



THE  
  
OVAL

## Annual General Meeting 2023



<b>Minutes:</b>	Annual General Meeting of Members of Surrey County Cricket Club
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 1800
<b>Location:</b>	England Club, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, JM Finn Stand, The Kia Oval
<b>Interim Chair:</b>	M J Eadon
<b>Top Table:</b>	W R Jones ( <i>Interim Treasurer</i> ) S Elworthy MBE ( <i>Chief Executive</i> ) A J Lane ( <i>Director of Finance &amp; Services</i> ) A J Stewart OBE ( <i>Director of Cricket</i> )
<b>Supporting Table:</b>	C G Doyle ( <i>Company Secretary</i> ) E Field ( <i>Deloitte LLP</i> ) K Lally ( <i>Wedlake Bell</i> )

## **OPENING COMMENTS**

1. Chief Executive Steve Elworthy welcomed Members to the Annual General Meeting.
2. S Elworthy confirmed that a quorum had been reached in the room.<sup>1</sup>
3. Interim Chair Martin Eadon formally welcomed Members to the 2023 Surrey County Cricket Club AGM and introduced the top table and supporting table to the Members.
4. M Eadon apologised for the AGM coinciding on the same day as an away matchday, and assured Members this would not happen in future years.

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

5. M Eadon noted the sad passing of Philip Anderson, Ann Atkins, Bill Bateman, James Booth, Len Charman, John Croker, M.A.R. Galadari, Andy Hillburn, John Higinbotham, David Jupp, Roy Lewis, James Massey, Christopher Penycate and Dennis Wright.

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

## **DIRECTOR OF CRICKET REPORT**

6. Director of Cricket Alec Stewart stated that the priority for the 2023 season was to win the County Championship back-to-back, following the successful 2022 campaign.
7. A Stewart commented the challenges faced at the start of the 2022 season, notably the departures of Vikram Solanki and Richard Johnson from the coaching staff.
8. A Stewart commented on the full-time appointment of Gareth Batty as Head Coach in October 2022.
9. A Stewart praised the whole squad for the 2022 County Championship season, and singled out excellent seasons by Dan Worrall, Jamie Overton, Kemar Roach and Hashim Amla.
10. A Stewart reported on the 2022 T20 season, where Surrey lost to Yorkshire by 1 run in the quarter-final at the Kia Oval.
11. A Stewart reported on the 2022 50-over cup.
13. A Stewart reported on the Surrey players who are currently representing England.

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<sup>1</sup> 85 Members were present at the Kia Oval. 12 Members were watching on Zoom and 47 watching on Youtube.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

14. S Elworthy commented on the Club's priorities for 2023, including:
  - Winning trophies in both Men's and Women's Cricket.
  - Continuing to improve the matchday experience for Members.
  - Responding to the upcoming ICEC report.
  - Delivering a successful season at the Kia Oval.
15. S Elworthy commented on an unprecedented summer for hosting major matches at the Kia Oval, with two Test Matches, a Men's ODI and a Women's Ashes T20I.
16. S Elworthy explained the Sixth Form State School Cricket initiative.
17. S Elworthy commented on the Carers Day initiative, which launched at the Hampshire County Championship match in April.
18. S Elworthy reported on the 'Cricket 4 London' initiative, in conjunction with Kent, Essex and Middlesex.
19. S Elworthy explained the operational issues resulting from a growing Membership, such as overcrowding in Members' areas. S Elworthy reported on upcoming legislation known as 'Martyn's Law' which would require venues hosting large events to comply with additional security measures.
20. S Elworthy reported on facility developments for the Kia Oval, including improvements to signage and the dressing rooms. S Elworthy added that the Club were applying for planning permission to install fixed mast LED floodlights.

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

- 1.1 M Eadon noted that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 had been available for inspection from the Club prior to the AGM. M Eadon 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 Sir Michael Pickard.
- 1.2 M Eadon asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to confirm the minutes of the previous AGM. M Eadon confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority of hands for the proposal. M Eadon therefore confirmed that the minutes were agreed as a true record.

### **ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS**

#### *Interim Chair's Report*

- 2.1** M Eadon commented on the successful 2022 County Championship, which had been won at the Micky Stewart Oval.
- 2.2** M Eadon commented on the homegrown Surrey players in the 2023 Men's and Women's squads.
- 2.3** M Eadon commented on the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II on the first day of the Test Match on 8 September 2022.
- 2.4** M Eadon reported on the departure of Surrey Chair Richard Thompson, who left the Club in September 2022 to become the ECB Chair. M Eadon formally thanked Richard Thompson on behalf of the Club and the Members. M Eadon explained the process for electing the next Chair of the Club.
- 2.5** M Eadon commented on the growth of the Membership, which was currently at a total of 19,087, and explained the various operational challenges that faced the Club on popular matchdays. M Eadon reported on the event to recognise Members who had been with the Club for 50, 60 or 70 consecutive years.
- 2.6** M Eadon noted the formal opening of the David Stewart Library.
- 2.7** M Eadon noted a strong financial year, with an EBITDA of over £9m for the 2022/23 year. M Eadon formally thanked the executive team for delivering a successful 2022 season on and off the field, and highlighted Head Groundsman Lee Fortis, scorer Debbie Beesley and Housekeeper Manager Sophia Robinson. M Eadon reported on the departures of Head of Marketing Emily Wiles, Head of Corporate Sales George Hampson and Security Director Scott Carey. M Eadon also welcomed Commercial Director Charlie Buck and Oval Events General Manager Andy Waters to the Club.
- 2.8** M Eadon commented on the various challenges facing cricket and Surrey.
- 2.9** M Eadon formally proposed the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 for adoption.

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

- 2.10** Interim Treasurer Warwick Jones reported a turnover of £46.5m, with an operating profit of £5.3m, for the 2022/23 financial year.
- 2.11** W Jones commented on the balance sheet.
- 2.12** W Jones explained how the Club's investment property was presented in the annual accounts.
- 2.13** W Jones commented with optimism on the financial outlook for the Club.
- 2.14** W Jones formally seconded the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 for adoption.

## *Members Q & A*

M Eadon opened the floor to questions from those present in the room as well as those attending virtually.

- 2.15** Mr Stuart Agnew asked why the Club were pursuing a Net Zero strategy, and what the costs of this strategy was costing the Club. S Elworthy explained the Club's sustainability projects, such as LED floodlights, reducing paper use and improving recycling streams, which would lower the Club's and the venue's carbon footprint. S Elworthy added that sustainability was an important priority for many of its key stakeholders.
- 2.16** Mr Christopher Watts asked whether the Club would support a 14-match County Championship season in 2025 and beyond. M Eadon stated that Surrey would act in the interests of its Members, the Club and the game of cricket in any discussions regarding the structure of domestic cricket.
- 2.17** Mr Christopher Watts questioned whether the Club had a reciprocal arrangement for Members attending matches at other County venues, as he had been told by Members at Kent that a reciprocal arrangement was not in place with Surrey. S Elworthy replied that a reciprocal agreement had indeed been confirmed with the Kent CEO and with other Counties. S Elworthy agreed to formalise this policy and share with the Membership.
- 2.18** Mr Keith Clarke asked whether there would be additional seating for Members at T20 matches, due to the overcrowding in the existing areas. S Elworthy replied that the Club had opened up the top of the Lock Balcony to Members, and that the Club were using data to understand the required number of additional seats to be allocated to Members.
- 2.19** Mr Vaughan Harris asked about the impact of the membership credit scheme. A Lane explained that the credit was introduced as a recognition for Members who renewed during the pandemic. A Lane commented that he was not clear whether the scheme had increased membership retention, and confirmed that there were no plans to continue this scheme at the current time.
- 2.20** Mr John Troke asked whether Sam Curran was being asked to play two County matches for Surrey before being available to select for England, and whether this policy applied to all England bowlers. A Stewart replied that there were no such restrictions in place for England selection.
- 2.21** Mr David Neil-Smith asked why the Club did not print enough scorecards during the Hampshire match. S Elworthy responded that the Club were addressing the scorecard shortages. S Elworthy explained that the Club were keen to reduce the waste paper created from excess printing, and added that scorecards would now be printed on recycled card. S Elworthy also added that digital scorecards were available.
- 2.22** Mr David Neil-Smith asked whether the Club would receive any television broadcast revenue from hosting the World Test Championship Final. A Lane replied that the Club did not benefit from the broadcast revenue, but confirmed that the Club would receive ticket, hospitality and retail catering revenue for the match.

- 2.23** Mr Chris Coke asked whether the Club would improve the accessible seating area, and whether supporters with accessibility requirements needed to book in advance. S Elworthy replied that this feedback had been received earlier in the season and that plans are in place to address the number of accessible seats in the Kia Oval, including for the carers. S Elworthy confirmed that prior booking with Theresa Peters was required for attendees with accessibility requirements.
- 2.24** Mr Mike Sargent asked whether the Kia Oval was still aiming to hit a total capacity of 40,000. M Eadon replied that this strategy was not currently a priority for the Club.
- 2.25** Mr Iain Cundy (attending on Zoom) asked whether additional seating behind the bowlers arm would be considered for Members. S Elworthy agreed to review Members' seating at the JM Finn end.
- 2.26** M Eadon confirmed that he and W Jones had proposed and seconded the adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2022-23 Financial Year.
- 2.27** M Eadon asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to adopt the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2022-23 Financial Year. M Eadon confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. M Eadon therefore confirmed that the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2022-23 Financial Year were formally adopted.

### **ITEM 3 CLUB RULES**

- 3.1** M Eadon explained a process error regarding the amendments to the Club Rules following the 2022 AGM. M Eadon noted the requirement to approve the amendment regarding the eligibility of Members to stand for election to General Committee, explaining that Members would now need to have been Members for 2 years prior to applications being submitted. M Eadon displayed the amendment for Members to view.
- 3.2** M Eadon asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to adopt the amended Club Rules. M Eadon confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. M Eadon therefore confirmed that the proposed amendment to the Club Rules would be adopted.

### **ITEM 4 ELECTIONS**

#### *President*

- 4.1** M Eadon reported that the General Committee had formally nominated Patricia Garrard for election as President in 2023. Standing unopposed, the Chair declared her elected.
- 4.2** P Garrard thanked the Immediate Past President David Pakeman, and David's partner Susanna Stevens, for their support to the Club in the previous two seasons. P Garrard thanked her husband Phil and daughters Laura and Becca for their support.

### *Deputy President*

- 4.3 M Eadon reported that the General Committee had nominated Lord Tony Grabiner KC to be elected as Deputy President. Standing unopposed, the Chair declared him elected.

### *Honorary Treasurer*

- 4.4 D Pakeman thanked Susanna and the Members for their support during his term as President, and welcomed P Garrard to the role of President.
- 4.5 D Pakeman reported that the General Committee had nominated Martin Eadon for re-election as Honorary Treasurer. Standing unopposed, M Eadon was elected as Honorary Treasurer.

### *Honorary Life Vice President*

- 4.6 M Eadon asked for a show of hands for and against the election of David Pakeman as Honorary Life Vice President. Following a show of hands, M Eadon confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. M Eadon therefore declared David Pakeman as an Honorary Life Vice President.
- 4.7 M Eadon asked for a show of hands for and against the election of Alan Dickinson as Honorary Life Vice President. Following a show of hands, M Eadon confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. M Eadon therefore declared Alan Dickinson as an Honorary Life Vice President.
- 4.8 M Eadon asked for a show of hands for and against the election of Barry Kitcherside as Honorary Life Vice President. Following a show of hands, M Eadon confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. M Eadon therefore declared Barry Kitcherside as an Honorary Life Vice President.
- 4.9 M Eadon asked for a show of hands for and against the election of Richard Thompson as Honorary Life Vice President. M Eadon confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. M Eadon therefore declared Richard Thompson as an Honorary Life Vice President.

## **ITEM 5 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

- 5.1 M Eadon proposed the re-appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Club's auditors. M Eadon asked for a proposer and a seconder to confirm the re-appointment of Deloitte. The motion was proposed by David Gill, and seconded by Joe Ryan.

- 5.2 M Eadon asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to confirm the re-appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Club's auditors. M Eadon confirmed that there was a majority show of hands for the proposal in the room, with a majority of votes for the proposal and 1 vote against. M Eadon therefore confirmed Deloitte for re-appointment as the Club's auditors.

## **ITEM 6 GENERAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

- 6.1 M Eadon thanked the four departing Members of the General Committee: Martin Bicknell, Lizzy Conder, Roger Harman and David Watts.
- 6.2 M Eadon reported on the new online process for the election of Members to the General Committee, noting an improved turnout of 14.2%.
- 6.3 M Eadon announced that the following (in alphabetical order) were elected by Members onto the General Committee:

Kieran Kumaria  
Chris Payne  
Pat Pocock  
Mike Reeve

M Eadon congratulated the above on their successful election to the General Committee, and thanked Caroline Barrs and David Wright for standing.

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

- 7.1 M Eadon explained the criteria for electing Honorary Life Members.
- 7.2 M Eadon stated that the General Committee, following recommendation from the Club Honours Committee, had elected five Honorary Life Members this year:

Hashim Amla  
Ian Jamieson  
Medha Laud MBE  
Patsy Lovell MBE  
Andy Major

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

M Eadon concluded the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Surrey County Cricket Club.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eadon', is positioned above a rectangular area with a light gray dot grid pattern.

**Martin Eadon**  
Interim Chair