



**Sussex Cricket Limited**  
**MINUTES of the 1st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*held on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 7pm*

**THE BOUNDARY ROOMS, THE FIRST CENTRAL COUNTY GROUND, HOVE**

---

The Chairman, Jim May, called the meeting to order at 7.00pm and welcomed all those present, including the Board Directors, Vice Presidents, Individual Members and Affiliated Club Members. Jim May asked for a minute's silence in memory of the following individuals who had passed away during the previous year:

**Former players:**

DJ Foreman  
David Mantell  
Ian Thwaites  
Nicholas Treadaway

**Individual Members:**

David Arnold  
Brian Bidgood  
MH Cornford  
Albert Edward  
Barry Fearn  
PM Gander  
Graham Gilbert  
Norman Godden  
P Gordon  
TC Gotch  
Christopher Hemming  
CR Lancaster  
Capt DF Mant  
TR Maynard  
Dom Mew  
MW Nash  
Malcolm Ridley  
JA Simmonds  
B Tester  
Patricia Thompson  
Rayman Weatherhead  
R Woolgar

**Recreational Clubs:**

Tom Adams, VP, Haywards Heath CC  
Norman Aston, Crawley CC  
Tim Dexter – Preston Nomards CC  
Tony Dumbrill – Barns Green CC  
Wendy Green – St James CC  
Chris Hadfield – Ansty CC  
Alan Neave – Ifield CC  
Frank Nye – Ansty CC  
John Oakley – East Sussex League Umpire  
Sanjay Patel – Ram CC  
Dr John Robson – Preston Nomads CC  
John Skinner – Ifield CC  
Bill Smith – St James CC  
Roy Ticehurst – Heathfield Park CC  
Bill Woolford – Broadbridge Heath CC

The Chief Executive, Rob Andrew, then formally convened the meeting through the following announcement: "Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held here in The Boundary Rooms, Sussex County Cricket Club, Hove, today Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7pm."

**1) Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from the following individuals:

Nick Gee

Hugh Griffiths

Sheryl Enett

Hugh Thomas

Three Bridges Cricket Club

## **2) Resolution regarding the late notice of the Annual General Meeting.**

The Chairman asked Professor JF Pickering to present the following resolution;

*It is not so many years ago, that a previous AGM did not give the requisite notice and I proposed that we should still proceed. Now we have the same problem and I have been asked once more to propose that, while noting the shortfall of up to a couple of days in the notice given of the Agenda etc., we should still proceed with this meeting.*

*It is not a good situation but I am advised that the fault was entirely with the printers, who failed to deliver on time.*

*To defer this meeting would be frustrating and annoying to Members that are present tonight; I am advised there has been no complaint or request to defer from any Member. To have to reconvene the meeting would involve further costs, which as a club we can ill - afford, especially after the debacle of the erroneous letter to Members regarding Board vacancies that had to be countermanded.*

*In the firm confidence that our new Chief Executive will not tolerate this situation again, I beg to move that, noting with regret the slightly shorter notices given than formerly required, we proceed with this AGM tonight*

Proposed by Professor JF Pickering and seconded by David Stoner. Accepted without dissent.

## **3) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Chairman requested that the minutes of the following meeting should be approved as read:

- Sussex Cricket Limited Annual General Meeting held on March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016

Proposed by Alan Phillips and seconded by Martin Richards. Accepted without dissent. There were no matters arising from the meeting.

## **4) Chairman's Board report.**

Jim May informed the meeting that David Bowden and himself would be stepping down from their roles as SCL President and SCL Chairman respectively at the end of March 2017. Mr May invited Mr Bowden to say a few words.

Mr Bowden gave a brief presentation on the Sussex Cricket Foundation detailing the scope and impact of the Foundation in 2016 in three key areas; participation, education and health. Mr Bowden also referred to the income generation in 2016 confirming that £150,000 was raised in the appeal year. Mr Bowden thanked the Sussex Cricket Foundation and Vice Presidents for their continuing support and contributions. Mr May thanked Mr Bowden for his significant contribution to Sussex Cricket and he noted the major part that Mr Bowden had played in the formation of Sussex Cricket Limited.

Mr May referred Members to the Chairman's Report. He then highlighted some of the developments in Sussex Cricket over the past 20 years, including the playing success, the redevelopment of Hove to increase non-match day business and the integration work that

resulted in the formation of Sussex Cricket Ltd in November 2015. Mr May also mentioned some of changes seen in the game of cricket during that period, from the evolution of the T20 format to the major increase in development of the women's game.

Mr May referred to the challenges faced by all First Class County Clubs, highlighting the impact of decreasing membership and the challenge to keep red ball cricket alive, whilst encouraging T20 participation and appealing to a younger audience. Mr May spoke of the strength of the professional team for the upcoming season and was optimistic that it would be a successful year ahead and that foundations meant that Sussex was well placed in the wider aspects of the games. Mr May expressed his thanks to his Board colleagues, previous CEO's, staff, players, members and his wife for their support during his time as Chairman.

David Stoner expressed his thanks to Mr May for his contributions over the last 20 years.

## 5) Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer, Ed Putnam, presented the **Sussex Cricket Limited Accounts** for the year ending 31st Oct 2016. Mr Putnam informed the meeting that the Financial Strategy would remain the same as the previous year:

### **Financial Strategy:**

The organisation's strategy is to:

- Invest in professional cricket and other forms of the game
- Invest in projects which generate a recurring increase in income
- Deliver a return from the investment made in stadium facilities through income including significant non-match day revenue – we are a year-round business
- Continue to invest capital to keep Hove special
- Maintain solvent position
- Maintain excellent stadium facilities via maintenance and provision for future rebuild

Mr Putnam clarified the accounts structure following the integration and confirmed that the accounts of Sussex Cricket Limited are consolidated showing the results of the Sussex Cricket Ltd (the same legal entity and activities undertaken by the former Sussex County Cricket Club) and Sussex Cricket Foundation (a wholly owned subsidiary of Sussex Cricket Ltd which undertakes the activities previously performed by the Sussex Cricket Board and Sussex Cricket in the Community Trust). He explained that the Sussex Cricket Limited Profit and Loss statements reflected the Sussex Cricket Limited and Sussex Cricket Foundation accounts combined. The Balance Sheet included a combined statement from Sussex Cricket Limited and the Sussex Cricket Foundation as well as a separate standalone Sussex Cricket Limited Balance Sheet. The Sussex Cricket Foundation subsidiary accounts were also available separately which Mr Putnam advised is typical of many businesses.

Mr Putnam noted the 2015/2016 headline results detailing an operating figure of a profit of £1k compared to the previous year where there had been a deficit of £139k. The Pro Cricket had performed better than expected with an operating loss of £84k (£10k better than budget). The Sussex Cricket Foundation had traded worse than expected with a loss of £133k, however, this was offset by a transfer of £218k from Sussex Cricket Board to Sussex Cricket Foundation.

### **Income:**

- Match: was down after a disappointing T20 season and tourist game figures.
- Membership: was down 8% on the previous year.
- Commercial: still performing well (when benchmarked against peer counties) despite headline income being down against previous year.

- Catering: was up 4%, profit contribution up only 2% and has been broadly flat over the past two years.
- ECB: higher overall. Significantly lower than the previous year in respect of the England player development element which is reflected by the retirement of Matt Prior.
- Rental income: return on investment in the offices in the North-East corner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Central Ground. Total estates income has almost doubled in the last three years

Mr Putnam presented the Sussex Cricket Foundation statement and noted that the year 2015/2016 showed a bigger than usual loss, with an operating loss of £133k. This was explained by set-up costs and partly by a shortfall in budgeted income largely related to the education area.

In summary, the balance sheet shows net assets of £10.3m, a positive cash balance and debt free status. Mr Putnam noted that the Board consider it appropriate to continue to reflect depreciation in accounts although some county clubs do not as ground assets do wear in time and the accounts the Board preferred not to have qualified accounts. The most important aspect of depreciation is to ensure access to hard cash for future investments.

### **2016/2017 Plans**

Mr Putnam noted that there would be a significant profit in 2016/2017 with the addition of £1m income from the ECB. He expressed that the challenge would be to drive the underlying trading model whilst investing in the playing squad, other strategic goals and profitable development such as the regeneration of the area around the Cricketers' Pub.

Mr Putnam received some queries regarding the accounts. Mr Sears asked if the regeneration of the area around the Cricketers' Pub would be a costly exercise using external contactors. Mr Putnam advised that the process was still in early development and that currently only services that were provided for free were being engaged.

Mr Stoner and Professor Pickering raised queries regarding the omission of detailed operating costs suggesting that this prevented Members from being able to see what areas were performing/under performing. Mr Putnam addressed these concerns explaining that the original intention had been to show full P&L's for both but it had been agreed with the auditors that it would be more cost effective to reflect this information in the Treasurer's Report, which had sought to balance the different informational requirements of users to the accounts and advised that he would address this concern next year.

Mr Stoner drew attention to a small error that had been included in the accounts relating to membership. Mr Putnam apologised for the error and agreed that the figure was a typographical error and incorrect.

Professor Pickering queried the appointment of the auditors and asked Mr Putnam if they would be reappointed for a following year. Mr Putnam advised that the Audit Committee had reappointed RSM for another year, however, there would be a tender the following year to appoint an auditor on a three-year contract.

The Chairman asked for the adoption of the SCL accounts.

Proposed by Dick Holste, MBE and seconded by David Dumigan.

Accepted with two votes against from Mr David Stoner and Professor J.F Pickering

## **6) Election of President for 2016/17**

Jim May proposed the election of John Abbott as President for 2017/2018. Mr May expressed his confidence in Mr Abbott who has strong roots in Sussex cricket and is a Sussex Cricket Foundation Trustee.

Proposed by David Bowden and seconded by David Stoner. Agreed without dissent.

## **7) Election of New Vice Presidents**

Bob Warren proposed that Mr D. Bowden, Mr D. Brooks, Mr T. Burstow, Mr J. May, are elected as Vice Presidents. Mr Warren stated that Mr T Pigott had to decline the invitation to become a Vice President due to a conflict of interest.

Proposed by Bob Warren and seconded by Gary Stanley. Agreed without dissent.

## **8) Election of Non-Executive Directors to the Board**

The Chief Executive, Rob Andrew, noted that three nominations were received for three vacant Board positions. The nominations were therefore uncontested.

Mr S. Crundwell and Mr M. Richards have been elected on behalf of the Individual Members for a term of three years. Mr Crundwell was proposed by David Bowden and seconded by Bob Warren. Mr Richards was proposed by Jim May and seconded by David Bowden

Mr J. Barclay has been elected on behalf of the Affiliated Clubs for a term of three years. Mr Barclay was proposed by James Rufey on behalf of the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation and seconded by Chris Bidwell on behalf of Preston Nomads Cricket Club.

## **9) Election of Auditors**

The Treasurer proposed that RSM (formerly Baker Tilly) be re-elected as the Organisation's auditors. Seconded by Bob Warren. Accepted without dissent.

## **10) Other Business**

The Chairman, Jim May, stated that there had been no formal request for any specific item to be raised under 'Other Business'.

Mr Barclay expressed his thanks to Mr May and Mr Bowden for their time, expertise and energy that they had given and noted the enormous part they had played during their time at Sussex Cricket.

Mr May thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.