Minutes:	General Committee
Date:	Tuesday 29th September 2026
Time:	17:00
Place:	Committee Room, Kia Oval
Chair:	O Slipper
Members in Attendance:	Z Ansari S Dyson M Eadon S Elworthy MBE P Garrard A Grabiner KC W Jones K Kumaria E Lewendon R Mantell S Menneer C Payne P Pocock M Reeve J Robinies M Searle E Walters S Wootten
In attendance:	E Calvert C Dymond C Doyle A Lane K Leach (minutes) J Stapleton A Stewart OBE A Wells

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 None received.

ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2026 were agreed as an accurate record.

ITEM 3 CRICKET

3.1 A Stewart reflected on a disappointing season for the men's team, finishing 7th in the County Championship. Not winning matches at home was a concern and pitches helping seam bowling needs to be looked at, although there were no issues with the pitch preparation. Too many dropped catches and a lack of impactful performances were highlighted. The coaches will be meeting on Thursday this week to have an initial season debrief and will then have a full review meeting in November. The players will return for winter training from the second week of November.

3.2 On the coaching team, Jim Troughton is leaving his role at the Club and will be joining Warwickshire. No decision will be made on overseas players for next season until the Club knows which England players will be available, although with the Ashes scheduling next year, it is likely that the Club will have its white ball England players available for the T20 Blast. The Club will have nine players on England contracts next season.

3.3 E Calvert updated on a disappointing end to the season, with defeat in the semi-final of the women's One Day Cup; however, the team reached two semi-finals and a final this season, without playing their best cricket and so there are positives to be taken.

3.4 Freya Kemp has joined the Club from Hampshire on a multi-year contract. Along with the earlier announcement that experienced seamer Kate Coppack has joined the Club, the Club now has 19 contracted players and 4 England contracted players.

3.5 E Calvert advised that England will be focussing on red ball cricket ahead of next year's Ashes Test and this will mean that, with camps and tours, the Club will lose its eight England and England A players for around two months next season. The Club has the largest women's squad in the country and so this squad depth along with several exciting pathway players will come into play next season.

3.6 Winter training for both the men's and women's teams will include time in the marquee at the Kia Oval along with overseas tours. The men's team have a possible 10-day trip to Zimbabwe in early March, and the women's team will travel to Pretoria in mid-March.

ITEM 4 CEO REPORT

4.1 As advised at the last meeting, a European SGSA delegation visited the Club on 18th September. The St Denis Convention visited several stadiums in the UK during their visit, although mostly focussed on football stadia. The visit went very well.

4.2 RFID cups will be introduced for next season, replacing the single use plastic cups that the Club has been using for the last two seasons. The same system has been successfully implemented by Warwickshire CCC this season.

4.3 S Elworthy raised the issue of daytime pyrotechnics with the ECB, as per the request at the last meeting. The ECB have taken this feedback on board and are looking at a refresh of the T20 Blast tournament presentation for next season.

4.4 S Elworthy updated the General Committee on the Board's decision this morning to host the Men's 50 Over final in September, rather than the Women's T20 Blast Finals Day in July. If the Club were to host the women's Finals Day, it would mean that no County Championship cricket could be played at the Kia Oval between June and September. The proposal was approved by the Board, whilst stating that the Club remains keen to host the women's Blast Finals Day in the future and that this arrangement is for one year only at this stage.

4.5 The Club has submitted its fixture requests to ECB in the annual questionnaire, which is sent to all FCCs. The Club has requested one home County Championship fixture in both June and July. Although Sky and the ECB have indicated a preference for all televised T20 Blast matches to be played on Fridays and Sundays, the Club has requested more midweek fixtures because these are commercially more beneficial.

4.6 The Board has approved for the Club to push its net zero target back from 2030 to 2040. The Club is still committed to achieving net zero and is aiming for a 50% carbon reduction by 2030 and the base year is moving to 2026. The Club's JV partner, Levy, have also moved their net zero target back from 2030, with no set target date.

4.7 The refurbishment of the England & Ashes Suites is going ahead this winter, and a supplier should be appointed shortly, following a tender process. Waterproofing of the upper Bedser Stand will start this week and this will protect the KBC from the repeated water leaks.

4.8 Membership renewals are going well and there has been very little feedback on the price increases for 2027. The Committee asked if there was cross-selling of Hundred ticket purchasers and Surrey memberships and if the demographic of members is changing since the introduction of the Hundred. The Committee asked A Wells to produce an analysis of the membership demographic and details of membership attendance to the various competitions and formats.

4.9 It was confirmed that only those members turning 26 this year would be offered the extended 25-30 membership category.

4.10 The Ashes ballot has received a record number of applicants and ticket prices will be announced in due course. It was confirmed that ticket prices for the World Test Championship Final will be lower than those for the Ashes Test.

4.11 The partnerships team has broken £4m in revenue and after a solid first year of partnerships with MI London, these renewals are now being looked at.

ITEM 5 FINANCE

5.1 Forecast 2 has been circulated and A Lane advised that although EBITDA is down by £400k, the forecast is only £100k down against budget.

ITEM 6 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

6.1 C Dymond updated on the Bedser Level 3 refurbishment project, which will include a 'super box' with capacity for 80 guests. The cost of the project will be higher than the 4th floor project, due to the larger floor area, the balcony extension work and the inclusion of upgrades to the lifts and staircases. Work is due to start in January and be completed in April.

6.2 A pre-application has been submitted to Lambeth Council for the Whitehouse to be converted into 14 additional bedrooms for the Travelodge. Heads of Terms with Travelodge are being drafted.

6.3 The Duchy of Cornwall have submitted their plans for the ABT site, with three residential buildings proposed which will include affordable housing and a co-living block. Construction is not due to start until 2028.

6.4 There has been no progress with the Club's offer to purchase the Cricketers pub site, but the current owners have now submitted a planning application for seven town houses on the site.

6.5 The Club is still investigating sites for a second ground and has recently looked at the Bank of England site at Roehampton; however, this is on a 10-year lease to the AELTC for the Wimbledon qualifying competitions so unlikely to be available in the short term.

ITEM 7 ECB

7.1 A Lane advised that the ECB is freezing team salary levels for the next three years and the London weighting will remain.

ITEM 8 GC INBOX

8.1 C Doyle detailed the e-mails received into the GC Inbox since the last meeting. Matters raised include covering Hundred branding during Metro Bank 50 Over matches, which can be partially achieved but the cost would be prohibitive to fully change the branding for each match. There was a complaint around the 175 restaurant which was passed to the catering team. Two positive complimentary e-mails were received, one around a tour which was provided and the other praising the stewards and security team. The Club was notified of the passing of a member, and this member will be acknowledged at the first game of the new season. Finally, there was a request from a former GC member that limited Committee Room privileges should be extended to all previous GC members, but this was rejected by the Committee, and the protocols will remain unchanged.

8.2 O Slipper advised that as David Gill has completed his term on the General Committee, a new GC member for the Nominations Committee is required. O Slipper proposed W Jones for this position and the General Committee unanimously approved this.

8.3 With regard to Club membership numbers, any increase in the maximum number of members is required to be approved by the General Committee. As membership is increasing year on year, the matter of a limit was discussed and a long-term view of member management. A Wells will bring proposals to the November meeting for discussion.

ITEM 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 M Reeve requested a glossary of the acronyms used within the Board Report.

9.2 C Doyle advised that Brian Cowley has retired from the stats group, after 35 years' service. A plaque will be displayed in the Pavilion, commemorating Brian's service.

9.3 P Garrard thanked the Committee and Club for their good wishes after Trish's recent surgery.

9.4 K Kumaria asked if the annual Christmas carol concert at St Marks Church could be more prominently marketed to members as a fundraiser for the Oval Cricket Relief Trust. A Lane advised that J Surtees is already looking into this.

9.5 The Committee thanked the executives present and the Club staff for delivering another excellent cricket season.

ITEM 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 The date and time of the next meeting is Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 18:00.