



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB LIMITED

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE GRACE ROOM, THE BRISTOL COUNTY GROUND, NEVIL ROAD, BRISTOL BS7 9EJ ON TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2019 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT: The meeting was attended by 63 Members.

WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting including the Club's Patron, the Earl Bathurst, Club President Mrs Marie Journeaux, together with former Chairmen and Presidents of the Club, Mr Rex Body and Mr John Light.

Also in attendance were Head Coach, Richard Dawson, Club Captain, Chris Dent who were accompanied by James Bracey and Chris Liddle from the playing staff.

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: Miss J Barnes, Mrs E Bascombe, Mrs J Blowen, Mr A Bowman, Mr W Broom, Mr P Bryan, Mr D Davies, Mr L Davies, Mr G Heaney, Mr A Hudleston, Mr J Jarvis, Mr R Lev, Mr I McKay, Mrs J Martindale, Mrs S Newman, Miss J Newport, Mr A O'Brien, Mr P Owers, Mr R Page, Mr C Proudman, Mr H Slade, Mrs J Smith, Mr C Surch, Mr J Trott, Mr R Underhill, Mr A Wellman and Mrs A White.

All would be sadly missed.

In remembrance, Members stood for a minute's silence.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chief Executive read out apologies for absence from the following Members:

Sir Robert Morland, Dr Keith Crabtree, Mr Mark Brunt, Mr Chris Coleman, Mr Martyn Ellis, Ms Pauline Gillard, Mr Ian Herdman, Mr Peter Lapping, The Rev. Mrs Penny Light, Mrs Shirley Main, Alderman Dr Bill Martin, Mrs Sue Martin, Mr David Morrison, Mr Stephen Nelson, Mr David Partridge, Mr Aiden Rose, Mrs Pat Rose, Mr Dickie Rossiter, Mrs Betty Simpson, Mr Albert Smetham, Mr Adrian Thomas, Mrs Val Whitfeld, Mr Geoff Wyatt and Mrs Pam Wyatt.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20 APRIL 2018

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated 20 April 2018 were:

Proposed by: Mr M Simpson

Seconded by: Mrs M Journeaux

These were approved by a show of hands.

Before moving to the main items on the Agenda, the Chairman explained that, historically, the process of electing the Club's Chairman took place at a meeting of the Club's Executive Board (normally at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting). This year, however, he advised that that meeting had already taken place in order to facilitate an announcement being made at this evening's Annual General Meeting.

Mr Cooke was, therefore, delighted to announce that his successor as Chairman of the Club was Mr John Hollingdale (current Honorary Treasurer and Deputy Chairman). Further, Mr David Jones had been elected as the Club's new Deputy Chairman with Ms Rebecca Watkin taking over as the Club's Honorary Treasurer. He congratulated all three on their appointments and wished them well for the future.

The Chairman also made mention of three new Board Members. Mr Adrian Britton, Mrs Kathryn Davis and Mr Stephen Nelson had all been co-opted onto the Club's Executive Board with effect from 7 March 2019 following a rigorous recruitment campaign.

The Chairman then paid tribute to Dr Timothy Brain (who had stepped down as Deputy Chairman of the Club in December 2018). Dr Brain was thanked for the huge contributions he had made to Gloucestershire Cricket during his many years serving on the Club's Executive Board.

3. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive referred to a presentation he had prepared for tonight's meeting. Before showing this, he took the opportunity to talk of the significant changes the game was about to witness in line with proposed new tournaments and the impact of expected new ECB and ICC strategies.

He reminisced about the end of the 2018 season and the exciting run Gloucestershire had experienced in red ball cricket following one of the most memorable Cheltenham Cricket Festivals. Qualifying for the Quarter Finals of the Vitality Blast was a tremendous achievement and he paid tribute to the playing squad for reaching that stage of the tournament once more.

Tribute was also paid to Western Storm (the Kia Super League Team Gloucestershire Cricket co-runs with Somerset County Cricket Club and Exeter University). He explained how they had become the leading professional Women's Cricket Team in the country and applauded their achievement of being the only team to have made Final's Day each year since the League's inception in 2016. Going into this, the final year of the Kia Super League, he wished them continued success.

The Club had also enjoyed another successful Cheltenham Cricket Festival in 2018; the weather had been glorious and both four day Championship games had gone to their last session. It was also pleasing to note how much national press coverage last year's Festival had generated.

The International T20 match between England and India had also been another notable occasion; tickets had sold out within two weeks of going on sale with fans witnessing good cricket, weather, and an amazing atmosphere.

The Chief Executive then updated the meeting on the many cricket programmes run by the Gloucestershire Cricket Board (GCB), also acknowledging the high esteem in which they are held by the England and Wales Cricket Board. The GCB, who the County Club continues to work closely alongside, oversee much of the development and recreational side of the game (including Women's and Girls' cricket). They are headed up by Kevin Langley (Chairman) and Steve Silk (CEO).

He then updated the meeting on the proposed County Partnership Agreement and the exciting opportunities surrounding this initiative. This shared strategy of County Club and Board would be presented to the ECB later this year.

The Chief Executive was also pleased to report that Gloucestershire Cricket will help to develop the best young players from Wiltshire following the agreement of a formal partnership between the two Counties. This partnership (which will initially run for a period of six years) will see former Gloucestershire player – and current Head of Talent Pathway, Tim Hancock – take over the running of Wiltshire's Emerging Player Programme (EPP) which provides additional coaching for the County's most talented 13-17 year olds. Over the last two years, Gloucestershire has run Wiltshire's EPP in the north of the county with Hampshire overseeing the programme in the south. But, under the new agreement, Gloucestershire will become Wiltshire's sole performance cricket partner.

Turning to Governance, the Chief Executive reported on the progress being made by the ECB and the steps the Club had also taken in this regard, particularly considering the recent Executive Board appointments of Adrian Britton, Kathryn Davis, Stephen Nelson and Rebecca Watkin. He went on to describe how important this area was both for our position as a County and for our standing throughout the wider game.

In terms of ground improvements, the Chief Executive reported on the plans to invest circa £500k. This included refurbishment of both the BS7 Gym and the Sports Hall with an emphasis on improving the playing staff facilities. An active programme for the relaying of several pitches at the Bristol County Ground had also been scheduled for the coming winter. In addition, some hybrid pitches had also been installed in the training nets. This investment programme will be on-going with resources also being channelled into other areas of the business to ensure the team is prepared and ready to deliver what is going to be a massive two years for the Club.

Another welcome feature would be an upgrade to Member Areas which would include new seating for the Hammond Roof and a refurbishment of the Hammond Bar.

The year ended 31 January 2019 had been a challenging year financially. The Chief Executive went on to explain how the deficit for the year under review had been expected and the reasons for this. Further, he assured Members that it should be seen in the context of a planned surplus for the current financial year.

Looking ahead to the season, a full domestic and International programme had been scheduled. Members could look forward to two tourist games with Australia A, both Men's and Women's International cricket plus Under 19 fixtures at the Cheltenham Cricket Festival.

With three teams to be promoted in the County Championship, the 2019 season heralded a wonderful opportunity for the team.

Off the field, the Chief Executive described the changes to personnel in both the Commercial and Operations Departments. A Tom Jones concert had also been arranged for 13 July and, to-date, some 12,000 tickets for that event had already been sold.

During the May Bank Holiday weekend, the Club looked forward to hosting Lancashire CCC in a County Championship fixture to be played at the Cheltenham College Ground. This fixture would be played on the College Square as opposed to the County Square and Members were assured of a warm welcome.

Turning to income generation, the Chief Executive explained that approximately 61% of the Club's revenue came from a centralised source via the ECB and ICC. By bidding for (and winning) International Cricket the Club was in a stronger position to continue its investment in our domestic cricket programme. Additional revenue was expected to come into the game from 2020 via a new broadcast deal. Although a headline figure of £1.3m per First Class County had been reported on this would, in fact, amount to less in real terms once expenditure had been factored in.

In regard to Community Work, the Chief Executive explained how the charitable work the Club undertakes will become a bigger part of the Club's strategic plans going forward.

Members were then invited to watch a video relating to the ICC Cricket World Cup Trophy Tour. To celebrate the diversity of the teams taking part, the Club (in conjunction with the Gloucestershire Cricket Board and Bristol City Council) had arranged for this event to take place in St Mark's Road, Bristol; some 800 people from different faiths, cultures and backgrounds were in attendance.

Turning to Women's and Girl's cricket, the Chief Executive explained the changes envisaged for the Women's game going forward with the Bristol County Ground planning to become one of the eight centres of excellence.

In closing his report, the Chief Executive touched on the new Men's tournament – the 100 – and explained that he and Mr David Jones were both members of ECB working groups. Despite not being a venue for this tournament, our involvement ensures that the interests of non-host venues are heard.

4. TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2019

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr John Hollingdale, summarised the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2019.

In regard to the reported deficit, he stressed the importance of this being taken in context. The Club had been aware for some time that the 2018 season would be financially challenging and several factors could be attributed to this. Principally, the lack of International Cricket at the Bristol County Ground – there had been no Women’s World Cup matches and only one Men’s International (as opposed to two the previous year) coupled with a drop in sponsorship income for International Cricket together with a reduction of ECB and other related income.

For the current financial year, ECB income is expected to increase significantly to around £3,800m compared to £2,700m this year. As a result, the Honorary Treasurer was confident that the Club would be reporting a surplus for the year ending 31 January 2020 that would more than compensate for this year’s deficit.

Overall, expenditure had been reasonably well controlled although expenditure on the playing squad had increased in the knowledge of an increase in income from the ECB.

The Honorary Treasurer explained that the reported deficit for 2019 had also impacted on the Club’s Balance Sheet position. He reminded Members of the target to achieve a ratio of 1:1 in regard to borrowings and reserves. With a deficit of over £400k that reduced reserves and although indebtedness had also come down it meant that the debt reserve ratio had increased slightly to 1.4 at the end of 2019 compared to 1.26 last year and 1.38 in 2017.

In the current year, a substantial increase in reserves was anticipated and with a continuing reduction in debt, the Club should be much nearer in achieving the debt reserve ratio of 1, which remains our target.

The Honorary Treasurer was confident that the Club was on a good track and things should come much better this year.

The Accounts for the financial year ended 31 January 2019 were:

Proposed by: The Earl Bathurst

Seconded by: Mr R Gibbons

They were adopted by a show of hands.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive and Honorary Treasurer for their respective presentations and opened the meeting up to general questions.

QUESTIONS

Mr John Light raised a concern on how the new 100 Tournament might affect the Cheltenham Cricket Festival in 2020.

Although not yet confirmed, the Chief Executive explained that the schedule for 2020 looked likely to commence at the beginning of April with County Championship Cricket which would continue through to the end of September (with a six week break from the middle of July to the end of August). T20 cricket was expected to commence at the end of May or early June, continuing through to the middle of July. The reason for both these tournaments to break in July was to allow for the 100 Tournament and 50 over cricket to take place from the end of July to mid-August; these matches to be played in parallel. Currently, the impact (if any) on the Cheltenham Cricket Festival was not known, but he assured Members that discussions had already taken place with the ECB about the potential opportunity of playing County Championship, T20 and 50 over cricket again at Cheltenham. Alternatively, we hoped for two County Championship matches which would run alongside T20 and, say, International U19's or Women's games. He stressed this was a hope and not an expectation.

Mr Robert Moreland made an impassioned plea for the return of First Class Cricket in Gloucester.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that taking cricket on the road had not been a viable option for many years either logistically or economically. However, he believed a return to grounds, such as Gloucester, may one day happen and the County Club would endeavour to assist those local clubs with an element of preparedness.

Mr John Light asked how people in the centre and north of the county (who are not members and do not look at the Club's website) find out about the exciting cup matches that are played here in Bristol.

The Chief Executive was pleased to announce that the Club had recently appointed Shane McGannon as a new full time Media Executive. As part of his role, Shane would actively engage with local media with a view to highlighting the playing programme and create stories about what excites people to come and watch cricket.

In answer to a question raised by **Mr Bill Griffin** the Chief Executive explained what actions the Club was taking to address the loss of the main ground sponsor, and in securing a new sponsor for the Cheltenham Cricket Festival. Joe Kaniecki had recently joined the Club as our Business Development Manager; both he and the Commercial Team were working hard to secure new sponsorship deals.

The Chief Executive assured **Mr Peter Max** that there is a consensus that we do not want to devalue 50 over cricket as a result of the new 100 Tournament whilst accepting the fact that some of our players may not be available for the 50 over campaign.

Mr Gerald Heather congratulated the Club on reinstating the County flag poles; although it was disappointing to note that a number of visiting teams had not brought their Club Flags along with them.

5. HEAD COACH'S REPORT

The Chairman introduced the Head Coach, Richard Dawson.

The Head Coach updated the meeting on the squad's pre-season preparation and, in particular, the training camp which had taken place in La Manga, Spain (the first overseas tour the playing squad had collectively undertaken in over 10 years); some competitive cricket had been played with the trip also affording a great opportunity for team building coupled with 10 days of intensive training.

The Head Coach spoke of a tough start to the 2019 season and referred to a number of injuries that had beset a few members of the playing squad, including Stuart Whittingham and Dan Worrell.

In answer to a question from the floor, the Head Coach explained how the Club was working in conjunction with Cricket Australia in managing Dan Worrell's current injury.

Mr Dawson was pleased to announce the arrival of David Bartlett who had joined the Club from Middlesex CCC as Head Physiotherapist; he was acknowledged as a great addition to the team.

The Head Coach was proud of the work the playing squad was undertaking in the community, working alongside Pete Lamb (Head of Community Engagement) not only in helping to raise the profile of the Club but highlighting the charitable work it undertakes.

The Head Coach accepted an observation made by **Mr John Light** that the wicket produced for the recent Derbyshire Championship Match lacked bounce. He reiterated a point made earlier by the Chief Executive that work on the square was scheduled to take place during the 2019-2020 off season, which he welcomed.

In answer to a question raised by **Mr John Nicholls**, the Head Coach reported that Chris Rogers (former Australian Test Cricketer) had recently returned to Australia having spent the past month in Bristol with the playing squad.

In closing his address, the Head Coach said that the aim for 2019 was to play good cricket and progress the achievements made last year. He advocated that the role of the Coaching Staff was to continue developing and bringing through young players from the Cricket Academy, adding players where we can to strengthen the squad.

6. ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2019

The Chairman explained the rationale behind the Members' Ballot for the 2019 Executive Board Election Process and introduced Mr Kevin Jones of Messrs Clarke Willmott (the Club's legal advisers) to announce the results:

Mr Jones confirmed the results as follows:

Mr Matthew Windows 302 votes (elected)
Mr John Nicholls 192 votes (elected)
Mr Stephen Patch 135 votes

The Chairman congratulated Mr Nicholls and Mr Windows on their election to the Club's Executive Board and thanked Mr Patch for putting his name forward.

Proposed: Mr R Body
Seconded: Mrs W Body

This was endorsed by a show of hands.

7. ELECTION OF CLUB PRESIDENT (2019-2021)

Before announcing the President of Gloucestershire County Cricket Club for the period 2019-2021, the Chairman paid a warm tribute to Mrs Marie Journeaux; the first woman to have been elected as President. Mrs Journeaux had been a great ambassador for the Club during her tenure.

Mrs Journeaux thanked the Board for the honour of asking her to be President. She had enjoyed the previous two years immensely and thanked everyone for the support she had been given.

The Chairman announced that the Club's new President would be Mr Roger Gibbons.

Proposed: Mr J West
Seconded: Mr A Payne

This was endorsed by a show of hands.

8. TO APPOINT AUDITORS FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

Nomination: Messrs Saffrey Champness LLP as Auditors of the Club for the next financial year.

Proposed: Mr R Body
Seconded: Mr B Griffin

This was approved by a show of hands.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The Chairman invited Mr John Hollingdale to speak.

Mr Hollingdale thanked Mr Roger Cooke for the tremendous contributions he had made to the Club over the last 12 years. Prior to becoming Chairman six years ago, Mr Cooke had previously held the office of Honorary Treasurer and had presided over a period of huge change and development for the Club. During his tenure as Chairman, the Club had attained a new Pavilion and Mound Stand together with the installation of permanent floodlighting as part of the ground redevelopment programme. Gloucestershire Cricket had also been established as an International venue, bringing both the Women's and Men's World Cup to Bristol as well as regular One Day Internationals. Mr Cooke had been instrumental in the recruitment of Head Coach, Richard Dawson, and in introducing the governance changes to align the Club with Sport England's Code of Governance, thus making it more diverse and

representative of its local community. Mr Cooke had also been a great ambassador for Gloucestershire Cricket (ably supported by his wife, Sue) and had helped to ensure that the Club is held in great esteem by the ECB.

In response, Mr Cooke said that it had been an absolute honour to have served the Club as he had; although somewhat challenging at times, he had generally had great fun. He gave a vote of thanks to everyone that had helped him over the years; his colleagues on the Executive Board, Club Presidents and particularly, of course, Will Brown, Richard Dawson, Carolyn Prosser and all the Club's personnel for the terrific job they do behind the scenes. He also praised Club Captain, Chris Dent, and the team who had given him a tremendous amount of enjoyment over the years.

Mr Cooke then closed the official business of the evening. He wished his successor, Mr John Hollingdale, and newly appointed Deputy Chairman, Mr David Jones, well. He thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to a successful 2019 season.

Mr Hollingdale and Mr Jones then took the opportunity to set out their hopes for the future success of the Club and how they saw the Club developing under their stewardship.

Signed:

Dated: