

Wanstead & Snaresbrook Cricket Club (incorporating Snaresbrook Football Club)



*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Overton Drive on Friday
8th March 2019 @ 8:00pm.*

Apologies: Mike Mead, Maureen Fretwell, Ron & Joan Warf, Neil Bainton, Sheila Wilson, Henry Chambers, Balraj Wyatt, Martin Pluck, Scott Emmons, Graham Jelley, Simon Osborn, Andrew Osborn, Adnan Arfan.

The President introduced the meeting, including reading the notice of the meeting.

1.0 Adoption of the Committee Report for 2018

The Club Secretary summarised this year's events and activities, on and off the field. After a monumental year in 2017, 2018 had been a slight anti-climax for the club's 1st XI. Pre-season they had achieved a fantastic result by beating an MCC side by 5 wickets in a closely contested, high scoring game at Lord's. This was a day that would live long in the memory of players and spectators alike. The team had never managed to achieve the same heights during the season but, despite several injuries, they had still been vying for top spot in the League until the penultimate game, where a defeat by the eventual champions put them out of contention. They eventually finished 2nd. Joe Ellis-Grewal had an excellent season but the team's Achilles heel had been its batting, with no one scoring 500 league runs. The 2nd XI had reached safety after winning 3 of their last 4 games and the 5th XI had won their last match to avoid relegation, thanks to an excellent 93 from Abdullah Mukhtar.

The Ladies had finished 3rd in the League, had been runners up in the early season Ickenham 6-aside tournament and had won the London Sixes competition for the 4th time in 5 years. Next season the Ladies would be moving from the Women's Cricket Southern League to take part in the new Middlesex County 40-over and T20 leagues.

The season had ended on a highly successful note, with an exceptional tour to Sri Lanka. The club thanked Arfan Akram for his outstanding efforts in organising this trip. Arfan was already planning the next tour in 2020.

There had been nearly 300 members in the Junior section this year with boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 16 taking part in a variety of games and activities. The level of participation had been much higher this season, with more than 130 games taking place throughout the summer. Our Under 13s had reached the regional finals of the ECB National Club Championship, where they had eventually been beaten by the team that had gone on to finish runners-up in the competition. This had been an excellent performance that placed them in the top 8 teams in the country in their age group. The Under 16 boys had retained the Matchplay and the Under 13s had won the Metropolitan Essex Len Stentiford Trophy. It had been a very impressive season for the Under 10s and Under 11s, the highlight having been the Under 10s victory in the Under 11 James Foster

Trophy. Overall, it had been a very successful and enjoyable season for the club's Juniors.

The football section had continued to make good progress. Having finished mid-table last season in the Essex Olympian Football League Division 2, Snaresbrook had done outstandingly well so far in the 2018-19 season. They had won their first 6 games and currently were second in the table, 3 points behind the leaders.

A major initiative during 2018 had been the completion of a new 5-year Development Plan. This had necessitated many hours of work on the part of the numerous club members who had been involved in this. The club thanked Matloob Piracha and Len Enoch for their outstanding contributions to this. The report included a series of recommendations and the club were already making meaningful progress on many of these. Key areas of focus to ensure sustainability of the club, both on and off the field, were:

- i. Review of the club's management structure with a view to improving its effectiveness – the Management Committee recommended the adoption of a streamlined executive Management Committee to manage operational matters and a Sports SubCommittee focused on sporting matters. The amendments to the Club Constitution reflected these proposed changes.
- ii. A more structured framework to underpin volunteer recruitment and development as succession planning was vital here.
- iii. Preparation of a wide-ranging multi-media communications strategy, including a makeover of the club's website.
- iv. Targeted fundraising initiatives for capital projects. A new Fundraising Committee had been formed, which was already working on raising money for the refurbishment of the nets at Overton Drive.

The Club Secretary thanked all the club volunteers for their hard work and dedication again this year and also highlighted the contribution of the club's sponsors, especially our major sponsor, Keatons, for their continued, very generous support.

The Committee Report was approved – *proposed by J. Pluck and seconded by C. Hurd.*

2.0 Adoption of the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2018

The club had succeeded in turning an £8,000 loss in 2016-17 into a profit of just over £1,000 for this financial year. On a positive front, income had increased in multiple areas and the availability of the clubhouse throughout the year had resulted in bar income being up by £2,000. However, expenditure had also gone up this year with a substantial amount needing to be spent on the square and outfield at Overton Drive. This had led to an increase of over £9,000 in the cost of grounds' maintenance. These increases in outgoings had highlighted the challenges of running a large, highly successful recreational cricket club with 300 junior members, 6 Saturday sides and 2 permanent grounds. We would need to continue to grow income to ensure the facilities could be maintained at the levels expected by the club's members. The good news here had been

that we were already starting to see the benefits of a rejuvenated, all-inclusive Social Committee and there would be a big push this year to increase the number of events hosted at the club. The first of these was the season-opening Cricket Ball on 5th April.

A question was raised regarding the small figure for social income recorded in the accounts. It was noted that this did not reflect the additional income gained through hosting social events at the club. The key objective was to increase overall income, including bar takings, by arranging events at the club that increased footfall and promoted greater engagement and involvement of club members. Another encouraging aspect highlighted in the accounts had been the increase in donations. The Management Committee would like to thank everyone who donated to the club throughout the year.

The reviewing accountant, Alun Evans, would supply the necessary certificate to reflect his successful audit of the club's accounts.

The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts was approved – *proposed by C. Hurd and seconded by M. Bentley.*

3.0 Subscriptions

As in the previous year a small increase of around 3% to some subscriptions was proposed. Stuart Phillips highlighted the introduction of a new subscription category for junior members under the age of 7. This would facilitate administration as collecting fees when they attended coaching had proved to be very difficult. This reduced rate made sense as members of this age group had shorter coaching sessions and fewer matches.

4.0 Match Fees

It was recommended that the 2019 season match fees for both adult and junior members should remain the same as the previous year. Wanstead match fees continued to be competitive when compared to other Essex clubs.

The recommendations for 2019 annual subscription rates and for 2019 match fee rates were approved together – *proposed by P. Osborn and seconded by S. Phillips.*

5.0 Club Constitution Amendments

The proposals were agreed and adopted subject to one change requested and agreed following further consideration during the meeting. This related to the number of members of the Management Committee, which would now include two other elected members rather than one other elected member originally proposed. Clause 5 of the Club Constitution would be amended so that membership of the Management Committee would be:

1. Secretary
2. Treasurer
3. Chairman of the Bar Sub-Committee
4. Chairman of the Social Sub-Committee
5. Cricket Secretary

6. Club Captain
7. Two other elected members

The revised Club Constitution Amendments were approved – *proposed by J. Pluck and seconded by P. Osborn.*

4.0 Election of Officers, Vice Presidents and Management Committee

The President, Vice-Presidents, Management Committee (with some minor changes) and the Independent Reviewing Accountant were re-elected.

The Officers and Management Committee members would be as follows:

President	John Gray
Club Management Committee	
1. Honorary Club Secretary	Nigel Hutchings
2. Honorary Club Treasurer	Nalliah Rathakrishnan
3. Cricket Secretary	Martin Pluck
4. Bar Chairman	Simon Andrews
5. Social Sub-Committee Chairman	Scott Emmons
6. Club Captain	Arfan Akram
7. Welfare Officer	Trevor Hebden (<i>co-opted by Management Committee</i>)
8. Two other representatives of the members	Matloob Piracha Joe Ellis-Grewal

The Chairman would be elected at the next Management Committee meeting.

Other members may also be co-opted onto the committee as required.

Independent Reviewing Accountant: Alun Evans

The election of the club President (for his 26th year) was approved – *proposed by Ar. Akram and seconded by J. Ellis-Grewal.*

The election of Vice-Presidents was approved – *proposed by Ar. Akram and seconded by S. Phillips*

Sadly, one of the club's Vice-Presidents, Bob Campbell, had passed away recently. He would be greatly missed by everyone at the club.

The election of core Management Committee members was approved – *proposed by J. Pluck and seconded by S. Phillips.*

The election of the two additional representatives onto the Management Committee members was approved – *proposed by C.Hurd and seconded by Ar. Akram.*

The election of the Honorary Auditor was approved – *proposed by C. Hurd and seconded by L. Enoch.*

The meeting was formally closed by the President.

7.0 Any Other Business

The following topics were discussed under AOB:

Development Report (2018-2022)

Len Enoch provided an update on the Development Report, explaining how it was produced, including details of the process for canvassing the views of club members and other selected participants external to the club. As a result of this extensive survey a formal report had been published in Q3 2018. This 5-year plan included 12 recommendations that needed to be actioned so that Wanstead could maintain its position as a leading recreational cricket club. Len described the rationale behind, and the work that was currently being done on, the club's communications strategy and the retention and recruitment of volunteers, who were the lifeblood of the club.

Project Heron

Mark Bentley brought everyone up-to-date on the club's fundraising activities, especially those related to the raising of money for the new practice nets at Overton Drive. This initiative had been named **Project Heron**. The driver for this had been the fact that the existing nets were no longer fit for purpose for a club of Wanstead's size and stature. The 3 suppliers Mark had been liaising with – Total Cricket, Notts Sport and Exclusive Leisure – provided high quality, state of the art solutions and had been responsible for installing nets at a variety of grounds including Lord's, Eton and Durham CCC. The club had received a range of quotes and options from each of the suppliers. The plan would be to raise money through grants and various supplementary fundraising activities. There were 3 substantial grants available at the moment and we had engaged a specialist grant consultant to help prepare applications for these. The applications would be submitted in the next 2 weeks. The target was to have the nets in place for start of the 2020 season.

In conjunction with the grant applications, the Fundraising Committee was preparing a direct appeal to all club members and the upcoming Cricket Ball on 5th April was part of this fundraising drive. Other events were being planned. Mark emphasised that everyone at the club was responsible for helping to raise the money required. Other avenues for raising money were being explored, including resurrecting the 100 Club.

The Management Committee, on behalf of the club members, thanked Mark Bentley for the excellent work he had done to date on Project Heron, including raising the profile of this initiative throughout the club.