

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019

This A.G.M. brings to an end my two years as Chairman of the Association. It's been an interesting and, sometimes challenging, experience!

My first season was notable for its relative calm. However, as if to balance things out, the start of the season just passed was anything but. What with the resignation of the M.O. and two (almost three) appeals to handle, it was certainly a bumpy ride for a while. However, with the appointment of Sean as the new M.O., things quickly settled down and the rest of the season went without a hitch.

I have to say that I was astounded, during my time as M.O., of the lack of regard / knowledge that some of our team captains had for the rules. It is my opinion that any team captain should have a cursory read through the rules at the start of the season, as it is their responsibility to ensure that their team complies with them. This could save a lot of heartache later on.

Some captains felt so aggrieved by the penalties that their team suffered that they felt it necessary to invoke the Association's appeals procedure. This was disappointing as appeals can be a very time consuming process and I'd implore all members to consider very carefully before launching an appeal and to put things into perspective and think about what it is you're fighting for and the time and effort required by you and the several other people that will be necessarily involved.

I'd like to thank my fellow Executive officers for all their help and support during my tenure. I found their opinions invaluable when some of those more difficult decisions had to be made and it's a shame that two of the team won't be on the committee next season.

In particular it's sad to see the departure of Philip Mitcheson, after some 10 years as Secretary. Philip has been an absolute workhorse for the Association during his time. He rewrote The Rules and Constitution, took over as Treasurer for three years, during which time he was suffering from rapidly deteriorating eyesight, and has always come to the fore during appeals procedures and used his legal mind to interpret The Rules as they were intended to be. This Association owes a debt of gratitude to Philip and I hope every member appreciates his selfless efforts.

Finally I'd like to wish my successor all the very best in his new post. Volunteers are hard to find so it's encouraging to see that we have a nominee for the post in advance of the A.G.M.

Brian Whitaker