



Minutes:	General Committee
Date:	Thursday 23 rd September 2021
Time:	16:00
Place:	Mark Butcher Room, The Kia Oval Zoom Video Conference (Dial-In)
Chairman:	R Thompson
Members in Attendance:	C Dymond M Eadon R Harman W Jones K Olafare JP D Pakeman B Qureshi Dr M Searle M Tee R Trinick D Watts DL S Wootten
In attendance:	C Doyle (minutes) C Hodgson A Lane A Stewart OBE

R Thompson praised the interim CEO C Hodgson for his excellent work in delivering the 2021 season.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from M Bicknell, L Conder, T Garrard, P Garrard, J Hudson, E Rainford-Brent and A Tudor.

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting on 24th June were agreed as an accurate record.

ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 R Thompson confirmed that One Oval Square was now officially known as the Galadari Stand.¹
- 3.2 C Hodgson noted that Jon Surtees would distribute a seasonal streaming report to the Committee.²
- 3.3 R Thompson reported that the Club Honours Committee had proposed Rikki Clarke and Jade Dernbach as Honorary Life Members. Following a show of hands, the General Committee unanimously approved Honorary Life Membership for Rikki Clarke and Jade Dernbach. R Thompson noted that the awards would be presented at the End of Season Awards.
- 3.4 R Harman asked about the Nip Back Inn. R Thompson reported that the bar was open, and that the Club were awaiting memorabilia from the Jackman family to place behind the bar. A Stewart added that Sylvester Clarke's son had visited the new Sylvester's Bar at the ground.

ITEM 4 CRICKET

- 4.1 A Stewart commented on recent results and reflected on a disappointing and frustrating season in the County Championship.
- 4.2 A Stewart reported that Ollie Pope would captain the final game of the season, after the ECB had requested for Rory Burns to be rested.
- 4.3 A Stewart noted that the player end of season appraisals would take place from 27th September.

¹ See Item 7.4, GC Minutes 24 06 21.

² See Item 7.6, GC Minutes 24 06 21.

- 4.4 A Stewart reported that the Head of Talent Pathway job had been advertised following Academy Director Gareth Townsend's departure from the Club, with a closing date of 15th October for applications.
- 4.5 A Stewart reported that Tom Lawes and Nathan Barnwell had been signed on rookie contracts.
- 4.6 C Hodgson commented on the potential fixture schedule plan for 2022. R Thompson stated that the Club's preference was to return to a 10-8 divisional structure.
- 4.7 R Thompson commented on the Project 31 workstream.
- 4.8 R Thompson commented on the learnings from the Hundred, in particular the audience demographics and the double-header format, which was planned to be used again in 2022.

Women's Cricket

- 4.9 C Hodgson reported that the South East Stars won the Charlotte Edwards T20 Cup, with the team awarded a lap of honour on Day Five of the Test.
- 4.10 C Hodgson reported that Alice Capsey had been awarded a full-time regional contract for South East Stars.
- 4.11 C Hodgson noted that he was meeting Clare Connor on 24th September to discuss the future of the regional model. D Watts requested a report on the current structure of Women's Cricket to be shared with the General Committee.

ITEM 5 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

- 5.1 C Hodgson reported on the India Test Match. C Hodgson reported on the ticket scanning issues on Day 1 and 2.
- 5.2 C Hodgson reported that current projections for total membership in 2022 was to reach 15,400, noting that the Club had gained 1,000 new 2022 members since the Test Match.
- 5.3 C Hodgson reported that over 40,000 fans had entered the International ticket ballot.
- 5.4 A Lane reported a projected EBITDA of £8.7m for 2021, a comparative total to 2019, an Ashes and ICC World Cup year.
- 5.5 M Eadon reported that the Club had successfully made a business interruption claim of £500k for losses in the first three months of the pandemic.
- 5.6 R Thompson commented on CAPEX projects and noted that certain areas of the ground required uplift, particularly on the gasholder side.

- 5.7** D Watts asked whether the Club could cope with over 15,000 Members. R Thompson replied that the Galadari Stand had given the Club additional capacity for Members.
- 5.8** M Searle asked about the consequences of the pitch intruder during the Test Match. C Hodgson noted that the offender had been cautioned by the police and granted bail. C Hodgson added that Jonny Bairstow had not pressed charges.

ITEM 6 GOVERNANCE

- 6.1** M Eadon presented on the governance changes being proposed by the Club. M Eadon explained that the goal of the changes was primarily to comply with the ECB County Governance Framework, a part of the County Partnership Agreement between the Club and the ECB.
- 6.2** M Eadon stated that the changes being proposed would not affect the Club's priorities as a Member's Club or as a business.
- 6.3** M Eadon explained the following:
- Changes to the Composition and Size of the Board;
 - The introduction of Term Limits for Board Directors;
 - The establishment of a Nominations Committee for the appointment of new Board directors
- 6.4** M Eadon noted that several changes to the Club Rules were being proposed, including:
- The modernisation of the Rules;
 - Making the Rules more reflective of the current governance structure;
 - Two changes to the Rules regarding Membership
- M Eadon noted that the rule changes would require approval from a vote at the AGM in 2022.
- 6.5** The General Committee approved the approach taken by the Club regarding the Governance changes. M Eadon confirmed that the final approval and implementation of the process would be brought to the General Committee for approval in March 2022.

ITEM 7 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Kennington Park

- 7.1** R Thompson commented on the exciting potential of a multi-sport facility in Kennington Park, a project which was being spearheaded by E Rainford-Brent.

Galadari Stand

- 7.2** C Hodgson reported that Buckingham Group were commencing work on 27th September to complete several outstanding issues on the Galadari Stand.

Oval Hotel

- 7.3** C Hodgson reported on progress for the Oval Hotel project, noting that demolition of the Theatre was expected in November. C Hodgson commented on discussions concerning a potential joint venture for the project.

ITEM 8 ECB

- 8.1** R Thompson commented on discussions regarding the Long Term Staging Agreement with the other Test Match Venues.
- 8.2** R Thompson commented on the upcoming media rights agreement and the positive impact seen by the reintroduction of live cricket on free-to-air television.

ITEM 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1** There were no other matters discussed.

ITEM 10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1** Thursday 25th November 2021 at 1800 in the Committee Room.