

North West Region

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on January 27th 2007 at the Holiday Inn Haydock.

Before the meeting started Mrs. Turner apologised to all members for the delayed arrival of their agenda and minutes of the previous year's meeting.

Meeting commenced at 2pm.

1. Apologies for absence: A. Cairns , P Talbot, W.Wilson, L.G.Owens, N.Barlow, A.R.Faulkner, L.Jackson, E.Turner, Mr. Andrews

Present:

Blackpool and Preston: J.Park, G. Brightman, P Brightman G.Hetherington.

Cheshire & N.Wales: N. Baker

Manchester: C. Pearson

Merseyside: P.Phillips, R. Johnston, J. Turner.

Total: 9

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th January 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a true record. Acceptance proposed by R. Johnston.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 22.01.06: None

4. Regional Chairman's report.

The Chairman stated that he would not be seeking re-election. We had a quiet year. The Regional event was successful on December 12th in Manchester.

5. Regional Hon. Secretary's report.

There had been three meetings held at the Holiday Inn, Haydock. The Regional Director had attended three meetings and all other members had attended all of the meetings. It was agreed that the dates of the meetings for 2007/8 would be April 24th, September 20th and January 26th at 12md prior to the 2008 AGM. She asked members to send to her any information regarding networking in the Region and dates and venues of events and meetings so that these could be forwarded to head office for inclusion in the Ground Report/ newsletter. She thanked all the Regional members for their support this year.

6. Regional Treasurer's report.

The Chair went through the accounts in the absence of the Treasurer. R. Johnston proposed acceptance

7. Report on the Board of Directors.

N. Baker submitted a report on the activities of the Board over the period January '06 to December '06 and Regional events:

'During the year there had been five board meetings including the one to be held at the Annual Conference at Newcastle. This coming year due to other commitments I will be attending three. A record number of exhibitors attending. I also took the opportunity to attend SALTEX in September 2006 not having been for years.

The last year has been one of further development after the appointment of a new chief executive and the purchase and move to new offices in 2005.

The staff restructuring and recruitment has now been completed following Ian Lacy (Head of Professional Services) taking up his post in November.

SALTEX had another excellent year despite the loss of the 'big boys,' in fact we had a record numbers of exhibitors attending (the 'big boys' are returning in 2007)

Also at SALTEX the Chairman and Chief Executive launched the new IOG strategy. The strategy will provide a strategic plan of action for the Institute of Groundsmanship from now until 2012 (Olympic year).

In December and January the Institute of Groundsmanship held road shows throughout the British Isles and Ireland to discuss the strategy with members. The NW and North Wales event was held at Manchester City F.C. Stadium. Over fifty members attended the demonstration and lectures, followed by the presentation by the Chief Executive.

The Annual Conference will take place in Newcastle this year and the AGM is to be held at Milton Keynes on June 9th 2007.

Besides SALTEX, Scotsturf was held at Edinburgh and proved to be a successful event with an increase in exhibitors and members attending and is on course for further expansion in 2007.

The new branch in Dublin has now been established and further branches are planned for Ireland. Another first for the Institute was the establishment of a branch in Prague, Czech Republic.

The arrangements for publishing the Groundsman have been changed as from January 2007 with a new editor, Trevor Ledger. The Deeson Group with an editorial board on which the Institute will be represented will produce the publication in future in house.

Members will have also received quarterly newsletters – 'Ground Report'. The publication of this depends on feedback from regional members. Three editions are planned for 2007.

Regional events have taken place across the country and the Reaseheath Sports Turf machinery show was held in June.

A new package of benefits is to be announced in the New Year along with the membership card.

You will also see that the Institute of Groundsmanship is holding meetings with BIGGA to explore the potential opportunities of a merger between the two organisations for the benefit of the members and the industry.

At a local level the Manchester branch is going from strength to strength with a programme of events regularly attended by between 30 and 40 members. Unfortunately in the other branches little activity takes place. This is an area that the Institute will be addressing in the future.

On a final note you will have seen the news that Derek Walder our President has relinquished the post and takes over as 'Mr SALTEX' a post, which demands all round attention. We wish him well.

Questions were then accepted from the floor:

- G.Brightman asked if it was possible to identify the members in each branch so that contact can be made with other non- attending members. N.Baker said that he would find out if this was possible taking into consideration the data protection act. It was also pointed out that many years ago new members were sent a list of branch members so that the new member has a resource to discuss professional problems & information.
- P.Phillips asked for further information on the re-organisation at the Head Office. N.Baker replied that there was now improved communication and working between individuals and Departments.
- There was a discussion regarding keeping in contact with members across branches and regions. N. Baker explained that that was one of the purposes of the newsletter. J.Turner said that she would be happy to send any informal member information to Head Office for the newsletter if this could be sent to her.

8. 2012 Fund.

The Fund is being restructured and additional funds being arranged with the sporting bodies

9.Branch reports

- Blackpool and Preston: The Chairman reported that the usual members had attended the meetings during the year. The officers were not standing for re-election.
- Cheshire &N.Wales: N.Baker reported that there had been no activity during the year.
- Manchester: C. Pearson reported that the branch is flourishing. Members of other branches are invited to meetings and activities. All the members present congratulated the branch on its activity.

- Merseyside: P. Phillips reported that the Branch had had to postpone the AGM to February.

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10. Election of Officers for 2007 drawn from Branch Representatives and Committee Members

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Regional President	W. Wilson	P. Phillips	J. Turner
Regional Vice President	A. Cairns	R. Johnston	J. Parks
Regional Chairman	Vacancy R. Johnston proposed that C. Pearson be asked to stand in until the vacancy		
Regional Vice Chairman	C. Pearson	J. Park	J. Turner
Regional Secretary	J. Turner	C. Pearson	J. Park
Regional Treasurer	E. Turner	C. Pearson	J. Park

Blackpool and Preston: N. Barlow

Cheshire & N. Wales: N. Baker

Manchester: C. Pearson

Merseyside: E. Turner, J. Turner

Regional Representative and Member of the Board of Directors: N. Baker, Cheshire Branch.

11. Resolutions for National Annual General Meeting

None

12. Any other business:

- British Institute Standard for composting: no glass larger than 2mm or stones of more than 10mm to be included. He had completed more than 25 years on the BIS for the industry.
- The change of name of the Institute: N. Baker replied that no further information had been received.
- R. Johnston stated that on behalf of the members present he would like to thank J. Park for his work on behalf of the Region.

13.Date of next Annual General Meeting: January 26th 2008 in the Lowton Suite at the Holiday Inn, Haydock at 2pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 3.34pm

Signature:

Regional Chairman

Date January 26th 2008