



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB LIMITED
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2022 AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT: The meeting was attended by 56 Members

WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Before the formal business of the evening commenced, the Chair and Chief Executive invited the attendees to join them in a minutes silence to remember those members and those close to the Club who had passed away in the prior year. All would be sadly missed.

Moving to the main items on the Agenda:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chief Executive read out apologies for absence where they had been received.

- a. *Peter Jubb*
- b. *Roger and Sue Cooke*
- c. *Marie Journeaux*
- d. *Sir Robert Moreland*
- e. *Rex and Wendy Body*
- f. *John Nation*
- g. *Martyn Ellis*

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27 APRIL 2021

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated 27 April 2021 were proposed, seconded and approved by a show of hands.

3. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

After an introduction from the Chair in which he outlined the challenges and opportunities facing cricket and a Club like Gloucestershire the Chair then invited the Chief Executive to present a brief executive update.

The Chief Executive started by focusing on the significant developments within the cricket department, notably the appointment of Steve Snell and Dale Benkenstein. Further increased investment in the squad was also highlighted.

The return of a “full” season of cricket was celebrated as was the potential for full crowds at Bristol and Cheltenham.

The focus on the Club’s community work was discussed and 2022 was highlighted as a strategic imperative for the Club. The importance of providing a welcoming environment for all visitors was seen as essential.

New partnerships (e.g. New Balance (kit)) and facility improvements were listed.

With regards the ECB, the prospect of a new ECB Chair and the “High performance review” were detailed as was the new broadcast deal.

4. TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2022

The Honorary Treasurer, Miss Rebecca (Becky) Watkin, summarised the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2022.

The Honorary Treasurer gave a summary of where the Club is financially. The prior year had remained very challenging and there had been significant variances across the year.

Some of the key external support that had been received in 2020 was less available in the 2021 season but the Treasurer was still pleased to report a surplus of £92k.

In addition the debt equity ratio dropped to 0.95 putting the Club ahead of it’s long-term target of a debt equity ratio of 1:1.

As positives the treasurer highlighted areas such as the strength of Membership support, the increasing levels of sponsorship income, investment into the talent pathway and the £60k of refunds received relating to a property dispute.

On the negative side the ongoing costs of delivering cricket in a “COVID” environment were highlighted alongside the reduced capacity for the England vs Sri Lanka ODI and the impact of the pandemic on trading days for BS7 gym.

The continued investment into the squad and expenditure around cricket was highlighted, in part, to support the Club’s return to Division 1 County Championship cricket.

With reference to the 2022/23 financial year it was acknowledged that this would be a very challenging year financially and that with the additional investment (particularly around cricket) that we were starting the year forecasting a deficit.

The acceptance of the accounts and report were proposed, seconded and approved by a show of hands.

Questions:

Phil Bailey / David Payne: A question around how members will be consulted during the upcoming Andrew Strauss review.

David Jones responded by outlining the make-up of the current board with an emphasis on the member elected positions.

David Jones and Will Brown emphasised that once they knew more about the process they would update members on any consultation process.

Mike Chant: A question about toilet facilities.

Will Brown responded with an acknowledgement that the toilet facilities in 2021 had been significantly sub-standard and that investment had been made into the other facilities around the ground and would continue to be made throughout the season.

A question about the loss of seats on the Hammond Roof and the impact on members of the new Korev terrace.

David Jones, Will Brown and former board member, David Partridge explained that the Hammond Roof had been declared unsafe and that the load bearing of it would not allow for the full range of seating. David Jones then also highlighted the impact of inflation on the funding streams at the Club and the need for more commercial activity.

Tim Wye: A question about the nature of our resident relationships

Will Brown responded by saying that resident relationships had definitely moved forward in recent times, especially with the new community team in place. There had been and in some cases there remained some challenges relating to some build work undertaken during the pandemic in order to mitigate the impact of Covid but things had broadly improved.

Hugh Kirkbride: A question about the ECB. Having seen criticism of the ECB from DCMS for a conflict of interest in being both "regulator and administrator". Did the Club feel that the ECB needed to be restructured?

David Jones responded by emphasising the importance of good governance and the challenges presented by the ECB who have reacted to a huge crisis. There were certain conflicts that existed at the ECB with roles covering both communication and EDI which seemed a mistake. Focusing on the governance of GCCC David Jones emphasised the need for fairness in all we do and ensuring that we "do the right thing" rather than "doing things right".

Steve Nelson, Deputy Chair, was also asked to comment on the question and he reemphasised what David Jones had said but also relating this to other sports was key to understand there were national issues also at play.

Adrian Thomas: A question about floodlights and whether we had them for every single game this year.

Will Brown explained that the Club was in active discussions with the council on this subject and that despite the reasonable nature of the ask that developments around the ground remained a sensitive issue and the timing and nature of any application would be key.

Jack Jones: A question on young adult membership

Having congratulated the Club on offering the Under 25 membership it was suggested that the Club could consider extending this to U30's. Payment plans were also raised.

Will Brown responded by noting that payment plans already did exist and that we would also be offering "free after tea" for county championship matches in 2022.

Neil Priscott (Deputy CEO) responded on the sub 30 year old membership and said that we needed to review all of our membership categories and understand our data and our members needs better before we proposed changes like that.

Alan Payne: A question on the value of sponsorship and the value of our ground naming rights deal in particular.

Sponsorship numbers were reported as £302k for the financial year ending 31st January 2022 and that they were already ahead of that for 2022/23.

No specific number was put alongside the ground naming rights deal but that it was the largest sponsorship deal in the Club's history.

Mark: A question on members guest tickets and the process of how they can be allocated.

It was agreed that this would be reviewed later in the season.

Stephen Gregg & others: A question on whether the ground would remain cash / paperless and also include the re-printing of yearbooks

There was a lengthy discussion between members and representatives of the Club about whether or not the ground would be accepting cash in 2022 and also whether they would accept paper tickets.

The Club stated that paper tickets would be accepted although the Club would not be providing them directly but could provide a facility for those that didn't have emails or phone access.

Cash would not be accepted and there were no plans to print yearbooks due to both sustainability and cost / resource concerns.

Matt Windows asked a question on whether we could be penalised by the ECB for not focusing on sustainability

Will Brown confirmed that whilst this might not be the case for 2022 there was a strong chance that from 2023 onwards that the ECB may well penalise and / or reward counties for their sustainability credentials.

There was a further debate about the relationship with the ECB and their role / authority over Clubs which concluded when David Jones brought the questions section to a close and thanked all contributors for their input.

5. PERFORMANCE DIRECTORS REPORT

Steve Snell started with a brief overview of the preparations for the 2022 season including the recruitment of the Dale Benkenstein and a number of new signings.

He also spoke about the differences and challenges faced by cricket in comparison to other sports and how the investment into cricket was increasing across the game. He detailed his 4 main areas of responsibility: The Professional Squads, the Talent Pathway, Cricket Administration and Science and Medicine.

An overview of the squads was given and the importance of Graeme Van Buuren and Jack Taylor in their captaincy roles was highlighted.

Questions:

A question about Naseem Shah and his fitness

Steve Snell outlined his injury and the need for the Club to manage it carefully and not just put our own needs ahead of his own welfare. Members would be updated shortly.

6. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

The constitutional change which saw the removal of the permanent board seat held by a member of the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation (GCF) (formerly the GCB) to be replaced by a new co-opted member position was proposed.

The proposed constitutional changes were proposed, seconded and approved by a show of hands.

7. TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CLUB'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

- The Chair explained that John Nicholls chose not to stand again for the Board but thanked him for all his contributions.
- The Chair explained that as only two nominations had been received by the required date no ballot had been required.
- ***Mr Matt Windows therefore continues his role on the board and Miss Becky Watkin moves from a co-opted to a member position on the Board.***

6. APPOINTMENT OF CLUB PRESIDENT

The Chair started by acknowledging the great work and support of Roger Gibbons who had been Club president for the previous 3 years and at a point of enormous challenge for the Club and the wider game.

It was then announced that the Executive Board had elected former player, David Lawrence, as the next Club president. The president then said a few words of thanks and outlined his ambitions for this time in the role.

The members present endorsed this appointment with a show of hands and a round of applause.

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)

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 conclusion David Jones thanked everyone for their ongoing support and for attending the meeting, wishing them all the best for the season ahead.

Signed:

Dated: