reiterated the Presidents thanks for all the efforts of the members and volunteers and for the work they do for the Club. Our club is revered by many in our region and it is due to the effort and time put in by our volunteers, coaches and managers. Vinny thanked Gary and Jan Dawson and their staff for the great job they do and for making the club so welcoming to all our visitors and members. He also thanked the Treasurer, Secretary and the committee for the work they do throughout the year for the Club.

6. Treasurer's Report

Paul Prince presented the 2019 set of accounts and printed copies were circulated. He went through each line of the income and expenditure account and the balance. The following points were highlighted:

- Bar sales, which is the most important figure on income, stood at £188.5k up 4% on 2018 with a healthy margin of 59.77% up 2%. Gross profit was up £8k on last year. These are fantastic results and a big thankyou goes to Gary and Jan
- Membership was up by £977 to £4,670. The new till system has encouraged people to become members to get preferential prices. The new system has worked well and has been very successful
- Sports sections income was £8,390 which came from match fees for football, bowls cricket etc.
- Income from the hire of facilities for sports and football plus room hire at £17,264 was down £2.k on 2018.
- Wages at £87,587 were 6% up on 2018.
- Entertainment and fundraising income was £4,315k and thanks go to Maggie Allen for this with the extra entertainment functions she has organised and the work of Lawrence. Costs were £8,295 which includes the SKY TV costs, the PPL licence, Spotify and artists fees. This figure does not reflect the increased bar takings as a result of these events.
- Grants and donations at £1948k were mainly gift aid for members and junior football.
- Electricity cost were £8716 and water £1216. Electricity was up on 2018 by £2k. but we have since switched to a new supplier which should help for 2020.
- Maintenance costs were £20,345 which covered improvement of the grounds and the clubhouse and Paul thanked Kevin, Duncan and Phil for their efforts.
- There was an excess of income over expenditure of £966 but we are a non-profit club and all monies are reinvested in the club. Paul said that we are still in a healthy position and continue to improve our assets.
- The total capital and reserves stand at £782,197 which is the net worth of the Club.
- Our bank account shows a credit of £25k which some of which is committed to funding the storage facility.

In summary Paul stated that 2019 had been an excellent year and thanked all involved.

The President thanked the Treasurer, on behalf of the Members, for his professionalism and the work he does for the Club.

7. Sporting Section Reports

BOWLS

Sue Taylor provided the following report which was presented by Dave Price:

- 2019 started with an Open Day, organised by Chairman Tom Cooper. The day was enjoyed by all who attended, but even though it was well advertised, unfortunately we didn't recruit any new bowlers. Although the club did gain a few new members.
- All of our teams completed their fixtures with no walkovers, and all maintained their division status. Well done to the Prees team that won the Whitchurch League Jubilee Doubles consolation competition, beating a good team from Ash in the final, held at Adderley.
- As always, a massive thank you to the captains – Matt Blackhurst, John Taylor, Tony Pugh, Joan Groom, Dan Whelan, John and Sue Smith, Julia Davies, Dave Price and Audrey Richards. Without these people bowls at Prees wouldn't happen.
- I'm pleased to say all teams for the 2020 season have Captains and Julia Davies is our new Chairman. My thanks to Tom for his support during the last year.
- We will be going into the 2020 season with 4 teams in the Whitchurch League, 4 in the Market Drayton League, and 1 in the Barlows Seniors League. We have entered a second team into the Market Drayton Seniors League, captained by new bowler, Gwen Thomas, and mostly made up of relatively new bowlers. I wish them success in their first season.
- Also, thank you to Kevin for maintaining the greens to such a high standard. He must be doing something right as throughout the year we have hosted The Midland Masters, numerous League and County neutral green games, plus the Premier League playoff final.
- The new season will start on 21st March with two club competitions - the John Hocknell Shield and the Ladies Rose Bowl, organised by Dan Whelan. The leagues will start from the first week in April.

I wish all the teams, captains and players, a successful, enjoyable, season, and that the weather is kind to Kevin!

FOOTBALL

Prees Senior's Football:

There was no representation from the Senior Football management team.

Prees Junior Football Report – Alan Groom (Chairman)

- A big thank you to Duncan and Phil for all their help in digging holes for light posts to repairing the boards around the Astro over the last 12 months, it is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Duncan for marking of the pitches which can be a fruitless task on cold wet Thursday morning, once we've figured out who's playing where and devised lines inside lines to create the pitches so thank you Duncan.
- The field was reseeded in early April of last year with a lot of grass seed as it was bare in places and it needed this doing. This year's reseeded had a better summer to get established with it being relatively wet compared to the year before, which meant we didn't have to keep coming down to move the sprinklers every day.
- Back in June & July we had our annual summer tournament run over 2 weekends again which was attended by 130 teams who entered this year with in the region of 1400 children playing football, this again was a huge success not just to the football club but the club itself with the weather holding out during both weekends. The 2020 tournament will take place over the weekends of 13/14 June and 27/28 June. We need to give some thought to parking on these days as so as to avoid complaints from our neighbours.
- Weekend's from September onwards have been busy with more teams developing and more teams wanting to play their football here. We currently have 15 of our own teams included in this is our wildcat girl's which is for girl's who are new to football from the ages of 4 to 11. This is run solely by Kris, and also included in the 15 teams is our newly formed creche (more on this later), which is around 230 children playing football at our little piece of paradise, that is 9 boys teams from U9s through to U16s and 5 girl's teams from U10s through to U15s currently, as always we are looking to increase this hopefully to 20 Teams so as every age group is supported.
- Every child who becomes a member of the football section we have guided the parents to become members of the club to gain the benefits of the membership cards.
- In November the previous year 2018 we had a Photo company come in to do a club and individuals photo shoot as a prize in a competition. In November 2019 the company contacted us to see if we would like them to come back and do the same again a year later which we did and almost all Players turned up to have individual and team photos done and we have another huge canvas to go up downstairs somewhere!
- In December we signed up to something called "give to local", it was free, and we didn't really know much about them but thought we'll give it ago as what have we got to lose! Anyway, Kris registered all the teams with "give to local" and within a fortnight one of our teams (u10 lightnings) name was pulled out of the hat in a live draw competition where they were giving away £30000! And we won £2000/year for three years £6000 in total, the "give to local" people will be here at our next meeting 28th February to promote and explain how they operate and hand over a cheque, with photos of the u10s lighting team for their website.
- The Crèche is now no longer run by Jonny Hughes coaching, but is now run by Prees junior FC under the name PPP (Pre Prees Players) the thinking behind the initials "PPP" is to create a brand where by kids will tell their friends and hopefully the parents will tell their friends around schools and it just grows maybe, if this happens we will have to find another night during the week to run two creche's! We only discussed it over a pint in the bar around Mid-December, one of our coaches, Liam Eaton, who is a coach at Shrewsbury Town said we needed to look at managing the creche to be able to look for new teams and new managers for those teams from the parents, which was difficult to do before. We have moved the creche to a Monday evening where now myself Kris and other managers are available to help where needed and we are able to observe the next teams and the parents who are keen to help and become the next managers, Liam has done all the setting up and advertising of "PPP" through January with opening night being on February 3rd. and we had a staggering turnout of 30 kids aged from 5yrs up to 8yrs who just want to have fun, make new friends and learn how to play football, we have enlisted three young lads, Harvey James who is our best young referee, Luke Mason and Judd Maddox who both play for the u16s here at Prees and are also referees, who will help run the creche under the guidance of Liam, this will be, and is, the future of Prees Junior Football club, we are looking at hopefully having a u7s & u8s team for the start of next season.
- Finally, a very big thank you to Gary and Jan for putting up with us and for making umpteen pizza and chips on a Saturday and Sunday morning's for our teams, this type of hospitality is what has given this club as well as the football club the standing of the best in Shropshire, not just the best grounds to play football at, but the only place

in Shropshire where you get this type of club house and hospitality, so a big thankyou to both and to the staff who make endless hot chocolates each weekend.

CRICKET

Brian Hughes reported:

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- We have withdrawn from mid-week evening league for 2020.
- We continue to struggle to recruit new players which seems to be common to most Cricket Clubs.
- It is intended to play in the mid-week league this year and to continue with the local evening competition.
- There is a meeting planned for February 19th to decide how we take the cricket section forwards.

DARTS AND DOMINOES

Dave Price gave a report on the Darts and Dominoes teams:

We play in the Wem Tuesday night league.

Darts

- At last year's AGM 2017/2018 season after 16 games the darts team were lying 8th in the league. At the end of the season we finished 8th in the league and lost in the quarter final of the cup.
- This season, 2019/20, after 16 games, we are lying 4th in the league and lost in the quarter final of the cup.
- I would like to thank Andy Jones for doing such a good job of running the darts team.

Dominoes

- At last year's AGM after 16 games the dominoes team were lying 4th in the league and were in the semi-final of the Cup. At the end of the season we finished 6th in the league and won the consolation cup.
- This season, 2019/20, after 16 games, we are lying 1st in the league and are in the quarter final of the cup.

The Committee thanked Dave for the great job he does running the dominoes section.

ANGLING

Duncan Austin presented the report for the Angling Section.

- We have around 45 members of the Angling section who are enjoying their fishing.
- No competitions were held this year.
- We still have two waters, Coton and Hawkstone.

WEIGHTLIFTING

No report.

Gary Dawson stated that there are around 2-5 regular lifters and that Chris Green is considering starting weight training alongside the Olympic lifting.

8. Election of President, Vice Presidents and Trustees.

Trustees: Paul Prince, Mike McGee, Phil Hodges, Brian Hughes, Vincent Lines, Alan Groom, Neil Sadler,
Rep from Prees Parish Council – Mr Joe Whelan

Mark Perkins has resigned as a Trustee.

The following nominations were proposed and seconded and were approved by the Members.

Post	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Mr Ray Grocott	Vinny Lines	John Gleave
Vice Presidents	Mrs A Walmsley, Mr R Chambers, Mr J Gleave, Mr A Hocknell, Mr D Smout, Mr J Taylor,	Brian Hughes	Neale Sadler

10. Election of Officers and Committee

All existing committee members were happy to stand.

Post	Nomination	Proposed By	Seconded by
Chairman	Mr Vinny Lines	Ray Grocott	Neale Sadler
Vice Chairman	Mr Neale Sadler	Mike McGee	Ray Grocott
Treasurer	Mr Paul Prince	Vinny Lines	Mike McGee
Secretary	Mr Brian Hughes	Ray Grocott	Vinny Lines
Club Premises Chair	Mr Phil Hodges	Vinny Lines	Ray Grocott
Club Grounds Chair	Duncan Austin	Brian Hughes	Neale Sadler
Health and Safety Chair	Mr Joe Whelan	Mike McGee	Andy Jones
General Representative	Mr Alan Smith	Vinny Lines	Mike McGee
General Representative	Mr John Gleave	Brian Hughes	Neale Sadler
General Representative	Mr Ian Stevenson	Brian Hughes	Paul Prince
General Representative	Mrs Amber Noss	Vinny Lines	Ray Grocott

The secretary advised that the following ex officio members will also serve on the committee:

Ex Officio Member	Role
Mr Brian Hughes	Website
Mr Lawrence Allen	Function Support
Mr Joe Whelan	Prees Parish Council nominated representative
Mrs Maggie Allen	Entertainment
Mrs Sue Taylor	Bowls Section Secretary
Mr Peter Richards	Cricket Section
Mr Dave Price	Darts and Dominoes Section
Mr Alan Groom	Football - Junior Section Chairman
Kris Morris	Girls - Junior Football
Mr Ray Williams	Football - Adult Men's Section
Mr Duncan Austin	Angling Section.
Mr Chris Green	Weightlifting

9. Subscriptions and Membership

The meeting discussed the membership fee for the year 2021 and it was unanimously agreed that it would remain unchanged.

The new membership/new till system has been very successful.

10. Any Other Business

Kris Morris reported that we will be receiving 450 saplings in November which are being supplied free of charge. We will have a planting day and the idea is to plant along the perimeter to stop footballs falling through and around the field. Some will be planted around the village anywhere that is appropriate.

Kris also reported that we have applied to Severn Trent for outdoor equipment but this has not yet been agreed.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their efforts over the year and declared the meeting closed.

The next AGM was scheduled for Wednesday the 10th February 2021 starting at 1930 hrs.

Minutes accepted as a true record.....Chair.....Date.