



**Sussex Cricket Limited**  
**MINUTES of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*held on Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 7pm*

**THE BOUNDARY ROOMS, The 1<sup>st</sup> CENTRAL COUNTY GROUND, HOVE**

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The Chairman, Bob Warren, 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. Bob Warren asked for a minute's silence in memory of the following individuals who had passed away during the previous year:

**Former President/Patron of SCCC**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond and Gordon

**Former players:**

Hubert Doggart  
Simon Doggart  
Christopher Pyemont  
Christopher Winn

**Individual Members:**

Ruth Angelzarke  
Edward Bassford  
Carole Ball  
Mr Balchin  
Peter Butter (SCL Vice President)  
Alan Buck  
Bella Emberg  
Rev David Farrant  
ML Garvitt  
Ian Gibb  
Alan Johnson  
Joyce Johnson  
John Keville  
Eric Lambert  
John Manning

**Recreational Clubs:**

Tony Adfield, Henfield CC  
Steve Bristow, Lewes St Michaels CC  
Richard Merricks – Rye CC  
Tim Monday – West Chiltington CC  
Jeff Scarfield – Goring CC  
Lloyd Smallwood – St Peters CC

John McDermott  
Anthony Meech  
Robert Mulholland  
David Naisbit  
MJ Ridley  
Andrew Smith  
GK Thorne  
David Twin  
Derek Tyler  
Margaret Wheeler  
Michael Wickham  
Mr A W Wren  
Mr D Woodard

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 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7pm."

**1) Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from the following individuals:

Dick Holste  
Frank King  
Jim May  
Hugh Milner  
Jonathan Sears

## 2) 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Proposed by David Bowden and seconded by Tony Doctors. Accepted without dissent. There were no matters arising from the meeting.

## 3) Chairman's Board report.

Bob Warren drew the meetings attention to his Chairman's report, highlighting the successes of all areas of the Club over the past year.

## 4) Treasurer's Report

The Honorary Treasurer, Ed Putnam, presented the **Sussex Cricket Limited Accounts** for the year ending 31st Oct 2017. 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 a solvent financial 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 2016/2017 headline results where SCL had finished the financial year with an operating profit of £336k and Sussex Cricket Foundation finished the year with a profit of £7k.

### Income:

- ECB: payment of £1million on top of MoU income (£300k in previous year)
- Match: was up 16% with strong T20 figures and good tourist match receipts
- Membership: was down 14% on the previous year.
- Commercial: still performing well (when benchmarked against peer counties) despite headline income being down against previous year.
- Catering: now outsourced

- Rental income: return on investment in the offices in the North-East corner of the 1<sup>st</sup> Central County Ground. Total estates income is up 80% in the last three years

In summary Mr Putnam stated that the SCL accounts demonstrated a strong year, although underlying trading was not as strong as hoped in some areas.

Mr Putnam presented the Sussex Cricket Foundation statement and noted 2016/2017 demonstrated a breakeven year.

The balance sheet showed net assets of £10.2million. He noted that there was a positive cash balance and that the Club was debt free.

Mr Putnam noted that the Board considered 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 Financial Plan**

Mr Putnam advised that the Club had moved to a seven-year forecast to aid with strategic planning. He noted that over the seven-year period, SCL was forecast to make £1.9million and SCF small profits based on relatively prudent assumptions. It was acknowledged that there was a significant loss forecast for 2017/2018 which will require cashflow management before material profits in 2018/2019 and beyond. Mr Putnam stressed that it was an ongoing challenge to drive the underlying trading model whilst investing in the playing squad and other strategic goals, however, he highlighted the opportunities for development of the area around the Cricketer's pub which are currently being explored.

Mr Putnam received some queries regarding the accounts. Mr Green questioned the substantial drop in membership and asked what the Club was doing to prevent this decline. Mr Putnam advised that the Club was always looking for ways to improve the membership product and initiatives to encourage new members. He stressed that the decline in membership was reflected across the country. Mr Philips asked for more information on the South West corner development. Mr Putnam explained that currently it was very early on in the process and options were being explored. He commented that members would be kept closely informed and would be involved in consultations when appropriate.

Mr Stoner raised a query regarding the expected loss in 2017/2018 and asked Mr Putnam to explain this in more detail. Mr Putnam informed that the loss was due to no expected additional ECB funding in 2018 but noted that there would be an additional £1million received in 2019.

Mr Pickering raised some concern in regard to the format of the accounts and what he felt was a variation of figures in some areas. Mr Putnam explained that some of the figures had changed from previous years due to the reclassification of membership packages which had meant the figures were reflected differently. Mr Putnam noted that all the figures were as the monthly management accounts and had been audited, however, he noted that next year he would endeavour to be more explicit and explain any movement in figures more clearly.

The Chairman asked for the adoption of the SCL accounts.

Proposed by Brenda Lower and seconded by John Harrison.  
Accepted with four votes against

## **5) Sussex Cricket Election 2018**

Mr Andrew advised that during the process of the 2018 Board election complaints were received about its conduct. On 27<sup>th</sup> March, the Board (excluding the 'conflicted' members) asked the President (John Abbott) to review the conduct of the election and to provide a written report with recommendations to the appropriate Board members. It was also agreed that the report following consideration by the Board, should be made available to all the candidates.

Mr Andrew noted that copies of the RSM election report had been made available at the meeting which demonstrated that the election had been independently verified and Mr Edward Putnam and Mr Bob Warren were duly elected to the Board.

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

Bob Warren proposed the election of John Abbott as President for 2018/2019.

Proposed by Nigel Russell and seconded by Chris Snell. Agreed without dissent.

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

Bob Warren proposed that Mr. E Joyce and Mr Z. Toumazi, are elected as Vice Presidents as former Sussex Cricket Captain and former Chief Executive.

Proposed by Brenda Lower and seconded by David Bowden. Agreed without dissent.

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

The Chief Executive, Rob Andrew, noted that three nominations were received for two vacant Board positions in the individual representative category; Professor John Pickering, Mr Ed Putnam and Mr Robert Warren. As per the RSM report Mr Andrew informed that the following candidates had been elected

Mr Edward Putnam and Mr Robert Warren have been elected on behalf of the Individual Members for a term of three years. Mr Putnam was proposed by Jon Filby and seconded by Richard Barrow. Mr Warren was proposed by Simon Crundwell and seconded by Richard Barrow.

There was no election with regards to the two vacancies for Affiliated Clubs' representatives as only two nominations were received for the two vacant Board positions. The nominations were therefore uncontested.

Mrs Mandy Bridson and Mr Daniel Oliver have been elected on behalf of the Affiliated Clubs for a term of three years. Mrs Bridson was proposed by Gary Howell on behalf of Findon Cricket Club and seconded by Sean Heather on behalf of Middleton Cricket Club. Mr Oliver was proposed by Terry Burstow on behalf of the Sussex Premier Cricket League and seconded by Gary Stanley on behalf of Belgrave Adelaide Cricket Club.

## **9) Appointment of Auditors**

The Treasurer proposed that Mazars be appointed as the Organisation's auditors. Mr Putnam informed that this appointment followed a tender process. Thanks was extended to Gary Purdy and RSM Auditors for their service to the Club over a number of years.

Seconded by Richard Barrow. Accepted without dissent.

## **10) Other Business**

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

Mr Warren thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.