



Minutes:	General Committee
Date:	Thursday 26 th March 2026
Time:	18:00
Place:	Committee Room, Kia Oval
Chair:	O Slipper
Members in Attendance:	Z Ansari K Barlow S Dyson M Eadon S Elworthy MBE D Gill A Grabiner KC W Jones K Kumaria E Lewendon R Mantell S Menneer C Payne M Reeve L Rolles S Wootten
In attendance:	E Calvert C Doyle A Lane K Leach (minutes) J Stapleton A Stewart OBE A Wells

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from C Dymond, A Harinath, P Pocock and C Thompson.

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

2.1 No matters arising.

2.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2026 were agreed as an accurate record.

ITEM 3 CRICKET

3.1 A Stewart advised that the women's team are currently in South Africa on a pre-season tour. They have so far had one training day and one match day.

3.2 A Stewart updated the Committee on women player injuries. There will be an England A series in June, as well as the Women's World Cup, so the squad may be very depleted over this period with England players not available for the Club. This may well, however, give Academy players an opportunity.

3.3 A Stewart advised that the men's pre-season training has gone well and the two squads have managed training time well. The squad played a two-day match at Canterbury this week and have a two-day inter-squad game starting at the Kia Oval today.

3.4 The men's squad spent yesterday at Stoke Park as part of the I Serve culture piece. The session was led by Andrea Furst and included a session with Owen Farrell speaking to the players.

3.5 A Stewart updated the Committee on current player injuries and players involved in the IPL and PSL. S Menneer asked if more information could be given to members on player signings and injury updates, but A Stewart advised that he preferred to only give information when signings were confirmed, rather than possible player acquisitions and injuries were subject to medical confidentiality; however, A Stewart agreed to be as informative with members as possible.

3.6 There will be a Directors of Cricket call with Brendon McCullum and Rob Key on 1st April.

3.7 The Hundred auction went well and there will be seven Surrey players in the women's squad and six in the men's squad. A Stewart explained that a lot of preparation work had gone into the auction process.

3.8 The Committee discussed the Club's ambitions for the new season and wished A Stewart and E Calvert and their respective squad's good luck for the year.

ITEM 4 CEO REPORT

- 4.1** S Elworthy advised that at the start of the new season, the Club is in a good place but also faces some challenges this year. Credit should be given to the ground staff for the pitch preparation, despite all the rain that we have had over the last few months. The marquee has worked very well again.
- 4.2** An ICC Women's World Cup site visit took place this week. Ticket sales are good so far for the England v. New Zealand match and it is hoped that semi-final tickets will sell out closer to the matches when teams involved are known. Members take up of tickets in the pavilion is low and will need monitoring. There are some operational challenges with the Test Match only five days before the first World Cup game, but these are being managed.
- 4.3** A Wells updated on ticket sales for the T20 Blast, with the Middlesex game looking to be a sell-out. The Test Match (days 1-4) and ODI are both sold out. Hospitality is going well for the Blast and the Test Match, but the ODI is a challenge at the moment but should reach target. All eight franchises in The Hundred have struggled with ticket sales so far this year but sales have picked up in the last week. Membership is currently at 19,000 and the NFC cards have been sent out in the last week. A members dinner took place last week, with 300 in attendance. C&E sales had a record February after a challenging end to last year.
- 4.4** A new partnership deal has been signed with Chaucer Group, and Kia have extended their deal to include the women's team. Xbox have also renewed their partnership. MI London has not so far secured a front of shirt sponsor, but the Club and Reliance are working hard to secure a partner.
- 4.5** J Stapleton updated the Committee on the fire door compliance work, which is progressing well and also, a new legionella contract is now in place.
- 4.6** The ECB EDI Survey results were presented to staff at a Town Hall this week and the first pulse survey has been sent out.
- 4.7** The Committee discussed the Club's work with Lambeth & Kennington Park.
- 4.8** The Committee was updated on the matchday safeguarding officer role, particularly highlighting the matches where a guard of honour is in place.
- 4.9** The Committee discussed the season ahead and its significance as a watershed moment for the Club. The Women's World Cup was highlighted, along with this being the first year the Club had an ownership stake in the Hundred team.

- 4.10** O Slipper addressed the media reports prior to the Hundred auction, when it was suggested that teams with Indian owners and partners would not select players from Pakistan. The Club gave assurances that this was never the case for MI London and there was a discussion around this subject where some members of the Committee felt that the Club should have made an earlier statement to this effect, rather than waiting for the collective statement which was issued on behalf of all the teams. It was agreed that this could have been perceived as a defensive move and that in future, in order to give comfort to all members and stakeholders, the Club should be more proactive in its response to situations such as these.

ITEM 5 FINANCE

- 5.1** A Lane presented the financial statements, which have been approved by the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, the OEHL Strategic Board and the Surrey Board. A Lane thanked A Kay, S Halai and the finance team for all their work on the year end accounts and also C Doyle for his work on the annual report.

- 5.2** The Committee discussed the financial statements and they were approved.

ITEM 6 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- 6.1** Work is being carried out on the viability to convert the Whitehouse to an annexe of the Travelodge.
- 6.2** There is no further update on the potential purchase of the Cricketers Pub site.
- 6.3** A Stewart is looking at options for the site at LSE as a training venue, rather than looking for a second match day ground. This could mean that training only takes place at the Kia oval in the winter.
- 6.4** The 4th floor Bedser Stand refurbishment is due to be completed by 20th April. There are now four boxes accommodating up to 20 people in each and one box with a 60-person capacity. The Ashes Suite and England Suite, plus the Bedser 3rd floor will be refurbished next winter.
- 6.5** The Committee discussed Lord's redevelopment plans and the effect these plans will have on the Kia Oval.

ITEM 7 ECB

- 7.1** O Slipper & S Elworthy attended the PCC & MCC Assembly last week and updated the Committee on the agenda, including a presentation by Rob Key, which outlined more emphasis on current form when selecting players for the England squad.

ITEM 8 GC INBOX

- 8.1** There were five relevant e-mails in the General Committee Inbox since the last meeting, all pertaining to the media reports of non-selection of players from Pakistan in the Hundred teams. All e-mails were responded to with the Club statement as previously discussed.

ITEM 9 CLUB HONOURS

- 9.1** Four names were put forward for Honorary Life Membership of the Club, and all were approved unanimously. It was noted that the honours process must remain confidential and that if any member was informed that they would be proposed for a Club honour, then this would disqualify them from the process. The recipients will be announced at the Club AGM in April.

ITEM 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1** David Gill presented the Club with a copy of the Surrey CCC Story of Covid, which he has produced. Several members of the Committee have contributed to the book and David requested that the book remain in the Committee Room for this season, so it can be enjoyed by Committee members and visitors to the Club.
- 10.2** M Reeve asked how the digital access rollout was progressing and it was agreed that so far, there had been very few issues. There has also been a soft launch of the ticketing app this week.
- 10.3** C Payne requested to attend the next meeting of the red ball focus group. C Doyle to arrange the invitation.
- 10.4** The new portrait of Rory Burns will be officially unveiled in the Long Room by Lord Grabiner. The ceremony will take place at the tea break of the first day's play against Leicestershire, Friday 10th April.

ITEM 11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 11.1** The date and time of the next meeting is Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 16:00.