

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2010, 8-0pm at the
Carpenters Arms, Mayfield**

Present: T.Watters, J.Bell, N.Macdonald, N.Iverson, M.Pooley, T.Robertson, W.Wright, F.Rogers, R.Curd, J.Finch, C.Gray, D.Shankland, Raj Sharma, Rob Sharma, P.Church, J.French, P.d'Aguilar, B.Stilwell, S.Chapman, J.R.Cole, B.Blundell, J.Cooke, A.Gilkes, M.Horton, R.Holliday. (25)

Apologies for absence: N.Clarke, B.Church, N.Twigg, T.Cornish, A.Parker, M.Johnston, P.Anson, D.Curher, E.d'Aguilar, A.Parry. (10)

Minutes of 2009 AGM had been circulated. Agreed and signed by Chairman.

Matters arising - none.

1. Chairman's Report: Peter d'Aguilar reported it had been an interesting year which brought success on the field, but sadly loss of our pavilions by arson attack. He thanked all members and supporters for their support, enthusiasm, time and energy. He wished then to stand down and invited election of his successor to chair the remainder of the meeting.

2. Election of New Chairman: Nominations were invited. Douglas Shankland was proposed by J.Finch, seconded by Rob Sharma. As there were no other nominations and no objections he was unanimously elected, and proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the membership for Peter's work over his two years as Chairman and many other years of service to the Club, unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

3. Captains Reports:

1st XI - Raj Sharma reported a successful season, gaining promotion to League Division 4 by winning Division 5, with only one defeat. He thanked the players and felt a lot had been learnt both on and off the field.

2nd XI - Peter d'Aguilar said we managed to finish mid-league and thanked the players for their efforts.

Sunday XI - James Cole reported the main thing was that we beat Heathfield.

4. Colts Report: In Andy Parker's absence, Hon.Sec. read out Andy's report:-

a). No winter nets held - most juniors suffered as a result. Need to remedy this for 2011. Summer nets held on Wednesday evenings;

b). 19 Under 11s; 16 Under 13s; 5 Under 15s (even though no Under 15 team);

c). League results:

Under 11's played in EACA 10-a-side softball league - played 10 lost 10; Some very young players. A number of first time players. Lots of enthusiasm. Plenty of promise;

Under 13's played in Border League - played 10, won 5, lost 5; Good season - only really outplayed in one game. Good group of players - excellent potential for 2011. Need to get some of group involved in 3rd XI cricket;

Under 15's - team withdrawn for lack of numbers - two players played for Crowborough U15's (who were also short). Hopeful that players moving up

from U13's and those from last year, will be enough to run U15's team for 2011. Need to get some from this group playing 2nd/3rd XI cricket;

d). General comments:

- 3 boys invited to train with the Eastern Area age group squads;
- had to hire 2 external coaches, - expensive - but no in-house options;
- parents on the whole unhelpful and disinterested in helping the Club;
- some score/umpire/place boundary ropes if asked, but no volunteers;
- we need a structured approach with delegated responsibilities and willing volunteers to make it viable to run three teams (which we should aim for in 2011).

5. Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the audited Annual Accounts were handed out. Brian reported that the financial objective for the year was to break even and stabilise the Club's finances. This was achieved as, despite incurring £2680 of unexpected costs, associated with the planning application for a new pavilion, and £600 towards the costs of levelling the outfield, the Club ended the year with an operating surplus of nearly £400. Player revenues, subscriptions and match fees, were substantially higher, but the Club still remains reliant on other sources of income, such as fund raising and donations to meet a proportion of its running costs. A number of successful initiatives were pursued during the year, with Raj driving many of them. The cricket week and subsequent bar sales realised profits of nearly £1500, the recent awards dinner another £1400, and fixture card advertising a further £900. On the costs side, expenditure on ground materials was significantly higher, but this was offset by a reduction in paid labour. At the year end the Club held cash balances totalling £8787, although since then this figure has risen dramatically as the proceeds of the insurance claim (£94,500) have been received, together with some most generous donations (currently totalling £29,000). Thanks were expressed to Alan Parry for his excellent efforts on our behalf. We still however have a long way to go to cover the costs of building and fitting out a new pavilion. We can expect increased annual insurance premiums commensurate with the larger new pavilion. The accounts were unanimously accepted with thanks to Martin Johnston for auditing them.

6. Appointment of Auditor:

Brian said Martin Johnston has agreed to continue as Auditor. Agreed unanimously.

7. Annual Subscriptions and Match fees:

It was pointed out that subscription is for a year's enjoyment of the whole club, its administration and facilities, which we are aiming to improve considerably; not just for the cricket.

Brian presented the committee's proposals. After some discussion the meeting agreed that annual player membership subscriptions will be £75 (£30 for concessions) for the coming season and that they be paid by 31st May 2011. A separate Social (non-playing) Membership will be introduced at £25 per year. Match fees will increase by £1 a game to £8 (£5 for concessions). It was suggested that the committee considers:-
(a) what, if anything, can be done regarding those who, for good reason, join late; and
(b) a way to pay subs. by monthly banker's order, to assist members who wish it.

8. Team Selection Meetings and Policy:

It was agreed that the selectors, comprising the (four) team captains, should meet every week. The Chairman proposed that there should be an "independent" chairman of selectors to ensure fair input from all areas, and compliance with our stated aim of a pyramid with best players in the 1st XI, and so on down, and that as far as possible, all paid up members are offered a game on Saturday or Sunday. The meeting agreed with the idea and members were invited to stand in the Election of Officers.

9. Ground & Rebuilding Sub-c'tee:

Planning

We aim to build a new clubhouse suitable for our progress as a club, and for use in the community. Outline planning permission from Wealden D.C. had only today been granted. Plans can be viewed on Wealden D.C. website - Ref. WD/2010/2275, but Hon.Sec. has sent copies as an attachment by e-mail to the membership. Chairman stated that application had to be made urgently to give us a chance to be up and running by next season. The Plans are not set in stone and the Committee welcomes any constructive suggestions from members for changes - but the sooner the better.

Construction and Fitting Out

Bryan Blundell reported we have an estimate of £117,000 to build the structure, excluding fixtures and fittings, showers, electrical work etc., with a good chance of it being constructed by the end of February 2011. We are relying on expertise and labour from club members to fit it out, and need volunteers to notify Bryan or any committee member of any skills they can offer, and availability, as soon as possible.

Funding

We set up "Mayfield Cricket Club Pavilion Fund" with a target of £200,000. Our Insurance claim has been paid. We have requested Alan Parry to apply on our behalf for a Lottery Grant. He is also leading us in grant applications to other sources.

All members of the club were asked to come up with their own ideas to raise funds and contribute amounts of any size, large or small. Letters have been sent out and more are to be dispatched to members and friends so a concerted effort can be launched in January. The building, although a cricket club pavilion, is designed for community use. We intend it to be a benefit to the whole community.

Ground

The main part of a ground levelling project, among other things, to accommodate sight-screens, has been completed. There will now be time for the ground to settle but completion of the outfield will be dependant on the weather. We are optimistic it will be playable by the start of the season but have temporary use of a ground in Tunbridge Wells if necessary.

10. Proposed New Club Constitution:

Hon.Sec. reported it was necessary for a number of reasons, including our aim to achieve ECB Clubmark status, to create a new Constitution. The revised document has been approved by the Committee and by Sussex CCC who oversee Clubmark, and

copies were sent to the membership for perusal with AGM notifications. The meeting accepted the new document. The President raised a query which it was agreed would be possible to deal with in committee. The new Constitution was duly signed by Club Chairman and Secretary.

11. Election of Club Captains:

1st XI Captain: Raj Sharma - proposed by M.Pooley, seconded by J.R.Cole.
No other candidates. Raj was elected unanimously.

2nd XI Captain: Nigel Iverson - proposed - P.d'Aguilar, seconded - J.R.Cole.
Neil MacDonald - proposed - T.Watters, seconded - B.Blundell.

A secret written ballot was held and Neil was elected by majority vote.

3rd XI Captain: No volunteers came forward from those present and the meeting agreed it could be held over to Committee. There is a possible candidate.

Sunday XI Captain: Rob Sharma - proposed R.Curd, seconded - B.Blundell.
No other Candidates. Rob was elected unanimously.

It was suggested, and the meeting agreed, that team captains should choose their own vice-captains.

12. Election of Officers and Committee:

The following agreed to stand for respective posts, there being no other candidates:-

Club President: Robin Holliday - proposed by P. Church, seconded by J.R. Cole;

Hon.Treas: Brian Stilwell - proposed J. Cooke, seconded R. Curd;

Hon.Sec: Peter Church - proposed J.R.Cole, seconded Rob Sharma;

Social Sec: Darryl Curcher - proposed P.Church, seconded N.MacDonald;

Club Welfare Officer: N.MacDonald - proposed P.Church, seconded B.Stilwell;

Groundsman: B.Blundell - proposed D.Shankland, seconded M.Pooley;

Colts Manager: N.MacDonald - proposed M.Pooley, seconded J.French;

Chairman of Selectors: J.Finch - proposed Rob Sharma, seconded N.MacDonald;

All were elected unanimously.

Fixture Sec. - no candidate came forward;

Membership Sec. - no candidate came forward;

It was suggested that, in the absence of a volunteer to be Membership Sec., Hon.Treas. could cover memberships, in liaison with team captains, whose duties include obtaining membership forms, annual subs and match fees. Brian accepted and the meeting agreed.

The Chairman invited the meeting to suggest and volunteer for, any other jobs or positions they felt needed to be part of the Committee, so that all committee members had a job. There were no suggestions.

13. Any Other Business:

Life Membership: It was proposed by M.Horton and seconded by N.Iverson that Robin Holliday be elected a Life Member. The meeting agreed unanimously.

Overseas Player: Jason Finch said he had received an approach for us to consider taking on a young Australian player who wishes to play in England. If agreed, it

would not cost the club any money, although we would help him to find employment and accommodation. He will have a coaching qualification, and would sign a contract requiring him to help with our colts, and perform other general duties for the club. The meeting agreed the idea in principle and the prospect should be explored further, with the proviso that it does not cost the Club anything. He would have to be registered with the League if he is to play for any of our league teams, and would need a CRB certificate (or equivalent) if working with colts.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed soon after 9-30pm.

Date of next AGM: to be advised (November 2011).

Signed:

Dated: