



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIA A ZOOM CALL ON TUESDAY 27 APRIL AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: The meeting was attended by 107 Members including the Club's Patron, the Earl Bathurst.

WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Before the formal business of the evening commenced, the Chief Executive reported that, since the last Annual General Meeting, the Club had been notified of the death of the following Members: Mr J Ayres, Mr Geoffrey Beverley, Mrs M Bovey, Mr Bernard Brain, Mr Terence Carter, Mr Alfred Carty, Mrs June Cox, Mr Norman Guyatt, Mr Geoff Mains (former GCCC player), Mr Christopher Moon, Mr Mike Simpson, Dr Michael Symes, the Lord Vestey, Lady Vestey, Mr Anthony Williams and Mr R Wyman.

All would be sadly missed.

The Chairman then paid a warm tribute to the Lord Vestey who was the Club's Patron from 1997-2014. He was looked upon as an integral and much-loved part of the Gloucestershire cricket family. He regularly visited both the County Ground in Bristol and the Cheltenham Cricket Festival and will be remembered as a kind, friendly, generous and approachable man who was hugely popular with all at the Club. His presence, particularly at Lord's finals, was appreciated by everyone. The Lord Vestey died on 4 February, a few months after the death of his wife, Lady Vestey in November 2020.

The Chairman then spoke of Mr Mike Simpson; a Vice-President of the Club and stalwart of Gloucestershire Cricket who also served on the General Management and Sponsorship Committees. He was also Chair of the Bristol Region for several years and was integral in the planning and delivery of the highly popular Life Members' Day at the annual Cheltenham Cricket Festival and Berkeley Castle Dinner, raising thousands of pounds for the Club. Mr Simpson was a regular at matches (both home and away) and often was accompanied by his wife, Betty.

As this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was being held digitally, it was acknowledged that observing the usual one-minute silence in memory of those members who had died since the last AGM was would not be feasible. However, this would be arranged at the first home match when the Club was able to welcome back members.

Moving the main items on the Agenda:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chief Executive read out apologies for absence from the following Members: Dr Timothy Brain and Mr Chris Coleman

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated 20 October 2020 were:

Proposed by: Mr J Hollingdale

Seconded by: Mr D Jones

These were approved by a show of hands.

3. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive advised that he would be sharing a screen presentation whilst making his annual report.

The Chief Executive recognised the challenges and uncertainties that everyone had faced over the last year. He said the same had applied to the Club and that these uncertainties had led to multiple periods of replanning the season.

The Chief Executive congratulated Richard Dawson on his new role with England and thanked Ian for him taking over as Head Coach for the season.

The signing of Kraigg Brathwaite and Glenn Phillips were highlighted as key overseas players for the year ahead, alongside Dan Worrall. In addition James Bracey was mentioned specifically in respect of his contract extension with the Club and the hope that he would be recognised by England in the year ahead.

Progress around the ground and in our facilities was mentioned, including the Thatchers Bar. Despite the pandemic there was an appetite to invest and move our facilities forward with our membership and supporters in mind.

The return of players to training was highlighted including the important Covid testing they were being asked to do which had clearly prevented some illness across the squad. The Chief Executive noted that the schedule had now been published and that it was wonderful to see a full calendar of cricket and that it was just great to see three full tournaments and games taking place.

The new Chair at the ECB, Ian Watmore, was referenced as an individual who was both very engaging and very different from what we have seen from recent Chairs of the ECB.

Calls and communication with Members were highlighted; both those that had been made by the Club but also those that had been received. They meant a lot to the individuals concerned

Due to the pandemic unfortunately a lot of the ground had been forced to close, particularly the gym and all the conferencing and Christmas events all of which negatively impacted our finances.

The AGM was then presented with an update on the likely look of the season and what members could expect in terms of being able to physically attend matches and when; all based on government advice. Cheltenham was discussed and the Club stated its clear intent to proceed with the festival despite the challenges that it clearly presented.

The four International matches at Bristol; two Women's One Day Internationals against India and South Africa respectively (one at the end of June and one in September), our first ever Test match (England Women vs India Women) and the England Men vs Sri Lanka Men ODI were all highlighted as key moments in the year. .

Western Storm would be returning to a more full-time playing schedule in 2021 and the importance of Women's cricket was raised.

The new Club strategy was touched on, notably the importance of cricketing success, our community work, environmental sustainability, digital leadership and good governance around a sound financial framework were highlighted as fundamental to our future success.

The financial challenges of the year ahead were raised as a concern and the importance of ongoing revenue diversification was directly linked to the importance of providing a welcoming environment for all the diverse communities across the region – whether at the grounds or at touchpoints like our talent pathway.

4. TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2021

The Honorary Treasurer, Miss Rebecca (Becky) Watkin, summarised the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2021.

The Honorary Treasurer gave a summary of where the Club is financially. Last year was a very interesting one for the Club in every sense of the word, given the number of challenges we faced the Club had a much more positive financial performance than many of us could have dared hoped for when the pandemic hit in March 2020, generating a very healthy surplus of £331k. This positive financial performance has been achieved due to the generosity of our members by donations of memberships and the careful stewardship of the Executive Team at the Club, support from the ECB and local and central Government.

The Accounts demonstrate what an unusual year it has been with very little consistency across our finances from one year to the next. The key features of income are that the 2020 season represented the first year of the new County Partnership Agreement hence a big uplift in income from the ECB. The ODI that the Club was due to host was backed by insurance and therefore our accounts still show income of £594k in respect of that even though the game did not take place. And finally, as with many businesses, the Club has greatly benefitted from the Furlough Scheme and we can see £599k from Central Government from the effect of that.

With expenditure, all salary related items have been fairly consistent as we were able, thanks for the Furlough Scheme, to continue to pay all employees. The other main feature is that investing in the Talent Pathway was a key feature of the new County Partnership Agreement and hence expenditure in that area went up quite significantly last year. Squad expenditure did dip last year but that was only really due to the fact that we were not able to employ any overseas players due to the pandemic and you can see that the budget for this current season we are now in had gone back up as we continued to invest in the squad.

The surplus of £331k has resulted in an improved reserves position and we move ever closer to our debt to reserves ratio of 1 and we are now at 1.03.

Despite this positive in our finances the uncertainty of the pandemic, the government roadmap and the broader games finances meant that there were still significant challenges ahead and our long term resilience will be key.

Questions:

Hugh Kirkbride asked a question about the importance of stewarding and the sensitivities sometimes required in that role. Will Brown, in response, agreed that stewards should be friendly and approachable. He highlighted the particularly difficult job they faced this year with crowds returning for the first time in over a year and also the key responsibility they had first and foremost in keeping everyone safe. Ongoing training and development was available for all stewards with a big focus on creating a welcoming environment and he encouraged members to keep the Club informed of their experiences.

In response to a question about the citizenship status of Graeme van Buuren, Will Brown outlined the steps Graeme had to take to get his citizenship and the support that he had been given. He confirmed Graeme was available as an overseas player but that the Club were working with Graeme to become English qualified asap.

There was a questions about membership packages and their late arrival and the Chief Executive thanked members for their patience whilst this was resolved. Will very much hoped that despite the restrictions that everybody should be able to come to the cricket they want to come to this year even with restrictions in place.

Jack Jones asked a question about the price of membership for young adults and highlighted the National rail scheme of Under 25's as a positive example and suggested a young adult scheme that went to the age of 30. In response the Chief Executive said this would be taken away for further consideration but they were very sensitive to the financial situation of many as a result of the pandemic. There was further conversation about further student group schemes that were being explored.

Chris Budd asked a question about the Hundred, what the Club earned from it and the potential impact on T20 crowds.

In response the Chief Executive acknowledged the £1.3m received from the ECB as a direct link back to the Hundred. He also emphasised the importance of ensuring the T20 Blast remained relevant and vibrant and that the increased amount of money being spent on the Hundred didn't negatively impact T20 Blast marketing.

There was a question about support around furloughed members of staff, particularly in terms of mental health. The importance of the Club Psychologist, Dave Alcock was highlighted – as someone who worked with both playing and non-playing staff. The challenges of working remotely and during furlough were also noted.

There was a question about returning tickets that may have been booked as a member if that member couldn't attend a match. Members were encouraged to notify the Club asap if this was the case so the tickets could be released.

Brian Mason asked a question about diversity of attendees at matches and what the Club could do to be representative of the local communities. The Chief Executive acknowledged this and stressed again that the current position needed to change and this further raised the importance of working with diverse local communities. The prospect of more news on that was raised and the Chief Executive trailed an upcoming piece of news relating to African Caribbean communities and cricket. The importance of players such as Kraigg Brathwaite were emphasised alongside diversifying our own pathway. The environment and facilities of the ground were also discussed including our food offering, prayer rooms and toilet facilities.

Adrian Thomas asked for clarification of the overseas player situation which was explained.

Adrian Thomas then asked a further question about access to member's facilities during the season as a result of Covid restrictions. Will Brown responded with an update on particularly the pavilion facilities including the ongoing use of the premier lounge for premier club members, the use of the Grace and Jessop as changing rooms and limited walking access at the front of the pavilion.

Adrian Thomas stated that he was very pleased that we would be opening our gates for both members and visiting supporters as he was aware of a number of county venues who had been forced to limit attendance to home members only.

There was a question about the possibility of a Club Chaplain which was met warmly and the initial conversations Richard Dawson had undertaken around this were relayed.

There were a series of further questions relating to the return of the ice cream vans to the ground, what gates would be open for members to use, what car parking would be available and the timing of distribution of tickets and ground access details.

John Hollingdale brought the questions section to a close and thanked all contributors for their input.

5. INTERIM HEAD COACH'S REPORT

Ian Harvey was introduced by John Hollingdale as Interim Head coach to take his report and any questions arising from it.

Ian commented on the outstanding nature of the first two wins and the resolute batting performance in the draw against Hampshire

Ian detailed how the Club had gone about finding overseas players for the season and the importance of players like Kraigg (Brathwaite) who could provide experience, leadership and the ability to "bat deep" into a match.

The rise of James Bracey and his success was highlighted by Ian and he very much believed that he could get an England call-up in the summer but that also the likes of Chris Dent and Ryan Higgins should be considered.

Dom Goodman and the impact he'd had on the early matches of the season were shown as a real upside for the Club.

John Nicholls asked a question about the wicket for the Surrey Match and its quality. Ian Harvey responded by saying he thought it was exceptional and hoped it would be the standard for the remainder of the season.

In response to a question for Alan Payne the challenges of keeping wicket and batting in the top 3 were discussed and the opportunity of having a second wicket keeper in Glenn Phillips was seen as a positive.

The fitness of Ben Charlesworth was raised as a question with a 3-4 month timeline put against his recovery.

Matt Davies asked a question about the likely configuration of the divisions in 2022. Will Brown highlighted the assurances they'd sought from the ECB previously on that basis of which the 2019 final positions would likely form the divisions for 2022 with Gloucestershire in Division One.

John Bennett asked a question about spin bowlers coming through to which Ian Harvey highlighted Ollie Price as a strong contender.

Gerald Heather asked a question about Miles Hammond and his availability – Ian Harvey updated on a side strain injury Miles had and his return to fitness.

Matt Davies asked about streaming and any plans to seek payment for it. Will Brown said this was not the case at the moment and that streaming would be available for free for the 2021 season.

Adrian Thomas asked about the impact of the Hundred on the 50 over competition. Ian Harvey acknowledged that we would definitely lose players but that this gave us a chance to continue to develop younger players such as Dom Goodman.

John Hollingdale thanked Ian for his update and his presence at the AGM that evening.

6. ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021

The Chairman explained that due to his decision to stand down from the Executive Board a vacancy had become available. There was only one nomination and the individual who had been nominated was Mr Mark Brunt who was proposed by Ms Sarah Blowen and seconded by Mr Roger Gibbons.

As an introduction to Mr Brunt, the Chairman explained that he was brought up in Stroud and moved away from the county for work but never lost his sporting roots, supporting Gloucestershire Cricket and Gloucester Rugby. He played cricket wherever he has lived and was active in local schools and youth cricket. His main connection with the Club, as well as being a member, is being a Committee Member of the Gloucestershire Exiles and for 10 years he has edited the Exiles' Cricket Magazine and is currently Secretary of that organisation. He welcomed Mark to the Executive Board and, as the only candidate, he was duly elected.

7. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

The Chairman announced that the Executive Board wished to appoint Ms Sarah Blowen as an additional Vice Presidents of the Club; proposed by Mr David Jones and seconded by Mr David Mclauchlan. He said that many members would know that Ms Blowen is the current Chair of the Gloucestershire Exiles, which has been a vibrant part of the Club for many years. One of its biggest achievements is delivery of the annual Exiles Day at the Cheltenham Cricket Festival, which is an excellent event, which raises a considerable amount of funds for the Club. Ms Blowen's appointment was approved by a show of hands.

8. TO APPOINT AUDITORS FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

Nomination: Messrs Saffrey Champness LLP.

The Chairman reported that this nomination had been proposed by Ms Becky Watkin (Hon. Treasurer) and seconded by Mr Adrian Britton. This was approved by a show of

hands and Messrs Saffrey Champness LLP were, accordingly, appointed as Auditors of the Club for the next financial year.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

In concluding the meeting, the Chairman announced that as this was his last meeting, he wished to say a few words.

He reported that he had enjoyed his time on the Executive Board over the last five years despite the last 13 months being overshadowed by the Covid-19 Pandemic. He assured members that the Club was in a solid financial position and performances on the field were exciting.

Will Brown has been the CEO throughout the Chairman's tenure and he said how much he had enjoyed working with him. He wished to commend him for his dedication to the Club and all its stakeholders.

The Chairman also mentioned Richard Dawson, who left the Club at the end of March. Richard, and now Ian Harvey, in his opinion, had created an inspirational group of players who were raising expectations every year. Promotion in 2019 to Division One of the Championship and reaches Finals Day in the Vitality Blast in 2020, has been followed by a great start to the 2021 campaign. These are achievements that everyone at the Club can be proud of and, more importantly, give everyone a belief that more can be done on the future.

The Chairman thanked his colleagues on the Executive Board who have been a great team in supporting the Chief Executive and members of the Executive Team in many and varied ways. The Executive is made up of members who possess a great range of skills, it's much more diverse and the business itself has benefited from the wide range of skills now brought to it.

Finally, the Chairman thanked Mr David Jones who succeeds him as Chair of the Club. Mr Jones has been Deputy Chair of the Club throughout Mr Hollingdale's time as Chair and has worked closely with the Chief Executive and himself during this period and has now been elected by the Executive Board to become Chair of the Club.

Mr Hollingdale closed his address by thank those Members who had attended this year's Annual General Meeting for the support shown to him during his term of office.

Mr David Jones followed by saying how lucky the Club was to have Will Brown as its CEO and the Executive Team of Piero Stobbia, Neil Priscott, Bernard Cooke, Jane Chappell, Lizzie Allen and Ian Harvey. Having lived through the Covid-10 Pandemic for the last 13 months, he and Mr Hollingdale had met with the CEO at least two times per week and had become very well acquainted with him over that time. He highlighted what had been achieved above and beyond keeping the Club afloat and the debt owed to John Hollingdale for navigating the Club through the last few years. He congratulated John on the legacy of a great Executive Board and how excited all were to welcome Mark Brunt onto the Board.

David Jones in addressing his new role as Chair also congratulated Steve Nelson in becoming elected as Deputy Chair alongside Becky Watkin as treasurer. He also thanked

Roger Gibbons for his service as president and was delighted to announce that he would be extending his tenure as president for a further year.

David Jones talked a little about the future and the challenges of “resumption” and also how much everyone was looking forward to welcoming members back into the Club; highlighting how it was the supporters who transformed our grounds from playing fields to clubs. David discussed the desire to reduce reliance on the ECB but also, picking up on Brian Mason’s earlier question how important it was to broaden the communities we work with, having a real focus on equality, diversity and inclusion.

In conclusion David Jones thanked everyone for their ongoing support and for attending the call and wished them a very healthy, one hopes, 2021 season.

Signed:

Dated: