



**Minutes:** General Committee

**Date:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Time:** 18:00

**Place:** Committee Room, Kia Oval

**Chair:** O Slipper

**Members in Attendance:** Z Ansari  
M Eadon  
T (Patricia) Garrard  
D Gill  
A Grabiner KC  
A Harinath  
J Hudson  
W Jones  
K Kumaria  
E Lewendon  
C Payne  
P Pocock  
M Reeve  
L Rolles  
A Stewart OBE  
M Tee  
R Trinick

**In attendance:** S Elworthy MBE  
A Lane  
K Leach (minutes)

**ITEM 1            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1     Apologies for absence were received from C Doyle, C Thompson and A Tudor.

**ITEM 2            MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

2.1     The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

**ITEM 3            MATTERS ARISING**

3.1     To be covered in the meeting.

**ITEM 4            CRICKET**

4.1     A Stewart confirmed that the women's professional team will be officially part of the Club on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, and a welcome event for staff and players has been planned.

4.2     Eighteen players are now contracted for the women's team and all but one of the South East Stars support staff has signed a contract with the Club.

4.3     The Club has eleven men's players entered into the IPL auction.

4.4     Ben Geddes, Conor McKerr and Amar Viridi have all left the Club.

4.5     The men's team are back in for winter training from 11<sup>th</sup> November. Nathan Barnwell and Yousef Majid will be overseas this winter, in Queensland and Pakistan respectively.

4.6     Matt Spriegel has moved from the pathway to the role of assistant coach and Jack Brooks has taken on the role of fast bowling consultant.

4.7     The Kookaburra ball will be used in four County Championship matches next season. It was noted that no results of this seasons trial are available yet.

**ITEM 5            CEO REPORT**

5.1     S Elworthy advised that no appointment had been made for the role of Director of People & Culture. The Club has 6 months of HR cover with HR Inspire and the role will be advertised again.

- 5.2 The Committee discussed the ICEC Report, one year on, and the proposal to make the pathway free to all. It was agreed that the financial barriers needed to be identified, particularly around kit and travel to matches. It was noted that Yorkshire CCC, who had made the pathway free to all were now reversing elements of this decision. Z Ansari and A Lane to meet with L Cordingley of the Surrey Board to discuss further.
- 5.3 S Elworthy advised that the Club is in the final stages of agreeing the ECB Staging Agreement. The draft agreement is with Wedlake Bell for review.
- 5.4 S Elworthy updated on discussions at the Surrey Board meeting earlier, where the Board agreed to request to ECB that in a six Test match year, the Kia Oval wished to host the first Test match in the second three test series, which will be a Wednesday start and within the school holidays, which will be more financially beneficial than a Friday start.
- 5.5 The Committee discussed the EDI Plan, the Accessibility Report and the Strategic Plan, which were circulated prior to the meeting.

## **ITEM 6 FINANCE**

- 6.1 Forecast 3 has been circulated and is £93k behind EBITDA. IPL payments and ECB missed match payments along with an underspend by the South East Stars, have helped the forecast to be close to budget.
- 6.2 Increases in the London Living Wage and employer National Insurance contributions will need to be managed next year.
- 6.3 A Lane updated that Compass has approached the Club regarding extending the current JV agreement and this will be looked at once 2025 budgets are set.
- 6.4 A Lane pointed out adjustments that will need to be made to the hotel valuation, the write down of the old floodlights and debentures.

## **ITEM 7 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

- 7.1 C Dymond confirmed that a vision statement has been produced regarding the Club's proposals for LSE. The first draft of the Heads of Terms from LSE has been received today and a meeting with Kingston Borough Council is hoped to take place before Christmas.
- 7.2 The Cricketers pub has been demolished and the Club is still negotiating with the owners on a purchase price. The commercial value of this site to the Club needs to be established.

- 7.3** C Dymond is meeting with the Duchy of Cornwall in the next two weeks, to discuss their plans for the Archbishop Tension site and what affect this may have on any plans for the Whitehouse.
- 7.4** The new floodlights and dressing room projects have been started and C Dymond will share the plans for the dressing rooms at the next meeting.

**ITEM 8            ECB**

- 8.1** O Slipper updated that Macfarlanes LLP and Fladgate LLP will work with the Club as legal representatives for the Hundred sale process.
- 8.2** The Committee was updated on the bids received for the Oval Invincibles, with twelve bids received in total, with another late bid possible this week. The Club will prepare a shortlist of six preferred bids and presentations to these six bidders will take place over the next few weeks. The Club has the right of veto on any investor.
- 8.3** The Committee discussed the motivation of the various bidders and the possible length of the venue agreements, along with any other requests that may be made, such as use of the ground and its facilities.
- 8.4** The Committee discussed the controls put in place by ECB on how funds awarded to all the counties from the sale could be used.
- 8.5** Z Ansari asked if PR and reputational issues would be considered when selecting the preferred bidder and it was confirmed that these would be key considerations.
- 8.6** O Slipper and S Elworthy discussed arranging a Members Forum before any firm decisions were made on preferred bidders.

**ITEM 9            ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1** T Garrard advised that Graham Thorpe's family has donated one of his bats to be made into the Crowe Thorpe Shield, which will be the trophy for the upcoming New Zealand v. England series.
- 9.2** The Cricket Builds Hope carol service is taking place on 5<sup>th</sup> December and T Garrard asked Committee members to attend and support the event if possible.
- 9.3** T Garrard advised that Dan Whiting, who deputised for Mark Church this season, has written a book which is coming out at the beginning of November.
- 9.4** D Gill commended the Accessibility team on the report which was circulated.

**9.5** Referring to the Strategic Plan, K Kumaria asked if the Club was being ambitious enough with it's plans to have one state school player and 20,000 children in the pathway.

**ITEM 10          DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**10.1** The date and time of the next meeting is Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 18:00.