



Sussex Cricket Limited

The 1st Central County Ground
Eaton Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3AN
Tel: 01273 827100
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www.sussexcricket.co.uk

March 2026

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting on 24 March comes at an important time for Sussex Cricket.

Recent challenges have been well documented, and we know how much they matter to you. Over recent months, we have taken a number of important steps to address these issues, and that work is ongoing as we build a stronger, more sustainable future.

A big part of that is strengthening how the organisation is run. I have spoken a lot about the need to be more open, and for transparency to sit at the heart of how we operate. That does not always mean sharing everything in real time, but it does mean being clear, honest and accountable.

This starts with the role of our Board. Our Non-Executive Directors are independent of the day-to-day running of Sussex Cricket and bring external expertise to provide challenge, oversight and support. Their role is to ensure decisions are properly scrutinised, risks are understood, and that the organisation is being run in a way that is financially robust and aligned with our long-term ambitions.

We are evolving the Board to ensure we have the right mix of skills and experience, particularly in areas such as finance, governance, commercial growth and organisational change.

An open and structured recruitment process was run during February 2026 for Appointed Director roles, supported externally with independent oversight to identify the right skills and expertise. This reflects our commitment to strengthening governance and ensuring the Board has the capability needed to support the Club moving forward.

Alongside this, we have strengthened both our Executive Leadership Team and Board oversight in key financial areas.

Paul Cooke has joined as Interim Chief Finance Officer, bringing more than 20 years' experience in senior finance roles and, importantly, recent experience within cricket, having served as Interim Chief Finance Officer at Yorkshire County Cricket Club. In that role, he supported the club through a period of financial restructuring, overseeing cashflow, financial reporting and lender engagement.

Sussex Cricket Limited

Registered in England and Wales: Company Number: 30143R

Registered Office: c/o The 1st Central County Ground, Eaton Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 3AN





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We have also appointed Alex Paterson as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. Alex brings over 30 years' experience across investment banking and asset management, working closely with boards, investors and regulators, and advising on financial performance, strategy and governance.

Together, these appointments significantly strengthen both our financial control and governance, ensuring we have the right expertise in place to support the Club moving forward.

Below is a short introduction to each member of the Board and the experience they bring.

We are also sharing the individuals nominated for Vice President at this year's AGM. Vice President is an honorary position awarded to individuals who have made an exceptional and sustained contribution to Sussex Cricket, either through their involvement with the Club, the game more broadly, or their impact within the wider cricket community.

Vice Presidents are nominated based on a range of criteria, including:

- Significant contribution to Sussex Cricket as a player, coach or leader
- Sustained impact on the Club's development, standing or community work
- Contribution to cricket at a regional, national or international level
- Support for Sussex Cricket through business, leadership or advocacy

The AGM will be an important opportunity to reflect on the past year and, more importantly, to look ahead together. Our focus is on building a financially stable, well-governed organisation that is positioned for long-term success, both on and off the field.

A reminder that the Sussex Cricket AGM will take place at 7.00pm on Tuesday 24 March 2026 in the Dean Wilson Boundary Rooms. Entry is limited to paid-up 2026 Members, so please ensure your membership is up to date if you wish to attend. Memberships can be renewed online [here](#).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mark West
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Sussex Cricket



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Club Leadership

Sir Rod Aldridge – President

Sir Rod is one of the UK's leading business and social entrepreneurs, best known as the founder of **Capita plc**, which he grew from a start-up into a **FTSE 100 company** employing over 60,000 people and delivering services to millions across the UK.

Following his retirement from Capita, Sir Rod founded the **Aldridge Foundation**, which focuses on improving education and life opportunities for young people through a network of academies and colleges across the UK.

He has a long-standing involvement with Sussex Cricket and is a passionate advocate for the role the game can play in education and community development. He has played a key role in supporting initiatives such as the development of state school cricket programmes and partnerships with local education providers, including Brighton Aldridge Community Academy.

Sir Rod also brings extensive governance experience, having served as Chairman of **The Lowry**, the award-winning performing and visual arts venue in Salford, for 18 years, alongside a number of trustee and advisory roles across the public, private and voluntary sectors. He was awarded a knighthood in 2012 for services to young people.

As President and Interim Chair, Sir Rod provides leadership and guidance to the Board, bringing a strong focus on long-term sustainability, community impact and the continued development of cricket across Sussex.

Mark West – Interim Chief Executive Officer & Executive Board Director

Mark is an experienced international executive with a strong track record of leading organisational change, improving performance and delivering commercial growth across sectors including retail, technology and professional services.

He has held senior leadership roles at Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer level, working across the UK, Europe and internationally. As Chief Executive of **LLX Global Business Services**, part of the **JAB Luxury Group**, he built and grew a multi-function business supporting global retail and digital operations.

Earlier in his career, Mark spent 15 years at **Harrods**, progressing to Distribution Director, where he led major operational and supply chain improvements.



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Alongside his executive career, Mark has held a number of non-executive and advisory roles, supporting organisations with governance, growth and strategic development. He is also a Trustee of the Sussex Cricket Museum and Educational Trust.

As Interim Chief Executive of Sussex Cricket, Mark brings significant experience in leading organisations through periods of change, with a clear focus on strengthening performance, improving financial stability and supporting Sussex Cricket through this period of change.

Paul Cooke – Interim Chief Finance Officer & Executive Board Director

Paul is a Chartered Accountant and MBA with more than 20 years' experience in senior finance leadership roles across both listed and private organisations.

He most recently served as Interim Chief Finance Officer at **Yorkshire County Cricket Club**, where he supported the organisation through a period of financial restructuring, overseeing cash flow management, refinancing discussions and the preparation of financial accounts and budgets.

Earlier in his career, Paul held senior finance roles including Group Finance Director at **Prestbury Investment Holdings**, supporting a £1.6bn AIM-listed property investment business, and began his career at **Arthur Andersen** in its Financial Services division.

Paul brings significant experience in financial governance, reporting and strategic financial management, supporting Sussex Cricket as it strengthens its financial controls and long-term sustainability.

Audit and Risk Committee

Alex Paterson – New Chair, Audit and Risk Committee (Honorary Director, subject to ratification at the AGM)

Alex brings over 30 years' experience across investment banking and asset management, with a particular focus on the travel and leisure sector, including professional sport. His experience spans airlines, hotel groups, gaming operators and listed sports organisations, including **Manchester United**.

He has worked closely with Chief Executives, Chief Finance Officers and boards, as well as investors, regulators and policymakers, providing strategic financial advice, evaluating business performance and supporting major investment decisions.

Alex has extensive experience in financial governance, including developing financial models, assessing risk and supporting organisations through periods of financial challenge.



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He has also raised significant levels of equity and debt capital and advised on strategies to improve financial and operational performance.

His appointment as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee strengthens independent financial oversight and governance, supporting Sussex Cricket as it continues to build a more robust and sustainable financial position.

Board of Directors

Simon Crundwell – Elected Board Director

Simon brings extensive senior-level experience in financial services, with a strong track record in corporate banking, real estate finance and national leadership roles.

He is currently **Director of Private Banking and Real Estate Finance at Metro Bank (UK)**, where he has executive responsibility for both the Private Bank and Corporate Real Estate business. Prior to this, he spent a significant part of his career with **Royal Bank of Scotland / NatWest**, holding a number of senior national roles including National Head of Real Estate Finance and National Head of Corporate Transactions.

He has a long-standing connection with Sussex Cricket, having previously served as Vice Chairman and Honorary Treasurer, where he was closely involved in financial reporting and strategy, including the redevelopment of the ground in 2009. He was re-elected to the Board in April 2025.

Dr Varadarajan Kalidasan (“Kali”) – Elected Board Director

Kali has been a member and supporter of Sussex Cricket for over 25 years and was elected to the Board in 2024.

A highly respected paediatric surgeon, he spent much of his career as a Consultant at the **Royal Alexandra Children’s Hospital** in Brighton. He also held a number of senior leadership roles within the NHS, including Clinical Director of Paediatrics and Director of Medical Education, and played a leading role in the planning and delivery of the new children’s hospital in Brighton.

Alongside his clinical career, Kali has held a range of national and advisory roles, including with the **National Institute for Health Research** and the **British Association of Paediatric Surgeons**. He continues to contribute to medical education, research and international training programmes.

Kali brings extensive leadership and governance experience to the Board and remains closely connected to the game as a strong supporter and Patron of the Sussex Cricket Foundation.



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Toby Peirce – Elected Board Director

Toby joined the Board in 2024 as an elected representative for the Sussex League and brings a long-standing connection with Sussex Cricket, both as a former player and through his continued involvement in the game.

He spent ten years on the professional playing staff at Sussex between 1990 and 2000, following his early development as a junior at the Club.

Since retiring from professional cricket, Toby has built a successful business in Brighton, founding a wine merchant in 2005. He has remained closely connected to Sussex Cricket through his business interests, including as a supplier and sponsor, as well as through his involvement as a Pathway parent.

Toby also plays an active role in supporting state school cricket initiatives and is a Governor at **Brighton Aldridge Community Academy**.

His experience as a former player, business owner and long-standing member of the Sussex cricket community brings a valuable perspective to the Board, particularly in representing the wider game and the interests of players, clubs and members.

Fiona Richards – Elected Board Director

Fiona is an experienced Chief Operating Officer and transformation leader, with over 20 years' experience across global financial services and high-growth technology businesses. She has held senior leadership roles within international organisations, including serving as Chief Operating Officer and Board Director within a **FTSE 100** business, where she led large-scale operational change and performance improvement in highly regulated environments.

She brings particular expertise in organisational effectiveness, financial and operational performance, and the delivery of change at scale, with a strong track record of identifying challenges and delivering practical, sustainable improvements.

Her experience provides valuable perspective to the Board on performance, operations and transformation, supporting Sussex Cricket as it strengthens its organisational effectiveness and long-term sustainability.

Angela Arnold – New Elected Board Director

Angela will join the Board following her nomination by members, standing unopposed for election at the AGM. She is a long-standing and passionate supporter of Sussex Cricket and



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has been a Patron of the **Sussex Cricket Foundation** since 2021, reflecting her commitment to the development of the game and its impact within the local community.

She played a key role in establishing the **Brighton & Hove Area Hub of the Sussex Cricket Foundation**, an initiative focused on improving local facilities and broadening participation. The Hub places a strong emphasis on inclusion, creating opportunities for people of all backgrounds to engage with cricket.

Professionally, Angela is a Sussex-based lawyer and currently serves as President of the **Sussex Law Society**. She brings significant legal expertise, strong governance insight and a deep understanding of the local community to her role on the Board.

Chris Goodman – New Appointed Director (subject to ratification at the AGM)

Chris is well known to Sussex Cricket as a long-standing supporter and sponsor, and for his involvement in the **Sussex Cricket Foundation**, particularly the Breaking Boundaries programme.

Professionally, Chris is the founder of **Focus Group**, which he has grown from a start-up into a national business with revenues in excess of £250m and more than 1,200 employees. His experience spans commercial strategy, income generation, financial oversight, acquisitions and organisational growth.

He has worked closely with senior leadership teams and boards to support strategic planning, governance and sustainable growth across the business.

Chris brings significant commercial and entrepreneurial experience to the Board, providing valuable perspective as Sussex Cricket continues to strengthen its commercial performance and financial sustainability.

Jayne Haines MBE – New Appointed Director (subject to ratification at the AGM)

Jayne brings extensive experience as a senior HR and organisational leader, having worked for over 20 years in global roles with **GSK and Rio Tinto**, where she led large-scale people strategies and organisational change programmes across complex, multinational businesses.

She has worked closely with boards and leadership teams to support transformation, improve performance and strengthen organisational culture, with particular expertise in governance, leadership development and inclusion.

Jayne also brings strong experience from within cricket and the wider public sector. She is currently Chair of the **Berkshire Cricket Foundation**, where she has led a strategy review focused on increasing sustainability, diversifying income and strengthening community



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impact, including plans to develop a cricket ground to support long-term revenue generation.

In addition, she serves as a Council Member at **ACAS**, where she has held roles on the People and Remuneration Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee, and will become Chair of the Committee in 2026.

Her experience across governance, people strategy and organisational change provides valuable perspective to the Board as Sussex Cricket continues to strengthen its culture, performance and long-term sustainability.

Russell Wood – New Co-opted Board Director (subject to ratification at the AGM)

Russell joined the Sussex Cricket Board as a Co-opted Member in late 2025 and is proposed for ratification at the AGM. He is Chief Commercial Officer at **Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club**, where he leads all revenue-generating areas of the business, including partnerships, sponsorship, corporate sales, retail and major capital projects.

He has been with the club for over a decade, joining shortly after the opening of the American Express Stadium. His early career was in finance, including time with Mazars where he trained as an accountant, before moving into senior commercial roles at Brighton. In recent years, he has played a key role in delivering record commercial revenues and shaping the club's off-field growth.

Russell has led major partnership negotiations with global brands including American Express and Nike, and has driven innovation in matchday and premium experiences, including the creation of multiple new hospitality concepts such as the award-winning "Tunnel Club".

Vice President Nominations (subject to ratification at the AGM)

A Vice President is an honorary role recognising individuals who have made an exceptional and sustained contribution to Sussex Cricket.

Sarah-Jane Cook

Sarah-Jane represented Sussex from 1983 to 1999 as an opening bowler and middle to lower order batter, building a reputation as a highly respected and committed team player.

She overcame a physical disability to play cricket at a high level and went on to represent England, making one Test appearance against New Zealand in 1996 and four One Day Internationals between 1991 and 1996.



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Her achievements at both county and international level, combined with her contribution to the women's game, make her a fitting nomination as a Vice President of Sussex Cricket.

Ish Jalal

Ish has played a central role in developing cricket in Crawley, particularly through his leadership at **Crawley Eagles Cricket Club**, with a strong focus on inclusion and engagement with ethnic minority communities.

He served as a Trustee of the **Sussex Cricket Foundation** from 2012 and as Chair from 2021 to 2025. During this period, the Foundation significantly expanded its reach and impact across the county, as reflected in its annual Impact Reports.

Professionally, Ish is a senior executive in global med tech businesses and brings strategic leadership experience alongside his deep commitment to community cricket. He continues to be a strong advocate for the Foundation and the wider game in Sussex.

Martin Richards

Martin has been a dedicated supporter of Sussex Cricket for over 25 years and has served on the Board for nine years, including five as Vice-Chair.

He chaired the Safeguarding Committee, helping establish Sussex Cricket as a leading example in this area across the ECB network. He also contributed to a number of other committees, including the Governance, Nominations and Elections Committee.

Before joining the Board, Martin served as Chief Constable of **Sussex Police**, where he built a strong relationship with the Club and supported its wider operations. He remains a Patron of the **Sussex Cricket Foundation** and continues to offer his expertise in governance and safeguarding.

Nigel Russell

Nigel has made a long-standing and significant contribution to cricket in Sussex, particularly through his work with the **Sussex Cricket Foundation** since its inception in 2015.

As a Trustee and Honorary Secretary, he played an active and influential role across a number of key committees, helping shape the Foundation's strategy and growth over the past decade.



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More recently, Nigel has contributed to initiatives aimed at increasing participation in state schools across the county. His energy, knowledge and commitment have made him a key figure in the development of the Foundation and grassroots cricket in Sussex.
