



THE

OVAL

Annual General Meeting 2026



Minutes:	Annual General Meeting of Members of Surrey County Cricket Club
Date & Time:	Wednesday 29 th April 2026 at 1800
Location:	England Suite, JM Finn Stand, The Kia Oval
Chair:	O M Slipper
Top Table:	L E Calvert (<i>Director of Women's Cricket</i>) M J Eadon (<i>Honorary Treasurer</i>) S Elworthy MBE (<i>CEO</i>) A J Lane (<i>Director of Finance & Services</i>) A J Stewart OBE (<i>Director of Men's Cricket</i>)
Supporting Table:	G Currie (<i>Deloitte LLP</i>) C G Doyle (<i>Company Secretary - Minutes</i>) K Lally (<i>Wedlake Bell</i>) J Singh (<i>Supporter Services Manager</i>) H Wildman (<i>Deloitte LLP</i>)

OPENING COMMENTS

1. S Elworthy welcomed Members to the 2026 Annual General Meeting and confirmed that a quorum of 50 had been reached in the room.¹ S Elworthy asked that members of the General Committee and Board make themselves visible by standing up.
2. O Slipper introduced the top table and supporting table.

IN REMEMBRANCE

3. O Slipper noted the sad passing of Andrew Chamberlain, Arnold Long, Barry Carpenter, Bruce Purgavie, Chris Baker, David Hesbrook, David Thompson, Eric Norman-Walker, Harry Kelleher, Ian Burgess, Ian Turner, Jeff Horne, Jack Boteler, John Loyd, John McEvoy, John Mockford, Keith Mein, Keith Stanton, Kevin Gower, Khurseid Mithani, Leonard Wilson, Mark Allen, Michael Townend, Mike Millard, Patrick Smith, Paul Dickie, Peter Franklin, Peter Judd, Peter O'Kill, Peter Walsh, Robert Briggs, Robert Gregory, Robert Wise, Simon Tindall, Stephen Gill, Tim Marshall, Tony Pigott and Valerie Amos in the last 12 months.
4. O Slipper highlighted the lives and careers of former player Arnold Long and Surrey VI Coach Mark Allen who had passed away in the last 12 months.
5. O Slipper asked Members to stand for a moment's silent reflection in recognition of the players, staff and Members who had passed away in the last 12 months.

ITEM 1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 1.1 O Slipper noted that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 8th May 2025 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 Simon Menneer and seconded by Richard Mantell.
- 1.2 O Slipper asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to approve 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 the minutes were approved as a true record.

ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

CEO Report

¹ 98 Members were in attendance at the Kia Oval. 39 Members were watching on Zoom.

- 2.1 S Elworthy gave a 2025 summary update, focusing on the Club's commercial and operational progression over the last 12 months.
- 2.2 S Elworthy highlighted the 2025 Test Match between England and India, Chris Jordan's winning runs in the T20 versus Kent, the title-deciding County Championship match versus Nottinghamshire and the Surrey Women's success in the Vitality Blast at the Kia Oval as his standout memories of the year.
- 2.3. S Elworthy reported that, following a prolonged contract negotiation, the Club signed the agreements for the acquisition of the Hundred franchise team in December, and commented that the Club should be proud of securing Reliance as a long-term partner.
- 2.4. S Elworthy reported on facilities development work over the 2025/26 winter, notably the refurbishment of the Long Room, significant power upgrades, a new hospitality lounge in the Bedser stand, improvement to several toilet blocks around the ground, and upgraded rooms in the JM Finn stand.
- 2.5. S Elworthy commented on the 2026 schedule and invited Members to show their support and come to the ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup in June and July.
- 2.6. S Elworthy mentioned the Club's commercial partners, noting long-term renewals with Kia, JM Finn and Xbox alongside new partners Chaucer.
- 2.7 S Elworthy reported that the Club currently had 20,627 Members.
- 2.8 S Elworthy commented on the Club's Members events and reported that the End of Season awards would now be a standalone Members event following feedback from the General Committee.
- 2.9 S Elworthy reported on upcoming capital expenditure projects at the Kia Oval over the 2026/27 winter.
- 2.10 S Elworthy displayed the Club's 2025-31 strategic summary, which was available to view on the Club website.
- 2.11 S Elworthy thanked Theresa Peters for her work in running the recent carers event which hosted several hundred carers at the recent County Championship fixture.

Cricket Reports

- 2.12 A short video of the Club's Men's and Women's cricket teams was displayed.
- 2.13 E Calvert commented on the Surrey Women's first season as a fully professional cricket team. E Calvert thanked the Members for their support.
- 2.14 E Calvert reported on recent England call-ups, including first call-ups for Kira Chathli and Tilly Corteen-Coleman.

- 2.15 E Calvert commented on the 2026 season and the upcoming ICC Women’s T20 World Cup.
- 2.16 A Stewart reported on the 2025 season and congratulated Nottinghamshire for winning the County Championship.
- 2.17 A Stewart reported on the 2025 Blast campaign, with the team missing out in the T20 Quarter-Final at the Kia Oval.
- 2.18 A Stewart commented on the Club’s talent pathway and reported that Surrey had won the second XI competition in 2025.
- 2.19 A Stewart reported that Cameron Steel had been forced to retire due to injury and wished him well for the future.
- 2.20 A Stewart thanked the Members for their continuing support.

Chair Report

- 2.21 O Slipper reported a record attendance of 15,544 spectators for the recent Essex County Championship match and commented on the Club’s continuing support for red ball cricket.
- 2.22 O Slipper reported on the Club’s prospective plans for developments around the Kia Oval, and added that the Club were looking to improve the training facilities at LSE Sportsground.
- 2.23 O Slipper commented on the ICC Women’s T20 World Cup taking place at the Kia Oval this summer.
- 2.24 O Slipper highlighted the Club’s 6th Form State School Programme and the impact of the work of both the Surrey Cricket Foundation and the ACE Programme.
- 2.25 O Slipper explained ‘A Day For Thorpey’, a fundraising initiative launched in conjunction with the charity Mind during the 2025 Test Match. O Slipper noted that over £170k had been raised in total and this was funding ‘Bat and Chat’ cricket sessions across the country, aimed at supporting those with mental health issues. O Slipper reported that the campaign would be repeated during the 2026 Test Match at the Kia Oval.
- 2.26 O Slipper commented that the partnership with Reliance was working well and expressed optimism for the first season with the new MI London teams later in the year.
- 2.27 O Slipper formally proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st January 2026.

Honorary Treasurer Report

- 2.28 M Eadon reported on the impact of the Hundred transaction. M Eadon reported that the Club had received approximately £17m cash share of proceeds of the sale of the Hundred franchise

teams. M Eadon noted that the Club also received 51% shareholding in MIL Limited (market value) which had a non-cash value of £81m.

- 2.29** M Eadon reported on the dividends received by the Club in relation to the Hundred transaction and the explained the amortisation of goodwill within the accounts.
- 2.30** M Eadon explained the underlying numbers within the Group Results for 2025/26, reporting a turnover of £60.3m, an operating profit of £1.9m, and a profit before tax of £1.3m.
- 2.31** M Eadon reported on the balance sheet.
- 2.32** M Eadon commented on the financial outlook for 2026 and beyond.
- 2.33** M Eadon formally seconded the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31st January 2026.

Members Q & A

C Doyle read out the pre-submitted questions by Members:

- 2.34** Mr Alex Burke asked why a press release had stated that Mr Akash Ambani was a Team Owner of MI London. O Slipper stated that this was an error and clarified that Mr Ambani is co-owner and Reliance are a 49% shareholder.
- 2.35** Mr William Hughes asked what the Club's view on the ECB County Insights Group formed in the aftermath of the Ashes. A Stewart noted that the group, including 4 FCCC Directors of Cricket, had only recently been formed as a means of delivering a stronger connection between the County game and the England setup.
- 2.36** Mr Richard Clifton commented that the ticket purchasing section of the website was extremely frustrating when trying to purchase tickets for juniors alongside Members. S Elworthy explained that certain rules and regulations dictated the process for purchasing junior tickets. S Elworthy noted that Members can obtain a free-of-charge ticket for junior attendees at T20 and Hundred matches either through the website or by contacting the Membership and Supporter Services team. O Slipper added that the Club had formed a digital working group including specialist independent advisors to support the evolution of the Club's digital and technological products and services.
- 2.37** Mr James Burke asked about the Club's position on selecting players from Pakistan for MI London. O Slipper noted that the Club had released a joint statement with the other seven franchise teams on this topic stating categorically that team selection was based solely on cricketing performance.
- 2.38** Mr Ralph Adelman asked why the Club were forcing Members to use a new ticketing app. S Elworthy replied that the new app was the default delivery system but that Members could still download tickets from their online account after purchase.

- 2.39** Mrs Gill Curran asked if the Club would consider bringing back the T20 Membership. S Elworthy replied that there were no current plans to reintroduce this category of membership, adding that the commercial department reviewed the Membership categories annually.
- 2.40** Mr Graeme Childe asked if the Club would consider allowing dogs into the Oval like they do at other County grounds. S Elworthy replied that the Club had reviewed holding a ‘dog day’ but ultimately decided there were too many operational considerations around crowd safety, hygiene and facility issues for the plan to go ahead. S Elworthy added that guide dogs were permitted.
- 2.41** Mr James Hemingway asked how the Club can justify changing playing kits annually, given its focus on sustainability. S Elworthy responded that the County Championship shirt had not been changed for the last four seasons and that the One-Day kit would only be changed every other year.
- 2.42** Mr Yusuf Osman asked if the Club would consider establishing an accessibility subcommittee. S Elworthy replied that the Club has recently held focus groups regarding accessibility and had a dedicated accessibility officer who could be contacted regarding any concerns or queries.
- 2.43** Mr Ralph Adelman asked whether the Club would replace the current plastic beer cups. S Elworthy replied that the Club were reviewing the use of reusable cups which could provide an automatic refund upon return via an embedded RFID tag within the cup.

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

- 2.44** Mr David Neil-Smith asked whether there were any opportunities for cricketing facilities across the road at the site of the Archbishop Tenison School, and whether the Club could use the money from the Hundred transaction to acquire any available land on the site. A Lane replied that the Duchy of Cornwall had been successful in acquiring the ABTS site and that the Club were communicating with the Duchy over what links the Club could co-operate on regarding the new developments. O Slipper noted that the Club were looking to use the Hundred money to fund a second ground.
- 2.44** Mr Mark Heywood expressed his support for the recent Work From Oval campaign, and asked whether the Club would look to develop this further? S Elworthy noted that a Red Ball focus group were responsible for the WFO initiative and that internal discussions were ongoing regarding how best to develop the areas for those working at the Oval on matchdays.
- 2.45** Dr Haroon Mohammed asked whether the Club could permit carers into the Pavilion on matchdays. T Peters confirmed that the Club allows Members with carers to bring them into the Pavilion.
- 2.46** A Member asked whether the Club had any current plans to relay the pitch. A Stewart explained the reasons behind the recent high-scoring wickets and that the current strategy was to relay selected pitches over a long period of time rather than all at once.

2.47 Mr Alan Higham raised concerns about the rising inequality in English Cricket, highlighting the recent financial difficulties at another First Class County Club which had led to points deductions and governance reviews, and commenting that there was a high risk of this happening at other non-Test Counties in the future. O Slipper commented that he shared Mr Higham’s view in supporting an 18-County ecosystem, and added that he believed the ECB were also of this view. O Slipper expressed his belief that it was the ECB’s responsibility to hold all Counties accountable for financial sustainability.

2.48 Mr Brishni Mukhopadhyay asked if there was more that the Club could do to encourage Members in supporting the Surrey Cricket Foundation.
Mr Mukhodpadhyay also asked if there was a long-term breakdown of how the Club intends to manage Capital Expenditure and Cashflow in the future.

In response to the first question, S Elworthy explained that there was a working group including several non-executive directors on how the Board could develop its link with the Surrey Cricket Foundation.

In response to the second question, A Lane replied that there was an 8-year plan in place for long-term strategic and financial planning, with 8 years chosen because it represents two full Ashes cycles.

2.49 Mr Joshua Kerr asked about whether there could be an adults net session in the indoor school. Mr Kerr also asked if the metal railing between the bottom of the SSE Stand and the Pavilion could be developed into a more permanent solution.

In response to the first question, S Elworthy explained the recent waterproofing of the KBC and noted that the demand on the indoor school was high due to a loss of two lanes.

In response to the second question, S Elworthy agreed to look into this area of the ground in more detail.

2.50 Mr David Strange (following online) asked what the prospects were of playing spin bowlers more often. A Stewart replied saying Ralphie Albert had already played in the first XI this season and that overseas leg spinner Rahul Chahar was joining for the last 8 championship games in the session.

2.51 O Slipper confirmed that he and M Eadon had proposed and seconded the adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2025-26 Financial Year. O Slipper asked for a show of hands for and against the proposal to adopt the Annual Report & Accounts for the 2025-26 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 2025-26 Financial Year had been formally adopted.

ITEM 3 ELECTIONS

President

3.1 O Slipper reported that the General Committee had formally nominated Lord Anthony Grabiner KC for re-election as President in 2026. Standing unopposed, the Chair declared him elected.

- 3.2 Lord Grabiner thanked the Members and commented on the privilege of being President of the Club.

Deputy President

- 3.3 O Slipper reported that the General Committee had nominated Chris Dymond to be re-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 there were no nominations for Honorary Life Vice President this year.

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 Warwick Jones and seconded by Sir Michael Pickard.
- 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. O Slipper confirmed that in the room there was a unanimous majority for the proposal. O Slipper therefore confirmed Deloitte for re-appointment as the Club's auditors.

ITEM 5 GENERAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

- 5.1 O Slipper thanked David Gill, Chris Thompson, Arun Harinath and Laura Rolles who were retiring from the General Committee following a four-year term.
- 5.2 O Slipper reported an election turnout of 12.7% and noted that 843 votes had been required to achieve 4th place (and therefore election) in this year's process.
- 5.3 O Slipper announced that the following four Members (in alphabetical order) were elected by Members onto the General Committee for a four-year term:

Phil Garrard
Jo Robinies
Martin Searle
Emily Walters

O Slipper congratulated the above on their successful election to the General Committee, and also thanked (in alphabetical order) Kim Barlow, Eleanor Brown, Jim Dowling, Connor Malone, Alan Sendorek and Andrew Woods for standing for election.

- 5.5 O Slipper noted that Kim Barlow, having been unsuccessful in the election, would be stepping down from her co-opted position on the General Committee. O Slipper thanked Kim for her support during her term on the General Committee.


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 four Honorary Life Members this year:

Geoff Bond
Steve Coulson
David Gill
Sir Mick Jagger

CLOSING COMMENTS

O Slipper concluded the 2026 Annual General Meeting of Surrey County Cricket Club.



Oli Slipper
Chair