

The Ancient Britons



AGM Weekend 2017 Lilleshall

7th – 9th July 2017



Friday 7th July 2017

Some ABs arrived after an arduous journey, others like Tom & Chris Ettling came the night before. Some on arrival had a bite in the café, followed by a couple of beers, but eventually people retired to bed to catch up on lost sleep and prepare for the weekend.

Saturday 8th July 2017

This morning was apparently even more uneventful as breakfast for the few was in the Dining Room in the Main House. Slowly but surely ABs arrived with the information that the traffic bollards would be out of action for the whole weekend. We could just hope that the ABs would be in action. Once the Drinks Team (Richard Turner, David Read & Tom Ettling) had been assembled, the ABs with the Ladies took to their vehicles towards the pitch. The weather was a tad on the warm side, which suited the Ladies but not the players.



Somebody said that in some parts of the country it is safer to have fencing so that we are all kept safe.

Clive Kendall then called the troops together for his final team talk and gave them all a breakdown of the team in each specific quarter. We all knew that this was not set in stone as injuries, tiredness and possible sunstroke were in the future. Not only that, but after playing the 1st quarter it was quite possible that most of the players wouldn't remember. The one comfort was that there were several ABs on the bench so replacements were at the ready.

I need to "THANK" all the note takers over the weekend from both sides of the pitch, so I am not taking the blame: Trevor Denison, Allan Sutton, Paul Sharratt, Mike Handley, Jon Beale, Russell Gates and Diane Boutcher.

Also sincere thanks to Tom Ettling, Richard Turner and Quinney for the photographs.

The 1st Game v SAGA A 1 - 1

The first quarter was typical of the weekend as both sides tried to gain control from the opening whistle. ABs had the 1st chance but a snap shot from Paul Sharratt went wide; first of many attempts by the ABs. There were few chances in the quarter as most of the play took place in the midfield with Paul Woodward and Bruce Baron holding their own. Several moves swung from side to side but passes from Robin Conway found Mike Wingent attacking mainly down the right. The quarter came to a close with neither side giving way but the ABs appeared to be the slightly dominant team.

The 2nd quarter started well for the ABs as a sweeping move began with Bruce Baron passing to Paul Sharratt. Paul rolled the ball into the path of Richard Turner but his shot went wide. SAGA broke straight back up the pitch and a crisp shot forced a save from Richard Boutcher. One minute later ABs won a penalty corner after a controlled move between Bruce Baron and Mike Wingent, but the shot from Paul Sharratt was well saved by the SAGA keeper, Les Evans. A few minutes Robin Conway broke through the SAGA ranks but his cross was intercepted the SAGA keeper. There were few clear chances but ABs did win a further penalty corner but the slip left from Robin Conway to Paul Sharratt was a tad too strong and the chance went wide. Just before the end of the quarter a slip by Skipper Clive Kendall gave SAGA a half chance but the shot went wide. ABs struck straight back and Richard Turner breaking down the right found Mike Wingent in space. Drawing the defender Mike Wingent crossed but Paul Sharratt shot narrowly wide to bring the half to a close.

A tactical team talk was needed and Skipper Clive Kendall called for the troops to step up to the plate. He could have asked Diane Boutcher, who had been making notes and she felt that there were distribution issues and also some individuals were being a little too greedy. There was apparently one plus and that was; Phil Hall looked good in yellow.



ABs began the 3rd quarter by attacking down the right but the cross was comfortably blocked by the SAGA keeper. SAGA then counter attacked but after winning a penalty corner, the ABs comfortably defended and cleared the danger. ABs swiftly went to the other end of the pitch and duly won a penalty corner but this time SAGA cleared without facing a shot at goal.

ABs kept up the pressure and the only way SAGA could defend was to hit the ball upfield. ABs gave SAGA the lead in the 3rd quarter when a long hopeful ball (an “antelope”) was sent into the ABs half. Clive Kendall and Lee Baron (the hunting “hyenas”) closed in on their prey, but at the last minute the antelope swerved left and right and evaded the desperate lunges of the hyenas. SAGA’s 91 Lee Smith pounced giving Richard Boucher no chance. According to Diane Boucher, number 91 shouldn’t even have been on the pitch as he was far too young. The other version of this goal was that Clive said “Yours” at the same time as Lee said “Yours”.

Would heads drop, not on your Nellie and back on the attack came the ABs. A quick break and a chance fell to Paul Woodward but he pulled his shot wide, reminiscent of last year. A further chance fell to Paul Sharratt but his fierce shot was well saved. Mike Wingent was creating danger down the right wing and another speedy run led to an excellent cross followed by another shot from Paul Sharratt which was saved.



It wasn't that wide

ABs kept up the pressure and after winning yet another penalty corner, the SAGA keeper saved another Paul Sharratt goal bound shot. The 3rd quarter came to a close with ABs on the attack but 1 goal down.

After a quick break for water, ABs were back on the offensive, determined to keep up the momentum. Within 2 minutes ABs were back on level terms and yet again Mike Wingent was the catalyst. Time and time again SAGA couldn’t work him out and yet again he drifted round the back of the SAGA defence before crossing to Paul Sharratt.

This time **Paul** settled himself and with the aid of a slight deflection **fired the ball home**. ABs kept up the pressure and won another penalty corner, but Robin Conway's raised shot was deflected wide by the SAGA keeper. A further attempt by Paul Sharratt after an aerial pass to Mike Wingent was subsequently blocked ~ AGAIN. As the game came to a close, SAGA broke and won a penalty corner



A Bench Primed For Action

but Richard Boutcher comfortably saved to leave the game all square. In a way this was a fair result but ABs had more penalty corners but failed to convert.



John Oliver Ian Cole Derek Jordan Graham Dick Adam Wheeler Nirmal Singh Simon Westwood Les Evans
 Tony Swales Ade Stoker Mark Eyke Chris Davies Lee Smith Chris Speke

SAGA IN BLUE – 4 BACK LEFT; 4 BACK RIGHT; 3 FRONT LEFT; 3 FRONT RIGHT. ABs --- PRINT IS SAME COLOUR AS SHIRT.

Tom Ettling **Graham Reynolds** Jon Beale Mike Christie Allan Sutton **Trevor Davies**
 Paul Sharratt Bruce Baron Steve Taylor Steve Russell **David Read** Trevor Denison Phil Hall
 Robin Conway Lee Baron Mike Wingent Russell Gates **Richard Boutcher**
 Clive Kendall Paul Woodward Mike Handley Richard Turner **John Peirce** **Dudley Walker**

The Ladies felt that it was difficult to nominate one individual and decided that the Team get Man of the Match, but with special mention to Paul Sharratt, Steve Russell, Mike Handley, Paul Woodward, Robin Conway and Bruce Lee; sorry Bruce Baron and Lee Baron.

The 2nd Game v SAGA B 3 – 2

Prior to the game a slimline Father Christmas was seen visiting the opposition's dug-out. Whether he was dispensing presents or alcohol was unknown, but it didn't put off the ABs who immediately went on the offensive as Bruce Baron drew the foul in the circle for the 1st penalty corner. A slip left from Phil Hall to Paul Sharratt saw the SAGA keeper save. ABs were passing the ball around and forced the SAGA defence back into their circle and John Peirce won another penalty corner. This time the ball was switched left to Jon Beale who then passed back to Phil Hall. A quick dummy and a return to **Jon Beale and the ball was drilled into the bottom corner**. This woke up the crowd as they rose to acclaim the goal with an impromptu Mexican Wave. ABs were now in control as Bruce Baron, obviously our Picasso, as he drew more dummies than you would find in Burton's window. Robin Conway also got involved with some fancy footwork whilst Jon Beale showed the quality of his tackle to the crowd, the last time being during the Canada Tour. ABs continued to play on the front foot and clever linking play between David Read and Bruce Baron created further chances but to no avail. The 1st quarter came to a close with ABs the stronger team but with just the 1 goal lead.



Poetry in Motion



Clinical Perfection!!!



I'm Knackered

Slight changes to the line-up seemed to make no difference as ABs were immediately on the attack with Paul Woodward finding space before releasing Russell Gates who slammed the ball across the face of the goal but too quick for John Peirce.

SAGA struck back and forced an error in the ABs defence. A snap cross looked dangerous but a call of "leave it" proved fruitful as the SAGA forwards didn't make it.

A few of the ABs were not convinced, feeling that it was a tad risky. A discussion took place between the caller and Richard Boutcher which went along the following lines. “That was close”; “Was it”; “Yes”; “Did they score”; “No”; “Not that close then”.

A long ball from Phil Hall found Jon Beale in space on the right wing, who immediately accelerated past the SAGA defender and crossed the ball but the danger was cleared. Soon after Jon Beale found time and space in the circle but his lofted shot was well saved by the SAGA keeper.

Paul Sharratt then won a free hit just outside the circle. “Get control and move” was the call from Phil Hall, “pull them out, then get in”. A bit of inventiveness between Paul Sharratt and Paul Woodward created another penalty corner for the ABs. This time Phil Hall went right and Paul Woodward instead of playing the return ball shot but as the keeper saved, the rebound fell to Phil Hall to score his 1st AB goal, but he failed AGAIN, pulling his shot from 8 yards wide of the far post (TO BE EXPECTED).

Play immediately came back to our end but the final shot was well wide. Soon after SAGA were down to 10 men as a stick tackle was deemed to be the last straw for the Umpire. The half came to a close with no addition to the score.



SAGA began the 3rd quarter under pressure as Mike Christie broke down the right but his cross was intercepted. The danger wasn't fully cleared and Paul Woodward dribbled into the circle releasing the ball left but Tom Ettling shot wide. ABs kept up the pressure winning another penalty corner but the slip left to Mike Christie also went wide. SAGA then kept the ball from the “16” and progressed the length of the pitch, only for Phil Hall to calmly intercept in the circle. SAGA regained control of the ball and won a penalty corner but Richard Boutcher coolly saved. It was now a very open game, end to end, and ABs were soon back down at the other end, winning a further penalty corner. This time Phil Hall delayed the routine before passing left to Russell Gates, whose shot was saved but **Tom Ettling swooped like a gazelle on the rebound to slot the ball home.**

Soon after a crossfield run by Russell Gates saw ABs win another penalty corner, but this time a similar routine saw Russell Gates shoot and the SAGA keeper kick clear as the 3rd quarter drew to a close.

The final quarter saw Dudley “Ronaldo” Walker added to the forward line and he soon justified Clive Kendall’s last decision as Skipper. A 1-2 between Mike Wingent and Mike Christie was followed by a pass into the circle and “Ronaldo” dived full length to touch the ball home.

This seemed to spur SAGA into all-out attack and they were rewarded after an excellent stop by Richard Boutcher fell kindly for Chris Speke to stab home (with Mrs Boutcher an unhappy bunny in the crowd). SAGA kept up the pressure and a further shot was goalwards when Phil Hall under pressure calmly cleared off the goal line. SAGA wouldn’t be denied and a good interception from Allan Sutton saved a further chance. Then “more distress down the husband end of the pitch” and a mix up in the ABs defence allowed Ian Cole to tap into the empty net. All ABs heard the call “Yours, Mine, Yours, Mine, THEIRS”. SAGA had one final chance but a last ditch tackle by Phil Hall gave ABs a 3-2 victory.



The Ladies again went with The Team, with special mention to Jon Beale, Tom Ettling and Dudley Walker (the Goalscorers) and Phil Hall for some timely interventions.

After the game it was time for post-match drinks and sandwiches. The ABs and the opposition mingled outside in the early evening and all agreed that both games had been competitive. Some players from the 1st game had showered and changed whereas some from the 2nd were waiting for the comfort of a bath, preferring a beer first.

ABs began to congregate for drinks, prior to the AGM which began at 6.15’ish. After the AGM, ABs moved next door to Chapters for their Annual Dinner. Trevor Davies had organised a “Menu” on each table to assist staff and the delivery of food. Trevor also began the usual “take wine with”, which the President duly accepted the challenge and continued. During the evening

Phil duly handed out 3 small gifts to Clive Kendall, Trevor Davies and Julia Greenhough to say "Thank You" from the ABs.

Unfortunately Trevor Davies couldn't rehire the 2016 entertainer so thinking of the age of the ABs decided on the "SAGA BOYS", which was quite apt considering our ages and our opposition. As the evening progressed, Phil Hall managed to slip in a couple of bottles of port and distributed accordingly. Having trouble finding glasses was an initial problem but staff came to the rescue and found 20 more. Ladies and Gentlemen alike were all included and as the port began to run out, Trevor managed to "filch" another. ABs slipped away to bed in dribs and drabs, with the drabs being last, deep into the morning.

Sunday 10th July 2016

The morning duly arrived, too soon for some; did anybody see new Skipper Bruce Baron at breakfast?? Apparently ABs were told different times for breakfast and several were down quite early. After a hearty breakfast, or for some, lightly poached eggs cooked freshly, not sitting in the Bain-Marie, ABs drifted off in the direction of the Astroturf. Similar to yesterday, today's Drinks Team (Mike Wingent, Russell Gates & Lee Baron) were already in position.

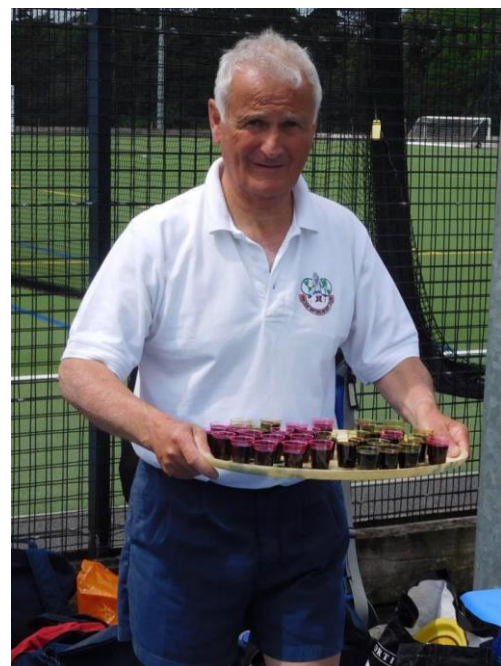
"THANK YOU" TO ALL SIX OF YOU IN THE DRINKS TEAMS.

The 3rd Game v SAGA 1 – 2

New Skipper Bruce Baron immediately took control of the ABs and delegated several duties back to Clive. Yet again there was a visit to the opposition's dug-out, a slimline Father Christmas. Now the question was, whether they were going to receive any early presents from the ABs.

Initial early pressure was soaked up by SAGA, but ABs continued to press but couldn't find a way to break them down.

After 10 minutes, ABs managed to unlock their defence. A trade mark run by Mike Wingent down the right wing looked like turning into a cross but he was urged to continue. He evaded two defenders and continued along the backline and dribbled expertly into the circle. An accurate pass found Russell Gates, a dive by Paul Woodward confused the SAGA defence and **Russell deftly slapped the ball home. The 1st quarter**



ended with a diving lunge by Skipper Bruce Baron which delayed the opposition and following a flurry of activity Phil Hall cleared the danger.

As the ABs walked slowly back to the bench for some liquid refreshment it was clear that the game was not as exciting as people thought. Unfortunately there doesn't appear to be photographic evidence but JP was definitely asleep. Others were primed and ready (like coiled springs!!). ABs began the 2nd quarter where they left off with slick passing moves, to their own players. After a fine passage of play they won another penalty corner, but this time the SAGA keeper foiled a shot from Paul Sharratt.



Like a Coiled Spring

SAGA broke downfield and they won a penalty corner but just as they were about to shoot Lee Baron deftly intercepted and tapped the ball away. Unfortunately the danger wasn't over as SAGA quickly regained possession and won another penalty corner but Richard Boutcher made a great save but another short corner was awarded. Again Richard Boutcher cleared the danger but it was now all SAGA. ABs were desperately defending but then broke away to win a penalty corner after a good pass from Steve Taylor found Mike Wingent who passed to Paul Woodward followed by a noisy stick tackle. Injection was from Mike Wingent to Paul Sharratt but the shot was deflected by the SAGA defence and the danger was cleared. More pressure followed on the ABs defence and another penalty corner was saved twice by Richard Boutcher. Another penalty corner was then cleared by Mike Handley. Just before the break a great diving pass by Steve Taylor set up Paul Sharratt for a half chance but it came to nowt. Half-time arrived and the ABs were hanging on to their 1 goal lead. The comment from the crowd was that Phil Hall seems to have forgotten all names bar Russell Gates as he calls for him constantly, regardless of where he might be.

Skipper Bruce Baron made 2 changes with Jon Beale and Mike Christie on for Russell Gates and Paul Woodward. The half began with ABs on the defensive but Clive Kendall was tripped in the circle, or did he dive, and ABs regained possession. This didn't last long

as SAGA upped the pace and ABs kept giving the ball away in the midfield. SAGA now won penalty corners at will, with the first being blocked (well done Bruce), the second (after a Mike Christie stick tackle) saved by Clive Kendall on the line and the third saved by Richard Boutcher and Phil Hall cleared. ABs did win the occasional tackle and a defensive SAGA mix-up gave Mike Wingent an inkling of a chance by the post but the



bobbling ball allowed the SAGA keeper to push the ball wide. ABs were slowly getting back into the game with breakaways but all came to nothing. Halfway through the quarter SAGA won a free hit outside the "22". A break into the circle and Martin Hall drove along the goal line, pulling the ball back for ATTACKER to score the equaliser. A further attempt was lofted at goal, but Richard Boutcher calmly cleared the danger. ABs then broke again and a lofted shot was cleared by the SAGA keeper but was deemed to be unsafe and a penalty corner was awarded. Mike Wingent duly scored but the shot was deemed to be too high and the scores remained level up to the end of the 3rd quarter. Phil Hall was removed and Paul Woodward took over, Jon Beale was also off and Russell Gates back on. All of a sudden ABs were not playing too well and were camped at the wrong end of the pitch, but a diving Bruce Baron intercepted a dangerous SAGA pass towards the circle. Then all of the ABs seemed to be on one side of the pitch as SAGA kept switching the play. For about 4 minutes SAGA had 4 chances with the first wide, the second they kicked, the third was blocked and the fourth was wide. ABs were now hanging on by the skin of their teeth and it just seemed a matter of time before the dam was breached. Eventually ABs did break clear, by playing the "Get out of Jail" Card, but the short corner was wide. This didn't last long and soon it was back to normal, camped back in our half. Just before the final whistle a poor tackle from the ABs (anybody taking the blame for this??) and SAGA cut through to take the lead. The whisper from the crowd on the opposite side to the bench was b..geration!!

Ladies Vote was for Mike Wingent, with special mention to Mike Handley and Steve Taylor.



Benny Rafbone Steve Smith Bob Preece Carl Harrison Neil Ward
 John O'Reilly Sharm Dhaliwal Tony Swales Dave Carver
 Nirmal Singh Mark Eyke Martin Hall Harj Durha Paul Quinn
Graham Reynolds Phil Hall Paul Sharratt Paul Woodward Tony Perryman Richard Butcher Jon Beale Trevor Davies
 Allan Sutton Tom Etting Chris Kitto Trevor Denison
Clive Kendall Russell Gate Lee Baron Mike Christie Mike Handley John Chong
 Mike Wingent John Peirce Bruce Baron Dudley Walker

The 4th Game v SAGA 0 – 0

Prior to the game Cake made its appearance and did this subsequently slow down the ABs for the next 70 minutes or was it the alcohol from the night before or was it the lack of sleep or was it really because most of the ABs were still laughing after Steve Taylor made his apologies saying "I have to leave, sorry Guys, my wife's husband ...!!!!!" At this point most of the ABs were on the floor. The Umpires still decided that the game would take place.



ABs appeared to be tired after just a couple of minutes and their play was very sloppy with mistakes aplenty. There were no chances for either side but new Skipper Bruce Baron was working tirelessly in midfield, whilst Jon Beale was trying the reverse tango into the opposition, at least keeping his tackle clean today. SAGA attacked down the right side but a good clearance from Allan Sutton saved the day. This was followed by more SAGA pressure and a pass across the face of the ABs goal missed everybody, this time no call from a certain player!! A lot of the ABs play seemed to be “hit and hope” as passes were missing their destined target, whoever that was supposed to be!! A further attack from SAGA was looking dangerous but a timely intervention from Mike Christie cleared the danger. Just before the end of the first quarter Jon Beale set off but the whistle stopped him in his tracks – “damn and blast – that was looking promising” was the call from the WAGS.



It was time for Skipper Bruce Baron to “gee up” his squad after taking on water, but from the start of the 2nd quarter SAGA were on the attack again. This time John Chong was up to the task and the first chance he deflected for a long corner, followed by 2 further saves as SAGA kept up the pressure. A further SAGA attempt was then deflected onto the post by Phil Hall and ABs still had a clean sheet.

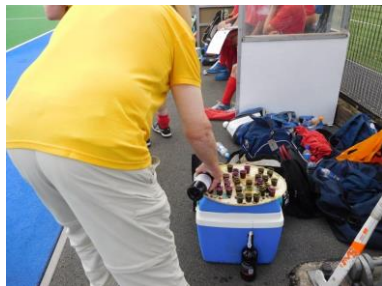
SAGA then had a further penalty corner and a goal bound shot from Martin Hall was saved by John Chong with the assistance of Phil Hall. It seemed like the oncoming tide was on its way as SAGA kept up the relentless pressure and partly a “rubbish pass” and good positioning by Allan Sutton averted the danger. Then all of a sudden ABs attacked. Perhaps it was the shock but SAGA didn’t seem too worried as a fine pass from Mike Christie via Jon Beale to Tom Ettling cleared the halfway line. A return ball to Phil, then to Paul Sharratt, to Jon Beale saw a half chance for John Peirce but the “poacher” needed to be the “whippet” if he was to beat the SAGA defence. SAGA had one final chance before half-time but together Allan Sutton, Phil Hall and John Chong kept the shot out.

Russell Gates entered the fray and immediately got involved with a fine tackle. SAGA regained control soon after and a snap shot as they entered the circle saw John Chong make a

fine save. It was at this point that the crowd on the far side became aware that keeper Richard Boutcher was on the pitch at right back and “good defending husband” as he got the ball out of danger. A good run the length of the pitch by Woody was stopped at the top of the circle, just as he was about to shoot. A slick move down the left saw more pressure on the SAGA defence with the final pass reaching Dudley but the ball was snatched from under his nose, allegedly. SAGA were soon back on the offensive as the game swung from end to end but today was John Chong’s as he foiled them yet again. SAGA attacked yet again but at the top of the circle, Phil intercepted and the attack broke down. A further SAGA attack down the right side came to nothing as Richard Boutcher tackled the winger. ABs then attacked down the right and Mike Wingent broke free but was sadly up-ended, but the decision went the other way – “I don’t believe it” said Mr Meldrew. The attacks continued but sterling work from Allan Sutton, Richard Boutcher and Phil Hall down the right hand side kept them at bay and outside the circle. As the quarter came to a close ABs were forced to defend in numbers and Mike Wingent was back to assist the defence.

One more quarter to go and ABs were on the rack. Could new Skipper Bruce Baron motivate the troops to give one last effort. From the crowd the ABs gave the appearance of looking a tad knackered. The last quarter began with Richard Boutcher now in an ABs top rather than his red winter-weight compression top so he should be feeling a lot cooler. ABs were immediately on the defensive as a dangerous shot across the face of the goal evaded the oncoming SAGA forwards – no “leave it” this time!! Mike Wingent and Mike Christie then linked up and attacked the SAGA defence but sadly were overcome as they became outnumbered. Tom Ettl and Paul Woodward tried the same down the left but came up with the same result. A further ABs move began with Richard Boutcher passing to Jon Beale with the final ball into Dudley Walker but the bounce won. More pressure soon followed as SAGA attacked and they won a penalty corner which John Chong saved. Sadly Phil tried to tidy up but not out of danger and the attack continued, fortunately John Chong came to the rescue and saved the day. SAGA then won another penalty corner and a good initial save from John Chong flew into the air and over his body but Phil Hall calmly cleared the danger from off the goal line. ABs were now reliant on holding out and good defending by Paul Woodward and Bruce Baron kept SAGA at bay, along with a good tackle by Allan Sutton. Finally SAGA attacked and yet again John Chong and Phil Hall managed to hold out for a 0-0 draw. PHEW.

The Ladies voted John Chong as Man of the Match, who was a very busy man; with a special mention for the Team for keeping a clean sheet.



Get the Port Trev!



Master of Ceremonies



Charles Atlas, I presume!

As we left the pitch it became obvious that someone had forgotten something. A solitary stick lay helpless and forlorn on the side by the halfway line. The President believed it was an AB stick but because he was leaving straight after the game the onus of responsibility fell on the broad shoulders of Mike Christie. This was also the first time that Mike Christie had left a pitch not only with his own kit but extra. When Mike asked around it became clear that our new Skipper realised that something was missing and owned up. Perhaps it was the pressure but at least he can play next time.

After both games it was time for the ABs to shower and leave Lilleshall for a short journey to the Pheasant Inn at Newport where Quinney was the Host. Thank you to all attendees and I hope you enjoyed the weekend.

Our thanks also to Trevor Davies for his organisation of the weekend; and to Tony Swales & Mike Savage for the SAGA Teams.

Attendees:

Richard & Diane Boutcher; Trevor & Angela Davies; Phil & Sandie Hall; David Read; Lee & Teri Baron; Chris & Jane Kitto; Russell Gates & Angela Castleton; John Peirce; Robin & Ruth Conway; Dudley Walker & Ann Lewis; Tony & Margaret Perryman; Mike & Lou Handley; Paul & Jackie Woodward; Mike & Lynne Christie; Steve Russell; Tom & Chris Ettlign; Bruce & Alison Baron; Richard Turner; Allan & Pam Sutton; Tom & Beryl Darlington; Mike & Sharon Wingent; Paul Sharratt & Karen Daly; Clive Kendall; Julia Greenhough; Trevor & Brenda Denison; Stephen & Linda Taylor; Jon & Marilyn Beale; Graham Reynolds.

