



THE

OVAL

Annual General Meeting 2024



Minutes:	Annual General Meeting of Members of Surrey County Cricket Club
Date & Time:	Tuesday 30 th April 2024 at 1800
Location:	175 Suite, The Galadari Stand, The Kia Oval
Chair:	O M Slipper
Top Table:	E Calvert (<i>Director of Women's Cricket</i>) M J Eadon (<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>) S Elworthy MBE (<i>Chief Executive</i>) A J Lane (<i>Director of Finance & Services</i>) A J Stewart OBE (<i>Director of Men's Cricket</i>)
Supporting Table:	C G Doyle (<i>Company Secretary - Minutes</i>) K Lally (<i>Wedlake Bell</i>) H Wildman (<i>Deloitte LLP</i>)

OPENING COMMENTS

1. S Elworthy welcomed Members to the 2024 Annual General Meeting and confirmed that a quorum had been reached in the room.¹
2. O Slipper introduced the top table and supporting table.
3. O Slipper asked that members of the General Committee and Board make themselves visible by standing up.

IN REMEMBRANCE

4. O Slipper reported the sad passing of John Barnett, John Barrie, Alan Benson, Keith Booth, John Bosten, Michael Edwards, Robert Elliott, Claire Franklin, John Gant, Anthony Harris, Daphne Hubbard, Joseph Lachman, Sophie Mayers, Raman Subba Row, Roy Swetman and Matthew Wheeler.
5. O Slipper highlighted the significant contributions made to the Club by Roy Swetman, Keith Booth, Daphne Hubbard, Robert Elliott and Raman Subba Row.
6. O Slipper asked Members to stand for a moment's silent reflection in recognition of these individuals.

ITEM 1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 1.1 O Slipper noted that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 4th May 2023 had been available for inspection from the Club prior to the AGM. O Slipper 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 Brian Lovell.
- 1.2 O Slipper asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to confirm the minutes of the previous AGM. O Slipper confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority of hands for the proposal, and therefore confirmed that the minutes were agreed as a true record.

ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

Chief Executive's Report

- 2.1 A short video was shown to Members, displaying highlights from the 2023 season.

¹ 134 Members were in attendance at the Kia Oval. 60 Members were watching on Zoom.

- 2.2** S Elworthy reflected on the 2023 season. S Elworthy noted the unprecedented nature of the season, with the Kia Oval hosting two Men's Tests for the first time in its history.
- 2.3.** S Elworthy commented on the Club's priorities for 2024:
- Always being in the hunt for trophies
 - A continued focus on the Membership
 - Securing a women's professional team for Surrey
 - Ownership of a Hundred team
 - Development Projects
 - Delivery of the 2024 season, with capacity crowds
- 2.4.** S Elworthy commented on membership matters such as improvements to the Pavilion PA, the new Beer Cup Levy Scheme and improving facilities at outgrounds.
- 2.5.** S Elworthy reported on the opening of the Travelodge Hotel across the road.
- 2.6.** S Elworthy noted the upcoming installation of new LED floodlights and new replay screens, as well as a refurbishment of the changing rooms.

Director of Cricket Reports

- 2.7** E Calvert explained changes to the structure of professional women's cricket from 2025. E Calvert reported on the Club's successful bid to host a professional Tier 1 team and explained the Club's additional investment into Women's Cricket at Surrey. A video explaining the Club's bid to host a fully professional women's team was then shown to Members.
- 2.8** A Stewart talked about the successful 2023 season. A Stewart praised Head Coach Gareth Batty. A Stewart stated that the priority for the 2024 season was to win the County Championship for the third successive year.
- 2.9** A Stewart reported on the aim to win the T20 Blast, noting that the conflict with the T20 World Cup in June may limit the availability of several key players.
- 2.10** A Stewart commented on the importance of the One-Day Cup in developing players for the future.
- 2.11** A Stewart reported on the departures of Dan Moriarty, Nico Reifer and Nick Kimber.
- 2.12** A Stewart reported on the departures of Strength & Conditioning coach Darren Veness and Assistant Coach Azhar Mahmood.
- 2.13** A Stewart welcomed Tom Ealham and Dan Lawrence to the playing staff.

Chair's Report

- 2.14** O Slipper commented on the back-to-back County Championship titles. O Slipper commented that the Club were looking to retain Alec Stewart in a reduced role at the Club following his stepping down as Director of Cricket at the end of 2024.
- 2.15** O Slipper listed and commented on the pledges he had committed to in his General Committee election statement:
- To support the development of home-grown players capable of winning trophies for Surrey and representing England.
 - To protect the County Championship, played throughout all months of the English summer.
 - To ensure Surrey has a professional women's team in the upcoming new structure.
 - To continue developing the Kia Oval.
 - To invest in both the 6th form State School and ACE cricket programmes to give playing opportunities to children of all backgrounds.
 - To gain control of our own Hundred team, allowing Surrey to play cricket at The Kia Oval all summer long.
 - To acquire and develop a second ground.
- 2.16** O Slipper stated that the Club would seek to retain ownership of its Hundred team, which would be played under the Surrey brand with a core of Surrey cricketers.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

- 2.17** M Eadon reported on a record financial year, noting a turnover of £65.4m and an adjusted profit-before-tax of £7.6m.
- 2.18** M Eadon commented on the balance sheet, noting that reserves had risen to £29.1m.
- 2.19** M Eadon commented on the challenges of the 2024 season, noting that the International schedule was less favourable than recent years.
- 2.20** M Eadon praised Director of Finance & Services Andrew Lane and Interim Treasurer Warwick Jones for their respective roles in delivering a record set of accounts.
- 2.21** M Eadon thanked Charlotte Samuelson and Joe Ryan, both of whom had stepped down from the Audit, Risk & Governance Committee.
- 2.22** M Eadon formally seconded the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st January 2024.

Members Q & A

O Slipper opened the floor to questions from those present in the room as well as those attending virtually.

- 2.23** Mr David Neil-Smith asked whether the Club would commit to no further reduction in the 14 County Championship fixtures, and also whether there could be any commitment to moving County Championship fixtures away from the ‘bookends’ of the season. Mr David Neil-Smith commented that merging the two short-form white-ball tournaments would minimise clashes with the County Championship. O Slipper replied that, since the majority of the non-Test Match venues were heavily reliant on T20 Blast revenue, the scheduling for Blast fixtures took precedence over County Championship. O Slipper noted that the Club were committed to ensuring County Championship cricket is played in every month of the season. S Elworthy noted that the ECB’s current strategy was to create an attendance-based schedule, with a focus on providing Counties with their preferred days of the week for home fixtures.
- 2.24** Mr Simon Menneer expressed concern at the possibility of the Hundred expanding beyond its current 1-month window and impacting negatively on the rest of County Cricket. O Slipper noted that it was Surrey’s hope that provisions would be written into the next Host Venue agreement to ensure that no such expansion should occur.
- 2.25** Mr Gray Catherwood-Smith asked whether Members would receive a vote on the Club’s position regarding ECB’s proposed reform of the Hundred. O Slipper replied that the Members are represented by the General Committee, and that the General Committee would act and make decisions on behalf of the membership on matters such as this.
- 2.26** Mr Christopher Watts thanked the Club for recognising its long-standing Members with the recent event and on-field presentation. Mr Christopher Watts asked what the 2025 schedule would look like. S Elworthy noted that the ECB would begin producing a draft 2025 fixture list in August. S Elworthy confirmed that the Club were committed to supporting a 14 County Championship fixture-list from 2025 onwards. O Slipper noted that the Club would be organising an online Members forum on 7th May to answer questions regarding the Hundred.
- 2.27** Mr Alan Higham asked whether the ECB’s plans to redistribute the investment from private investment in the Hundred would have a negative impact on the non-host Counties. O Slipper replied that Surrey was focused on the control and ownership of their team and that it was primarily the non-host venues pushing for investment to provide capital injections.
- 2.28** Mr Barry Kitcherside praised the groundstaff, highlighting their efforts in the recent Hampshire match to allow a result. O Slipper noted that this would be formally minuted and passed onto the grounds team.
- 2.29** Mr Michael Normington asked whether, given the cashless payment system in operation, the ground was properly protected in the case of payment systems going offline, and whether IT stress tests had been undertaken. A Lane replied that IT systems are fully tested, and that investment had recently been made in replacing the switches around the ground.
- 2.30** Mr Brian Lumsden asked about current research with regard to injuries in Women’s Cricket, and whether players were members of the PCA. E Calvert replied that the South East Stars employed a Women’s Health specialist on the topic but that the research around injuries within women’s cricket was lacking in many areas. E Calvert noted that professional players are members of the PCA, but that semi-professional or academy players were not covered.

- 2.31** Mr Dave Macmillan (following online) asked whether the Club will continue with the real ale offering in the Long Room, and also why the price of beer had risen significantly in the last year, when local pub prices were lower. A Lane confirmed that the real ale offering would continue in the long room and that there was no policy on matching external prices. A Lane explained that high inflation and the introduction of the London living wage were contributing factors in recent price increases.
- 2.32** Mr Alex Brookes (following online) asked about why there were only 7 home matchdays in 49 days of peak summer. S Elworthy replied that it was impossible to guarantee home fixtures for the summer and that scheduling depended on a number of variables. S Elworthy added that Counties have a feedback process with ECB to enable them to ensure that key dates, such as outground festivals, are guaranteed in the schedule.
- 2.33** O Slipper formally proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st January 2024.
- 2.34** O Slipper confirmed that he and M Eadon had proposed and seconded the adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2023-24 Financial Year. O Slipper asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to adopt the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2023-24 Financial Year. O Slipper confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. O Slipper therefore confirmed that the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2023-24 Financial Year were formally adopted.

ITEM 3 ELECTIONS

President

- 3.1** O Slipper reported that the General Committee had formally nominated Patricia Garrard for election as President in 2024. Standing unopposed, the Chair declared her elected.
- 3.2** P Garrard thanked the Members for supporting her in the role of President and wished A Stewart and E Calvert a successful season on the field.

Deputy President

- 3.3** O Slipper 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

- 3.4** O Slipper 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

- 3.5** O Slipper reported that Ebony-Jewel Rainford-Brent had been proposed for election as an Honorary Life Vice President. O Slipper asked for a show of hands for and against the election

of Ebony-Jewel Rainford-Brent as an Honorary Life Vice President. Following a show of hands, O Slipper confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. O Slipper therefore declared her elected.

ITEM 4 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

4.1 O Slipper proposed the re-appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Club's auditors. O Slipper asked for a proposer and a seconder to confirm the re-appointment of Deloitte. The motion was proposed by Laura Rolles, and seconded by Joe Ryan.

4.2 O Slipper asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to confirm the re-appointment of Deloitte LLP as the Club's auditors. There was a show of hands for the proposal in the room, with a majority of votes for the proposal and 1 vote against. O Slipper therefore confirmed Deloitte for re-appointment as the Club's auditors.

ITEM 5 GENERAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

5.1 M Eadon thanked Phil Garrard, Kunle Olafare, Bob Qureshi and Dr Martin Searle who were retiring from General Committee.

5.2 M Eadon reported an improved election turnout of 14.7%, and thanked Members for their engagement with the online process.

5.3 M Eadon announced that the following (in alphabetical order) were elected by Members onto the General Committee:

Zafar Ansari
Warwick Jones
Emma Lewendon
Oli Slipper

M Eadon congratulated the above on their successful election to the General Committee, and thanked (in alphabetical order) Ewen Macleod, Richard Mantell, Simon Menneer, Steve Wootten and David Wright for standing.

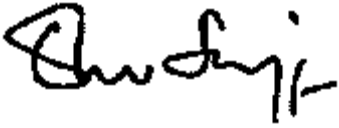
ITEM 6 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

6.1 O Slipper announced that the General Committee, following recommendation from the Club Honours Committee, had elected two Honorary Life Members this year:

Simon Dyson
Graham Ekins

CLOSING COMMENTS

O Slipper concluded the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Surrey County Cricket Club.

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

Oli Slipper
Chair