



THE

OVAL

Annual General Meeting 2021



Minutes:	Annual General Meeting of Members of Surrey County Cricket Club
Date & Time:	Tuesday 18 th May 2021 at 1800
Place:	175 Suite, The Kia Oval
Chair:	R W Thompson
Top Table:	M J Eadon (<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>) R A Gould (<i>Chief Executive</i>) A J Lane (<i>Finance Director</i>) E J Rainford-Brent (<i>Director of Women's Cricket</i>) A J Stewart OBE (<i>Director of Cricket</i>) C P R Hodgson (<i>Interim CEO</i>)
Supporting Table:	C G Doyle (<i>Company Secretary</i>)
Attending on Zoom:	N Kulkarni (<i>Deloitte LLP</i>) K Lally (<i>Wedlake Bell</i>)

OPENING COMMENTS

1. Chief Executive Richard Gould welcomed Members attending both physically and virtually to the Annual General Meeting.
2. R Gould confirmed that a quorum had been reached in the room.¹
3. Chairman Richard Thompson formally welcomed Members to the 2021 Surrey County Cricket Club AGM and the new 175 Suite, noting that the meeting was the first event to take place in the new One Oval Square facility.
4. R Thompson introduced the top table and supporting table to the Members.

IN REMEMBRANCE

5. R Thompson noted the sad passing of Robbie Beeston, Joey Benjamin, Jennifer Booth, Andy Christmas, Robert Clark, Bill Clutterbuck, John Edrich MBE, David Grenier, Nicholas Hall, Paul Hare, Roger Harris, Robert Hutches, Robin Jackman, Jack Miller, James Munro, Samuel Ogle, Tony Pannell, David Rear, Sarah Scott-Barrett, David Seward, Michael Spittles, David Stewart OBE, Peter Sturges, Robin Ware, Marie Watts and Graham Whittall.
6. R Thompson displayed a video remembering the lives of John Edrich, Robin Jackman, David Stewart and Joey Benjamin.
7. R Thompson asked Members to stand for a moment's reflection in recognition of these friends of the Club.

CRICKET MANAGEMENT TEAM

8. A Stewart introduced Head Coach Vikram Solanki, Club Captain Rory Burns and Director of Women's Cricket Ebony Rainford-Brent.
9. V Solanki thanked the Members for their support during the pandemic. V Solanki commented on the team's performances in 2020, which he described as a mixed season, and added that he and the team looked forward to playing in front of fans once again.
10. R Burns commented that the players were excited for the return of crowds. R Burns noted that the 2020 season had provided useful experience for the team's younger players.

¹ 59 Members were present at the Kia Oval. 133 Members were present on Zoom.

11. E Rainford-Brent expressed pride that the Club had hosted the London Cup at the Kia Oval before the widespread return of sport last summer. E Rainford-Brent commented on the restructure of the Women's game, with the Club now hosting a regional team known as the South East Stars, and reported that the Stars contained 5 full-time professional players and a new Head Coach in Johann Myburgh. E Rainford-Brent stated that Surrey Women would continue to maintain its presence at the Club.
12. E Rainford-Brent commented on the ACE Programme, which had been launched as an independent charity with over £500k of funding. E Rainford-Brent reported that the charity was expanding into Birmingham and Bristol, with the long-term objective to become a national charity.

ITEM 1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 1.1 R Thompson noted that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 had been available for inspection from the Club prior to the AGM. R Thompson asked for a proposer and a seconder to confirm the minutes of the previous AGM. The minutes were proposed by Christopher Watts and seconded by Joe Ryan.
- 1.2 R Thompson asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to confirm the minutes of the previous AGM. R Thompson confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority of hands for the proposal. R Thompson therefore confirmed that the minutes were agreed as a true record.

Chief Executive's Report

- 1.3 R Gould displayed a video montage filmed by members of staff across the Club, summarising the various projects and challenges overcome by the Club during the pandemic.
- 1.4 R Gould reported on the continued growth of Club Membership, which had risen to 13,900 despite the pandemic.
- 1.5 R Gould explained the impact of Covid-19 on turnover and the business as a whole. R Gould thanked the Members for supporting the Club during the 2020 Membership refund process.
- 1.6 R Gould noted several areas that the Club had been working to improve over the last 12 months. R Gould explained the opening of the One Oval Square development, which R Gould noted would be fully open from 1st June.
- 1.7 R Gould apologised to Members for the delay in the posting of the Annual Report & Accounts.
- 1.8 R Gould noted that the Club were migrating their ticket system over from TicketMaster to Secutix, which he explained would improve the ticket services at the Club.

Chair's Report

- 1.9** R Thompson announced that Charlie Hodgson would be taking the role of Interim CEO following the departure of R Gould, who was leaving the Club after 10 years to take the role of CEO at Bristol City F.C.
- 1.10** R Thompson showed a slide of the 2021 playing squad, highlighting those who had come through the Surrey Academy. R Thompson noted that nine of the current squad had been involved with the England setup over the last 12 months.
- 1.11** R Thompson discussed the One Oval Square development. R Thompson announced the creation of a new bar called the ‘Nip Back Inn’ in honour of Robin Jackman, as well as a ‘David Stewart library’ to contain books about Surrey legends.
- 1.12** R Thompson reported that the Club had purchased the Ovalhouse Theatre and White House, with plans to build a Hotel over the road from the Oval.
- 1.13** R Thompson thanked the Membership for their loyalty to the Club during the pandemic.
- 1.14** R Thompson commented that the new ECB Chair Ian Watmore was working more collaboratively with the Test Match venues. R Thompson highlighted the concerns and challenges that the Club held with the ECB, particularly regarding the current structure of Women’s cricket and the implications to the rest of the game.
- 1.15** R Thompson formally proposed the Annual Report and Accounts for approval.

Honorary Treasurer’s Report

- 1.16** M Eadon displayed the SCCC Group Result for 2020/21 financial year, highlighting a turnover of £13.7m and a Loss Before Tax of £1.2m. M Eadon noted that the approximate cost of Covid-19 was £5.6m. M Eadon explained the mitigation measures taken by the Club to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the Club’s finances.
- 1.17** M Eadon displayed the SCCC Group Balance Sheet, with cash reserves of £4m and Net Current Liabilities of £13m.
- 1.18** M Eadon commented on the outlook for 2021, noting that current forecasts assumed the return of full crowds from 21st June.
- 1.19** M Eadon seconded the motion to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st January 2021.

Members Q & A

R Thompson opened the floor to questions from those present in the room as well as those attending virtually.

- 1.20** Mr David Neil-Smith expressed frustration at the Club losing players to the IPL and commented that the fixture schedule suited neither the development of future red-ball cricketers nor the

existing Test players who would not have any preparation leading into the India Test Series. A Stewart shared the frustrations of the fixture schedule, and commented that the IPL situation was not something the Club could change. A Stewart noted that the addition of the Hundred competition would result in the Club losing 14 players during the County 50-over competition.

- 1.21** Mr Mark Percy asked what the cost was to provide the stream, and asked why it was free to non-members. R Thompson noted that keeping the stream in front of a paywall promoted the County game, and added that there was no evidence to suggest that this eroded the value of membership. R Gould noted that running the stream cost approximately £1000 a day.
- 1.22** Mr Mark Lawson asked what the connection was between the ACE Programme and the Sir Captain Tom Moore Foundation. E Rainford-Brent explained the ECB fundraising campaign which had been established in support of both charities and had raised £100k for the ACE Programme.
- 1.23** Mr Julian Davies asked what the Club would define as success and failure with regard to results on the pitch. A Stewart explained that the Club had three priorities: to win trophies, to bring players through the Surrey Academy, and to provide players for England. A Stewart commented that the Club were currently achieving two of these three priorities, while accepting that the team had performed poorly in two games this season.
- 1.24** Mrs Susan Cripps asked whether it would be necessary to take a Covid test before attending the Test Match. C Hodgson replied that it was too early to give a definitive answer, and explained that the Club would take all measures necessary to ensure the return of full crowds to the Test Match.
- 1.25** Mr Chris Coke asked who held the responsibility for the duty of care over players in overseas tournaments. R Gould commented that responsibility had been taken by the IPL for returning players back from India. R Thompson stated that the Club would always ensure that Surrey players were supported both at home and abroad, both formally and informally.
- 1.26** Mr Joe Ryan asked whether the Club had planned a memorial service for those whose lives had not been remembered properly due to the Covid restrictions on mass gatherings. R Thompson confirmed that, once restrictions were fully lifted, there were plans to commemorate those who had been lost.
- 1.27** Mr Ken Wright asked whether the Club had considered using the Kennington Park facilities. R Gould noted that the Club were not looking to use the site for elite cricket. E Rainford-Brent noted that the ACE Programme would be interested in using the facilities in Kennington.
- 1.28** Mr David Wright raised an issue with the early bird seat selection function on the ticket allocation system. C Hodgson explained that the new Secutix platform would be much more intuitive for booking and selecting tickets.
- 1.29** Mr Richard Allison asked about the related party transactions within the Annual Accounts. A Lane explained that these costs were due to the joint venture with Compass. A Lane confirmed that the new development costs sat within the Club.

- 1.30** Mr Christopher Watts asked why the Club couldn't exert more influence over the ECB. R Thompson commented that the Club would continue to be the leading proponent of red-ball cricket. R Thompson added that the Club voted against the fourth format in 2019, and that later that year he had resigned from the board due to the poor governance of the ECB Board.
- 1.31** Mr Dick Bell asked whether the new website would be accessible on the iPad. R Gould confirmed in the affirmative.
- 1.32** Mr Stuart Solomons asked what Covid restrictions were in place for Members attending on Thursday 20th May. R Gould replied that there would not be a requirement for testing or a passport scheme. R Gould confirmed that Members would be socially distant and would be required to wear masks when away from their seats.
- 1.33** Mr Hugh Dickinson asked whether there should be a cap on total membership, given the increasing membership numbers. R Thompson confirmed that within the Club Rules there is a cap of 15,000 Members, and that changing this limit was being considered due in part to the addition of 2,500 seats with One Oval Square.
- 1.34** Mr Hugh Dickinson asked whether the Club would introduce a vaccine passport scheme. R Thompson replied that the Club would follow the guidance of Public Health England and the government guidelines. R Thompson commented on the vaccination centre located at Montgomery Hall just outside the ground.
- 1.35** Mr Mark Lawson asked how the refund scheme would work. C Hodgson noted that refunds would be worked out on a pro rata basis at the end of the season.

ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

- 2.1** R Thompson confirmed that he and M Eadon had proposed and seconded the adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2020-21 Financial Year.²
- 2.2** R Thompson asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to adopt the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2019-20 Financial Year. R Thompson confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. R Thompson therefore confirmed a majority, and the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2019-20 Financial Year were formally adopted.

ITEM 3 ELECTIONS

President

² See Items 1.15 and 1.19.

3.1 R Thompson reported that the General Committee had formally nominated David Pakeman for election as President in 2021. Standing unopposed, the Chairman declared him elected.

3.2 D Pakeman pledged to represent the club to the highest standard and thanked Ken Schofield CBE and Evelyn Schofield for their support and work in the last two years. D Pakeman wished R Gould the best for his new role at Bristol City.

Deputy President

3.3 R Thompson reported that the General Committee had nominated Patricia Garrard to be elected as Deputy President. Standing unopposed, the Chairman declared her elected.

Honorary Treasurer

3.4 R Thompson reported that the General Committee had nominated Martin Eadon for re-election as Honorary Treasurer. Standing unopposed, the Chairman declared him elected.

Honorary Life Vice President

3.5 R Thompson reported that the Club Honours Committee had nominated Ken Schofield CBE for election an Honorary Life Vice President. R Thompson declared Ken Schofield CBE elected as an Honorary Life Vice President.

ITEM 4 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

4.1 R Thompson proposed the re-appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Club's auditors. R Thompson asked for a proposer and a seconder to confirm the re-appointment of Deloitte. The motion was proposed by Christopher Watts, and seconded by Lizzy Conder.

4.2 R Thompson asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to confirm the re-appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Club's auditors. R Thompson confirmed that there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. R Thompson therefore confirmed Deloitte for re-appointment as the Club's auditors.

ITEM 5 GENERAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

5.1 R Thompson displayed the 9 Members that had stood for election to the General Committee.

5.2 R Thompson thanked the four departing Members of the General Committee: Trish Garrard, Colin Hunte, Emma Lewendon and Pat Pocock.

5.3 R Thompson announced that the following were elected by Members onto the General Committee:

Alex Tudor (1302 votes)
Ros Trinick (1050)
Matt Tee (608)
Jerry Hudson (529)

R Thompson congratulated Alex, Ros, Matt and Jerry, three of whom had not previously served on General Committee.

ITEM 6 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

6.1 R Thompson stated that the Club Honours Committee had elected two Honorary Life Members this year: Lord Tony Grabiner QC and Christine Watmough.

6.2 R Thompson stated that the Club Honours Committee had elected Mike Reeve as an Honorary Life Member in 2020, but that this had not been announced at the 2020 AGM.

CLOSING COMMENTS

R Thompson thanked Rebecca Gould for her support to Richard and to the Club over the last ten years.

R Thompson concluded the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Surrey County Cricket Club.



Richard Thompson
Chair