



THE  
  
OVAL

## Annual General Meeting 2022



<b>Minutes:</b>	Annual General Meeting of Members of Surrey County Cricket Club
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 1800
<b>Location:</b>	England Club, The Kia Oval
<b>Chair:</b>	R W Thompson
<b>Top Table:</b>	M J Eadon ( <i>Honorary Treasurer</i> ) S Elworthy MBE ( <i>Chief Executive</i> ) A J Lane ( <i>Finance Director</i> ) E J Rainford-Brent MBE ( <i>Director</i> ) A J Stewart OBE ( <i>Director of Cricket</i> )
<b>Supporting Table:</b>	E M Clark ( <i>Head of Sales &amp; Marketing</i> ) C G Doyle ( <i>Company Secretary</i> ) A Halls ( <i>Deloitte LLP</i> ) K Lally ( <i>Wedlake Bell</i> )

## **OPENING COMMENTS**

1. Chief Executive S Elworthy welcomed Members to the Annual General Meeting.
2. S Elworthy confirmed that a quorum had been reached in the room.<sup>1</sup> S Elworthy explained that proxy voting had been introduced for this year's AGM.
3. Chair Richard Thompson formally welcomed Members to the 2022 Surrey County Cricket Club AGM and introduced the top table and supporting table to the Members. R Thompson commented that this was the first AGM since 2019 to be held without social distancing restrictions.

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

4. R Thompson noted the sad passing of Bernie Coleman OBE, Alistair Durie, Keith Evemy, Ken Lawrence, Peter Luft, Derek Newton and Tony Pannell. R Thompson highlighted the enormous contributions to the Club given by both Bernie and Derek.

R Thompson asked Members to stand for a moment's silent reflection in recognition of these friends of the Club.

## **CRICKET MANAGEMENT TEAM**

5. A Stewart commented on a difficult 2021 County Championship season, which was played in a conference format. A Stewart commented on England call-ups, player injuries and disappointing pitches.
6. A Stewart commented on the 50-over tournament, with the team having reached the semi-finals despite losing 12 players to the Hundred.
7. A Stewart noted the departure of Vikram Solanki and Richard Johnson from the coaching staff in January 2022. A Stewart thanked Solanki and Johnson for their time at the Club. A Stewart added that this provided an opportunity to Gareth Batty, who had been promoted to Interim Head Coach for the 2022 season, and to Azhar Mahmood and Jim Troughton who had joined the coaching department.
8. A Stewart commented on the challenges to the schedule created by the increasing number of Franchise tournaments in the game. A Stewart noted that an ECB domestic structure review, led by Sir Andrew Strauss, would review the domestic structure of the game for 2023 and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> 104 Members were present at the Kia Oval. 21 Members were watching on Zoom, and 58 watching on Youtube.

9. G Batty commented on pre-season preparations over the winter, noting the difficulties of training during a pandemic. G Batty highlighted the impact of Club Captain Rory Burns to recent performances on the pitch.
10. J Batty summarised the 2021 season for Surrey Women.
11. J Batty highlighted several players who had excelled in 2021 for Surrey Women, South East Stars and England.
12. J Batty commented on the success of the Oval Invincibles in the 2021 Hundred tournament, and the positive impact that the tournament had achieved for Women's Cricket.

## **ITEM 1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 1.1 R Thompson noted that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 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 David Gill and seconded by Mike Soper.
- 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 noted that 719 proxy votes had given the Chair their vote for the resolution, with 1 against. R Thompson therefore confirmed that the minutes were agreed as a true record.

### ***Chief Executive's Report***

- 1.3 S Elworthy gave some reflections from his first 3 and a half months in the role. S Elworthy thanked his predecessors Richard Gould and Charlie Hodgson, and the staff of Surrey, for delivering a fantastic 2021.
- 1.4 S Elworthy noted some of the immediate priorities for the Club, including securing Test Cricket in the Long Term Staging Agreement for 2025-31, working with the ICEC call for evidence, and building on the Club's work on EDI and sustainability.
- 1.5 S Elworthy talked about the work of the Surrey Cricket Foundation and the Club's efforts in engaging with the local community.
- 1.6 E Rainford-Brent reported on the growth of the ACE Programme, which was now a registered independent charity and had moved into 6 regions.
- 1.7 E Rainford-Brent explained the role of the Culture & Values Board, which had recently been established at the Club to focus on Diversity & Inclusion, socio-economic equality, Sustainability and Community Engagement.

**1.8** S Elworthy commented on the long-term ambitions of the Club, including:

- To create a successful era on the pitch;
- To be the best neighbour to the local community in Lambeth and the surrounding area;
- To develop the Oval Hotel and the 10-year development masterplan;
- To continue to improve Member facilities.

### ***Chair's Report***

**1.9** R Thompson showed a slide of the 2022 playing squad, highlighting that 14 players from the current squad had come through the Surrey Academy. R Thompson added that ten of the current squad had been involved with the England setup over the last 12 months.

**1.10** R Thompson commented on the contributions of previous CEOs Richard Gould and Charlie Hodgson, and summarised the recruitment process that led to the appointment of Steve Elworthy.

**1.11** R Thompson reported on the growth of the Membership, which had now passed 17,000 Members.

**1.12** R Thompson commented on the recent on-field presentation for 50, 60 and 70-year Members.

**1.13** R Thompson explained the Club's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

**1.14** R Thompson talked about the Club's ambition for its development projects such as Kennington Park and the Oval Hotel.

**1.15** R Thompson commented on the ECB Governance Reforms and the ECB's 12-point plan for improving the game's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

**1.16** R Thompson formally proposed the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 for approval.

### ***Honorary Treasurer's Report***

#### **Finance**

**1.17** M Eadon displayed the SCCC Group Result for 2021/22 financial year, highlighting a turnover of £36.1m and a Profit Before Tax of £5.4m.

**1.18** M Eadon displayed the SCCC Group Balance Sheet, with cash reserves of £11.7m and Net Current Liabilities of £4.4m.

**1.19** M Eadon seconded the motion to approve the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

### Governance

- 1.20** M Eadon explained the resolution to amend the Club Rules, with the proposed amendments having been available for Members to review prior to the meeting.
- 1.21** M Eadon noted that an amendment to the Club Rules that had been considered, relating to the number required to call an SGM, had been removed from the Club Rule changes following consultation with Members in March.
- 1.22** M Eadon explained why the Club had decided to operate a proxy vote.
- 1.23** M Eadon recommended that the Rules of the Club be and are amended by adopting new Rules of the Club, in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing Rules of the Club

### *Members Q & A*

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

- 1.24** Mr Christopher Watts asked whether Surrey could lead the discussions regarding the restructure of First Class Cricket in this country. R Thompson reported that he had been invited to join the review panel, being led by Sir Andrew Strauss, and that he would fight to defend the status of First Class Cricket and try to ensure it is not diminished.
- 1.25** Mr Christopher Watts asked whether some parts of the Kia Oval could cater for cash payments and asked whether the Club had a mandate for moving completely cashless. S Elworthy explained that the Kia Oval was in line with all major sports venues in moving cashless and that improved security, sustainability and other factors were all reasons behind the Kia Oval being a cashless venue.
- 1.26** Mr David Neil-Smith raised several issues relating to the change in the system for guest vouchers. S Elworthy replied that Member communications could and should have been better prior to the change, and that he would work to ensure a solution that worked for everyone. E Clark added that the ticket office was available on all matchdays to provide guest vouchers for all games, and that a significant majority of Members (92%) were now using the online ticketing system.
- 1.27** Mr Paul Harris asked what the objectives of the Surrey Cricket Foundation were. R Thompson explained that the Foundation were a separate legal entity and did not want to talk on their behalf. R Thompson agreed that he would put Mr Harris in contact with Simon Dyson, Chair of the Foundation.
- 1.28** Mr John Trope asked why the guest voucher system had changed. R Thompson explained that there was an opt-in to the old system, which should have been made clearer in communications.
- 1.29** Mr Michael Normington expressed concern about the future of red ball cricket and asked whether R Thompson could make a strong representation on behalf of Counties in the review

panel. R Thompson agreed and stated that he was waiting to see who else would sit on the review panel.

- 1.30** Mr Martin Summer asked about the financing of the Oval Hotel. A Lane explained that the Club were close to entering a lease contract with a major hotel operator. A Lane noted that the Hotel project would cost in the region of £20m with future annual returns of £1.1m, thus becoming a legacy asset to the Club.
- 1.31** Mr Chris Hope asked whether the Club were planning a birthday party for Micky Stewart. A Stewart and R Thompson both confirmed that the Club would recognise Mr Stewart's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in September.
- 1.32** Mr Hugh Dickinson asked what the Club were doing to allow Members to work from the ground during the week. S Elworthy replied that Members were welcome to work from the ground.
- 1.33** Mr Ken Wright stated that the catering facilities for non-Members had been inadequate in the two recent home matches. R Thompson admitted there had not been enough catering for non-members and stated that this would be improved.
- 1.34** Mr Tony Rawlinson (attending on Zoom) asked why there was no County Championship cricket at Guildford this summer. S Elworthy replied that there had not been enough stakeholder engagement with Guildford Cricket Club prior to making that decision. S Elworthy noted that hosting a game at Guildford would have significantly hampered the schedule for Guildford CC. A Stewart added that placing a match at Guildford in this year's schedule would have limited the amount of cricket at the Kia Oval in the height of summer.
- 1.35** Mr Richard Batey (attending on Zoom) asked why there was no pre-season cricket at the Kia Oval or Guildford for Members to attend. A Stewart replied that Guildford could not hold matches in March, and that the intra-squad friendly was not a proper match of cricket. A Stewart also explained that pitch availability was a major factor in choosing not to host a home pre-season fixture, as this helped the ground staff prepare better pitches for 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 2021-22 Financial Year.
- 2.2** R Thompson asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to adopt the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2021-22 Financial Year. R Thompson confirmed that in the room there was a majority for the proposal, with 101 votes for the proposal, with no votes against. R Thompson noted that 718 proxy votes had given the Chair their vote for the resolution, with 3 against. R Thompson therefore confirmed a majority, and the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2021-22 Financial Year were formally adopted.

### **ITEM 3 CLUB RULES**

- 3.1 R Thompson confirmed that he and M Eadon had proposed and seconded the adoption of the new Club Rules.
- 3.2 R Thompson asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to adopt the new Club Rules. R Thompson confirmed that in the room there was a majority show of hands for the proposal, with 103 votes for and no votes against for the proposal. R Thompson noted that 703 proxy votes had given the Chair their vote for the resolution, with 13 against. R Thompson therefore confirmed a majority, and the proposed amendments to the Club Rules would be adopted following their filing with the Financial Conduct Authority.

### **ITEM 4 ELECTIONS**

#### *President*

- 4.1 R Thompson reported that the General Committee had formally nominated David Pakeman for re-election as President in 2022. Standing unopposed, the Chair declared him elected.
- 4.2 D Pakeman thanked the General Committee and the Deputy President for their valued support in 2021. D Pakeman paid respect to Derek Newton and Bernie Coleman.

#### *Deputy President*

- 4.3 R Thompson reported that the General Committee had nominated Patricia Garrard to be re-elected as Deputy President. Standing unopposed, the Chair declared her elected.

#### *Honorary Treasurer*

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

#### *Honorary Life Vice President*

- 4.5 R Thompson reported that the General Committee had nominated Richard Gould for election an Honorary Life Vice President, the highest honour the Club can award.
- 4.6 R Thompson asked for a show of hands for and against the election of Richard Gould as an Honorary Life Vice President. R Thompson confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. R Thompson therefore declared Richard Gould as an Honorary Life Vice President.

## **ITEM 5            APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

- 5.1**     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 Joe Ryan, and seconded by Lizzy Conder.
- 5.2**     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 majority show of hands for the proposal in the room, with 88 votes for the proposal and 1 vote against. R Thompson noted that 715 proxy votes had given the Chair their vote for the resolution, with 18 against. R Thompson therefore confirmed Deloitte for re-appointment as the Club’s auditors.

## **ITEM 6            GENERAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

- 6.1**     R Thompson thanked the three departing Members of the General Committee: Kunle Olafare, Steve Wootten and Warwick Jones. R Thompson also thanked Becca Garrard who had stepped down from General Committee in 2021 after being employed by the Club.
- 6.2**     R Thompson announced that the following were elected by Members onto the General Committee:

Arun Harinath (1059 votes)  
Laura Rolles (841)  
David Gill (737)  
Chris Thompson (672)

R Thompson congratulated Arun, Laura, David and Chris, three of whom had not previously served on General Committee.

- 6.3**     Sir Michael Pickard raised a grievance concerning the attendance numbers of two members of the General Committee. R Thompson replied that the Members in question were teachers and could not attend meetings on a regular basis. R Thompson added that they provided highly valuable support to the Club throughout the year.
- 6.4**     R Thompson displayed the current composition of the General Committee.

## **ITEM 7            APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**



7.1 R Thompson explained the criteria for electing Honorary Life Members.

7.2 R Thompson stated that the Club Honours Committee had elected five Honorary Life Members this year:

Jim Faulkner  
Charlie Hodgson  
Dingle Newton  
Judy Stewart  
Andrew Sugarman

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

R Thompson displayed the current County Championship table.

R Thompson concluded the 2022 Annual General Meeting of Surrey County Cricket Club.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Thompson', written in a cursive style.

**Richard Thompson**  
Chair