



<b>Minutes:</b>	General Committee
<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>Time:</b>	18:00
<b>Place:</b>	Committee Room, Kia Oval
<b>Chair:</b>	O Slipper
<b>Members in Attendance:</b>	Z Ansari K Barlow S Dyson M Eadon S Elworthy MBE D Gill A Grabiner KC A Harinath W Jones K Kumaria E Lewendon R Mantell S Menneer C Payne P Pocock M Reeve S Wootten
<b>In attendance:</b>	C Doyle C Dymond A Lane K Leach (minutes) J Stapleton A Stewart OBE A Wells

**ITEM 1            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1     Apologies were received from E Calvert, L Rolles and C Thompson.

**ITEM 2            MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

2.1     The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

**ITEM 3            MATTERS ARISING**

3.1     O Slipper welcomed Jess Stapleton to the Club. Jess has started as the new Operations Director this week.

**ITEM 4            CRICKET**

4.1     A Stewart advised that the men's team has one more week of training, before the 'half term' break. The players will be training in the marquee from the first week in March.

4.2     Nick Pothas will join the Club as a fielding consultant. He is currently with the Nepal national team at the men's T20 World Cup.

4.3     Alex Tysoe will leave his role as Head of Sports Science & Medicine on 13<sup>th</sup> February. Paul Steele has been promoted into this role.

4.4     Two Surrey players, Ralphy Albert and Alex French played for England in the U19's World Cup semi-final.

4.5     Four players have been pre-signed for MI London, with the player auction taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March.

4.6     E Calvert is currently meeting with the MI London partners in India, discussing the planning for the women's auction.

**ITEM 5            CEO REPORT**

5.1     S Elworthy advised that the final Hundred partnership contracts were signed with Reliance on 5<sup>th</sup> December. The team's name, MI London, has been announced and planning is underway for the player auctions in March. There is an MI London Board Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

- 5.2** A Wells advised on issues with the gold trim on the MI London kits and also, confirmed that the Club is in the market for commercial sponsors for the MI London team. A sleeve partner is confirmed, and a contract is close to being signed for a combined helmet and trouser sponsor. A front of shirt sponsor is still to be found and, as this carries the highest partnership value, the Club is focusing efforts on securing a deal. A Wells confirmed that the Surrey Three Feathers will not feature on the MI London kit.
- 5.3** S Elworthy confirmed that a match categorisation process has been undertaken and now all matches are categorised as either Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze. Platinum being a full house, major matchday, such as the Test match. This will enable the Club to allocate the correct resource to each matchday, which will ensure cost effective operations and staffing.
- 5.4** The Committee was updated on the Talent Pathway Guides which have been prepared by Judy Wallis. S Elworthy read from a message received from the Cricket Regulator – see attached.
- 5.5** The ground fan zone extension, outside the Sciver-Brunt Gate, will only be in operation for the Test match for the 2026 season.
- 5.6** S Elworthy advised that the Club is making good progress on repairing and replacing the fire doors around the ground and that a programme to refurbish the public toilets has started.
- 5.7** S Elworthy advised that the Club is reviewing the 2025 ECB EDI census results and is working with the Board EDI Lead, Laura Cordingley and an independent consultant to understand the results. Z Ansari commented that the splitting of the Culture & Values Working Group into an EDI Committee and a Culture & Engagement Committee was a welcome and positive move, which should help to focus on EDI issues.
- 5.8** D Gill complimented the Club on the comprehensive monthly report and noted how well the General Committee is informed on what is happening at the Club, particularly highlighting the reports on the streaming services, Surrey Cricket Foundation and the County Championship working group. C Doyle updated that the Club is targeting a County Championship attendance of 100,000 this season and events such as book signings and members events will be staged on match days to encourage more to attend. C Doyle to advise the General Committee members when the working group meets, as they are welcome to attend.
- 5.9** The Committee discussed the additional workload created by MI London and S Elworthy advised that the Club had opted into all ECB services for the 2026 season and that this will be reviewed for the 2027 season.

- 5.10** The Committee discussed Kennington Park and suggested that the Club should work closely with Lambeth Council to use this local green space to be able to share cricket with the local community.

**ITEM 6 FINANCE**

- 6.1** A Lane talked through the 2026 budget which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 6.2** The General Committee discussed the proposed Budget and approved it subject to approval by the Surrey Management Board.

**ITEM 7 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

- 7.1** C Dymond advised that there has been no further progress with the purchase of the Cricketers pub site.
- 7.2** Travelodge have expressed an interest in leasing the Whitehouse and converting the building to additional hotel bedrooms. This would require a new planning application, and the Club is currently waiting to see the full proposal from Travelodge.
- 7.3** C Dymond met with representatives of the Duchy of Cornwall this week and discussed their plans for the Archbishop Tennison School site and the effect these might have on the Whitehouse. The Duchy will update the Club fully on their plans by the end of this month.

**ITEM 8 ECB**

- 8.1** An FCC CEO meeting took place last week and S Elworthy updated the Committee on the discussion topics including the exceptional funding policy and proposed changes to the prize money for the County Championship.

**ITEM 9 GOVERNANCE**

- 9.1** The Committee discussed four e-mails which have been received into the GC e-mail inbox since the last meeting. These e-mails related to the date of the Club AGM, the percentage share the Club holds with MI London, if there was an NED vacancy on the Club Board and notification of a possible phishing e-mail.
- 9.2** Ten Members will be standing for election to the General Committee, with voting opening on 21<sup>st</sup> March and closing on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. The result will be announced at the Club AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**ITEM 10            OFFICER NOMINATIONS**

- 10.1    Lord Grabiner was formally proposed as Club President and was approved by a unanimous vote.
- 10.2    Chris Dymond was formally proposed as Club Deputy President and was approved by a unanimous vote.
- 10.3    Martin Eadon was formally proposed as Honorary Treasurer and was approved by a unanimous vote.

**ITEM 11            ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 11.1    C Payne suggested selling Surrey CCC branded glassware in the Club shop and A Wells will investigate this idea.
- 11.2    The one-off Ashes Test in 2032 was discussed. This match will be played at the Kia Oval to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ashes.
- 11.3    A Wells updated the Committee on ticket sales and membership renewals which are currently at 19,000. The Committee was also updated on renewed and enhanced partnership contracts with Kia and JM Finn and also a new partnership with Chaucer Group.
- 11.4    S Menneer asked of the 'Meet the GC' sessions would continue this season and C Doyle confirmed that they will. C Doyle is also working through the list of subjects raised at last season's meetings.

**ITEM 12            DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 12.1    The date and time of the next meeting is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 18:00.