

CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
MINUTES OF THE 103rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET
CLUB HELD AT THE WINDMILL, TABLEY ON
20th NOVEMBER 2017

The meeting opened at 19:35 with the President, DW Sharp in the Chair.

Also present were DE Hastings (Hon. Secretary), KS McGuffie (Hon. Treasurer), Mrs D Babbage, PAG Babbage, LF Dixon, JW Law, FGS Macleod, C Murphy, A Newton, AB Percival, JL Petch, JB Pickup MBE, Mrs EM Scrimgeour and R Sproston.

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence in memory of ex-player WHR (Harry) Meageen as well as those Club Members and Supporters who had died during the previous year.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from the Chairman, D Bailey and Committee member D Leigh, and from members Mrs. S. Berry, R Cragg, Mrs. J Herbert, AJ Melville and M Roff.

2. MINUTES OF 102nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 21st NOVEMBER 2016

These were approved and signed by the President as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2016

The Hon. Treasurer said that the Examined Accounts to 30th November 2016 had been published on the web site. The Accounts showed an excess of expenditure over income of £536 compared with £3,925 in the previous year.

The Accounts for the year ending November 30th, 2015 were approved.

The President wished to record the Club's thanks to the Hon. Treasurer for his hard work in handling the finances of the Club in such a thorough and transparent manner.

5. FIXING OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was agreed that there would be no change in the Annual Subscription rates for the coming year.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Unfortunately, the Chairman was unwell and unable to attend the meeting but he had sent his report and this was read by the Hon. Secretary.

In it the Chairman said:-

"The summer of 2017 is now behind us and we begin to look forward to the coming season. As with each year there are many unknowns as new plans and approaches start to take shape with the eventual outcome of those projects essentially unknown. What is known is the intent behind them – to try and make Cheshire CCC the force and organisation on and off the field that it so richly deserves.

2017 was in the end a success with the County finishing second in the Western Division and reaching the quarter finals of the KO Trophy. A win against Staffordshire in the inaugural T20 Challenge match was encouraging and our thanks go to Nantwich for the excellent day they organised including the Academy match in the morning. Next year we play this match in Staffordshire.

My congratulations go out to all those who in a variety of ways contributed to the success. I would like to single out the arrival of Wayne White who as our professional was truly outstanding on the field and off the field. I understand that the Chairman of Cricket has already agreed terms with him for next season. That arrangement will allow other matters to be sorted.

We have for a few years now followed and updated the Development Plan which was set out to enable us all to have an awareness of our overall intentions and a target at which we could sight our endeavours. Within that plan is the guide for the selection of players – namely to have at least 8 players playing their cricket essentially within Cheshire or living in Cheshire, or established Cheshire players who have had to move away through work requirements. There is also the intention to shoot for the maximum where possible which has been achieved on many occasions. I highlight this aspect of our cricket because we are tired of “Chinese whispers from the boundary” making noise about players not being good enough and using the occasional player from outside. Should a player not qualifying under our rules want to play or be selected approval is needed from The Chairman (me). The Cricket Committee has to prove that there is no better player within the County boundaries before anyone from outside can be selected. A veto has been used on occasions but it can be difficult due to the challenges faced with availability.

A variety of enquiries are under way regarding the long journey to Cornwall next summer. Wherever it is played in Cornwall the need for an early start on the journey has proved to be essential as we have had little success. I hope we will get a positive answer shortly which will enable us to plan our transport efficiently and effectively.

Marketing for the raising of sponsorship for next summer is well under way and I welcome David Leigh, an ex County player and marketeer who has launched himself in to this formidable task already. Only time will tell if there is a positive outcome.

Whilst not a marketing exercise we are also looking at ways in which our profile can be improved within the leagues and the cricketing fraternity. We feel we should be more transparent and that our presence be of greater interest to all concerned. This will all help to improve the much needed and necessary support from the cricketing bodies within the County. It is already proposed, subject to committee approval, that the Committee will take a table at the League Presentation Dinner next season. Who knows we may even be able to make our seasonal awards at that dinner but this is not yet explored in detail.

Our second golf day went well again despite the appalling weather leading up to it which caused some last minute withdrawals and the consequent loss of much needed fund raising. Nevertheless we are grateful to Peter Babbage for all his considerable investment of time and to Rob Sproston who came in as an aide nearer the day. I understand they are now looking for possibly a different time of year to hold the tournament so keep your eyes focussed on the web site.

It is correct at this point to take the opportunity to thank Derrick Hastings for his invaluable work in maintaining the web site and keeping it turning over. I know there are many ways that this media can be used but there is only a limited time available to do it. My thanks must also go to Jim Law for his considerable use of experience and the written word in creating the match reports and producing little gems as and when required. His awareness of Twitter and Facebook along with other styles of modern communication are vital to us although a mystery to me!

Without fail after each home match we get letters of thanks from our visitors genuinely earmarking our hospitality and standards of grounds. We are forever grateful to our host clubs for both County and Academy matches for their hard work and attention to detail. What is also encouraging is the requests we regularly get for us to take a match to a new ground. We cannot always do this immediately but with the expanding Academy fixtures this is now more of a reality. In addition to the normal opposition the Academy played a Lancashire XI, the MCC, a good Indian Touring party and a strong Zimbabwean Touring team. These have already made noises about repeating the fixtures next summer.

An annual meeting is the ideal opportunity to thank those members of the committee who have selflessly given their time and effort in to the area of their chosen persuasion. To Peter Babbage who has an enormous job not only in selecting the right players but also those who are available – a nightmare which if not tackled at the earliest moment can leave the County side with an inferior representation. Second place last summer was a good reflection on his efforts and hopefully he can go one better next summer which as you all know has a change of competitions with the new T20 tournament, the 50 over KO reverting to a straight KO competition and the three day Championship matches being played late in the season.

A lot of the praise from our visitors to home matches is down to the sterling work that Elise Scrimgeour puts in as the Match Organiser in addition to her work as team secretary working closely with Peter.

Accountancy, you may be alarmed to hear, is not a subject with which I am very familiar! So it is just as well that in Keith McGuffie we have a man of strong principles, broad mind and excellent accounting skills which our Accountants benefit greatly from. As a committee we are better informed than most of the detailed cost of our operation. His use of the bicycle is a great cost saver!

I would like to thank our President who has in his first year in office achieved much and wasted nothing. His position with the Cricket Board has been of considerable help in understanding the background to many matters.

John Petch has slipped effortlessly in to his task as membership Secretary and regularly increase membership numbers to maintain our numbers overall. John, may we wish Anne a steady improvement and look forward to seeing you both on our away trips next season. In the interim may her improvement continue under your great support.

Derrick Hastings is an invaluable person to have around you. We all appreciate that. He has this summer had to put up with all sorts of proposals relating to the rearrangement of the cricket competitions. Now we have the new CPA – County Partnership Agreement meeting which we are attending at the end of the month with the Board and the ECB. We are very lucky to have someone who has a great interest in the game of cricket and who tends not to miss a trick except where there is real ale about!

I have left any specific cricketing comments for the Chairman of cricket to undertake as is this is his world!

Thank you all for your support during this season. I should just indicate that time does not stand still and the need to replenish existing members is ever present but also the need to introduce youth and new ideas is perhaps more paramount. Your thoughts and ideas are more than welcome.

My apologies for my absence – I assure you my presence would have been a germ spreading exercise!"

The Chairman of Cricket was pleased to be able to confirm that he had been in contact with Wayne White and that terms had been agreed for the use of his services next year.

7. ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS

The following candidates had been duly proposed and seconded before the meeting. As the posts were uncontested, all candidates were elected without the need for a vote.

Patron: TD Briggs MBE
President: DW Sharp
Chairman: D Bailey
Vice Chairman: JW Law
Honorary Secretary: DE Hastings
Honorary Treasurer: KS McGuffie

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Three positions on the Committee were available for election or re-election for a two year period.

Only three candidates had been proposed so PAG Babbage, FGS MacLeod and A Newton were elected without the need for a vote.

9. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS

The Hon. Treasurer proposed that Messrs. Murray Smith should be re-appointed. This was agreed.

10. OTHER APPOINTMENTS

In recognition of his services to the Club as a player and a Committee Member David Bailey had been nominated and seconded to be elected an Honorary Life Vice President.

This was warmly approved by all those present.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 19:50