

## **Minutes of the Forty Seventh Annual General Meeting of Eynsham Cricket Club held on 21 February 2021, 18.00, organized via Zoom**

**Present:** The Club President, Mr Richard Lake, the Club Chairman (Interim), Mr Allen Stevens and 19 members of the Club

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Formal apologies were received from Greg Inge and Tom Gerken.

The meeting began at 18.05 and was chaired by the club President, Richard Lake.

### **2. Opening Remarks and formal approval of “late” AGM**

Richard Lake provided some initial thoughts, pointing the assembled company towards the excellent annual report (tabled), prepared by members of the 2020 Committee, for more details of the curtailed, COVID-affected, 2020 season.

All were welcomed to this delayed 2020 AGM. In particular John Dennis was welcomed, being able to join due to Zoom. John was a founder member of the ECC when it was reformed in 1974 and a former President of the club.

The AGM was being held later than the scheduled time (before the end of the calendar year) due to uncertainties posed by COVID and the difficulties of getting people together. To this end the AGM would be asked formally to approve the delayed AGM. This was necessary in order provide documentary evidence relating to decisions made in 2020 and early 2021 on behalf of the club.

Attention was drawn to the 2020 situation during which little cricket was played (although all sections of the club did play some competitive cricket towards the end of the season) and the club was unable to raise much income due to the closure of School Piece and the pavilion and the curtailment of group activities. The financial situation had been saved by the award of a Government COVID grant of £10,000; more details of this can be found in the financial section of the report.

*Motion: Due to COVID-related unknowns at the time of the scheduled 2020 AGM (end-November 2020) the club retrospectively approves rearrangement of the annual 2020 AGM beyond the end of the calendar year, to be held on 21 February 2021*

Proposed: Sam Hollingshead; Seconded: Tom Prentice  
Agreed *nem con*

### **3. Minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes of the 46th AGM held on 01 December 2019 were tabled. It was proposed by Gary Cook, seconded by Mark Weller and agreed *nem con* that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

### **4. Matters Arising**

No matters arising were discussed.

### **5. Notification of any Other Business**

No items of other business were raised

## **Minutes of the Forty Seventh Annual General Meeting of Eynsham Cricket Club held on 21 February 2021, 18.00, organized via Zoom**

### **6. Annual Report from the General Committee**

The report had been made available to all attendees prior to the meeting. Due to the virtual nature of the meeting all contributors were asked to provide a brief summary of their section.

Before questions were taken the Chair drew attention to the contribution of Gary Cook and Frank Partlett to the successful running of the club. They had been mentioned in virtually every section of the annual report. Gary Cook and Frank Partlett were formally thanked, as were all the other volunteers who helped keep the club running throughout the year.

Questions and comments:

- Matt Stanbury, a new member in 2020, thanked the club for its warm welcome and drew attention to the excellent facilities and the high quality of the wicket at School Piece.
- There was discussion about friendly cricket and the value of offering adult cricketing opportunities to younger players. There will be an enhanced friendly mid-week and Sunday programme in 2021 and fixtures had already been put in place.
- Gary Cook was asked about equipment expenditure in 2020. This was carried out to future-proof the existing equipment and mostly involved servicing and enhanced-maintenance. The gang-mower was the most likely item to require replacement or repair in the future.

No further questions were asked about the non-financial sections of the report. The complete report would be posted on the ECC website for all members to access.

### **7. Financial Report**

A set of formal 2020 accounts was tabled as part of the full annual report. These were supplemented by a commentary prepared by James Gulliver (Treasurer) and by Gary Cook. The accounts have been audited and approved by Kavanagh's.

The accounts for the year ending 30 September 2020 show a cash deficit £78.26. This would have been significantly higher had the aforementioned local government grant not been made available. The award of the grant, and the award of a Sport England Storm Relief grant (after Storm Ciara in March 2020 destroyed the sight-screen) did allow the club to carry out the essential equipment maintenance work described above and thus deliver on some of the commitments made by the 2020 committee, agreed before COVID hit.

No further questions were asked regarding the detail of the annual accounts.

#### *VAT Appeal*

Richard Lake summarized the current status of the VAT appeal. With *pro bono* support from our lawyers Hogan Lovell and our barrister John Brinsmead-Stockham the club had fought the imposition of VAT on the pavilion build via a First Tier Tribunal (FTT) where the decision went against the club in 2018, followed by a subsequent case management conference which the club won, having shown the decision made at the FTT was incorrect and then an Upper Tier Tribunal decision in 2019 against the club.

Following decisions agreed at the 2020 AGM and by the Committee early in 2021 the club had pursued an appeal to the Court of Appeal. This was heard in January 2021 and a decision was expected before the end of February. Richard Lake reported that our lawyers had said the

## Minutes of the Forty Seventh Annual General Meeting of Eynsham Cricket Club held on 21 February 2021, 18.00, organized via Zoom

judges involved had appeared engaged and that our legal team had been able to pitch a persuasive, if technically complex, case. Further news is awaited.

One additional outstanding action from 2020 was to secure repayment of the £1,200 Filing Fee, which the court had agreed not to impose.

After these discussions, the following votes were taken:

- To accept the Annual Report. Proposed by Patrick Arnold, seconded by Allen Stevens and passed *nem con*.
- To accept the annual Financial Report. Proposed by Tom Prentice, seconded by Mark Weller and passed *nem con*.

### 8. 2021 Subscriptions

Before discussion of 2021 subscription rates the Chair asked the AGM to consider the following motion:

*In the light of COVID-related conditions this club retrospectively approves the waiving of the 2020 memberships fees and the carrying over of all 2019 memberships to 2020 and additionally to retrospectively confirm club membership to any individual (men, women, junior) who played cricket in 2020.*

This was deemed necessary in order to formally include all individual players in 2020 as members of the club in the, unlikely event, of any retrospective insurance claims against the club. Proposed: Allen Stevens; Seconded Luke Bowles, and passed *nem con*

Having discussed the issues surrounding the level of annual subscriptions at an earlier meeting the Committee submitted a proposal to the meeting that subscriptions for 2021 be held at the rates originally agreed for 2019 (and carried over to 2020). These would be as follows:

Senior Playing Member	£50.00, with reduction to £40.00 if paid by 1st June.
Full Time Education (inc. Youth) and unwaged	£15.00
Junior Member	£40
Lady Member	£15
Non-Playing Member	£5.00

It was accepted, as was agreed at the 2020 AGM, that the 2021 Committee should discuss junior fees in more detail and whether ‘family’ discounts could be accommodated.

A long discussion, initiated by Luke Bowles, then ensued about the merits of allowing the £10 discount if paid before June 1 for Senior Adult Members. Whilst accepting that arrangements could still be made for staggered payments in cases of real hardship this structure was felt to be anachronistic and that the club should encourage all players to pay their full subscriptions at the start of the season and thus benefit from membership of the club, which included insurance cover for players. Therefore, an amendment to the Committee proposal was proposed.

## Minutes of the Forty Seventh Annual General Meeting of Eynsham Cricket Club held on 21 February 2021, 18.00, organized via Zoom

Motion: *That Senior Playing Members should all pay a £50.00 membership fee, with no discount for early payment.*

Proposed: Luke Bowles; Seconded Ian Miller

Passed: 19 votes in favour; two against

A further amendment was proposed.

Motion: *In the event that further COVID-related restrictions are imposed during 2021 by HMG this club authorises the 2021 Committee permission to make any necessary changes to the subscription arrangements for the year.*

Proposed: Richard Lake; Seconded Ian Miller

Passed *nem con*

With these changes agreed a vote was taken to accept the 2021 Subscription proposals, with the exception that the Junior fees be subject to further discussion by the 2021 committee.

Proposed by Allen Stevens, seconded by Angela Patterson and passed *nem con*.

### 9. Election of Captains

The following members were nominated as captains of the Men's Adult teams.

Position	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
1 <sup>st</sup> XI Captain	Steve Cooper	Tom Prentice	Allen Stevens
1 <sup>st</sup> XI Vice Captain	Tom Gerken	Tom Prentice	Sam Hollingshead
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Captain	Patrick Arnold	Allen Stevens	Ian Miller

Steve Cooper was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> XI skipper for 2021 with Tom Gerken as Vice Captain. Patrick Arnold was elected as 2<sup>nd</sup> XI captain with a Vice-Captain to be appointed by the skipper. Approved *nem con*

Given the number of friendly fixtures arranged for 2021 it was agreed to appoint a 'Friendly Captain'. There was a long discussion on the merits of a number of different candidates. It was good to hear that a number of individuals had put themselves forward for this role. The following proposals were made, with the understanding that the captancy would rotate dependent on availability etc.

Friendly Captain: Luke Bowles. Proposed by Steve Cooper, seconded by Darius Mistry.

Passed *nem con*

Friendly Vice Captain: James Talbot. Proposed by Steve Cooper, seconded by Gary Cook.

Passed *nem con*

There was some discussion about how captains were elected in comparison with other clubs (where captains are effectively appointed by the players). It was agreed that there would be a further review on this topic by the 2021 committee. Any change would require a constitutional amendment.

### 10. Election of Officers and General Committee

After the appointment of approved officers (President, Chair, Secretary/Fixtures, Treasurer, Junior, Pavilion Officer, and Safeguarding Officer) there are two other vacant officer positions (roles to be agreed, if needed) and up to six vacant positions on the General Committee. The

**Minutes of the Forty Seventh Annual General Meeting of Eynsham Cricket Club held on 21 February 2021, 18.00, organized via Zoom**

below officers were elected (all unopposed). Allen Stevens took the chair during the election of President.

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
President	Richard Lake	John Dennis	Patrick Arnold
Chairman	Greg Inge	Allen Stevens	Tom Prentice
Secretary & Fixtures	Allen Stevens	Sam Hollingshead	Mark Weller
Treasurer	James Gulliford	Allen Stevens	Steve Cooper
Junior Secretary	Patrick Arnold	Gary Cook	Tom Prentice
Pavilion Officer	Frank Partlett	Patrick Arnold	Angela Patterson
Safeguarding Officer	Margaret Stevens	Steve Cooper	Angela Patterson

The below individuals were elected to serve on the General Committee (all unopposed):

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Committee	Gary Cook	Allen Stevens	Tom Prentice
Committee	Angela Patterson	Allen Stevens	Ian Miller
Committee	Julie Walker Smith	Martine Summers	Ian Miller
Committee	Martine Summers	Angela Prentice	Ian Miller
Committee	Tom Prentice	Gary Cook	Angela Patterson
Committee	Steve Cooper (1st XI)	Mark Weller	Allen Stevens
Committee (to be co-opted)	Karen Miller	Gary Cook	Angela Prentice
Committee (to be co-opted)	Luke Bowles	Steve Cooper	Sam Hollingshead
Committee (to be co-opted)	Vacant		

The first General Committee of 2021 will be held in early March and will formally approve appointment of the nominated co-opted members. The vacancy for a co-opted member can be filled at any time with approval of the Committee.

Greg Inge was thanked, *in absentia* in Australia, for agreeing to be nominated for the role of Chair. He will return to the UK, to take up the position, in early March.

Matt Stanbury provided some useful background information on the safeguarding role and offered his support during the season. He is also a qualified coach.

**11. Appointment of Auditor**

The meeting was asked to approve the appointment of Kevin Kavanagh as Auditor for 2021. Proposed by Gary Cook, seconded by Allen Stevens and passed *nem con*.

**12. Any Other Business.**

There being no items of AOB, the 2021 Annual General Meeting was closed at 19.45.

Allen Stevens  
26 February 2021