

Wanstead & Snaresbrook Cricket Club (incorporating Snaresbrook Football Club)



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KEATONS

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Overton Drive on Friday
13th March 2020 @ 8:00pm.*

Apologies: Mike Mead, Maureen Fretwell, Ron & Joan Warf, Neil Bainton, Sheila Wilson, Dave Ramdial, Kishen Velani, Martin Pluck, Jahansher Akbar, Gill Pluck, Pauline Osborn, Adnan Arfan, Ramon Chesney.

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

Sadly, three members of the club had passed away during 2019 – Paul Baily, Peter Gurr and Peter Rogers. They had all made outstanding contributions to the club and would be greatly missed by everyone at Wanstead.

The coronavirus pandemic was now at the forefront of everybody's minds and there was every chance that this might affect recreational cricket clubs over the coming season, although the potential impact at this stage was unclear. The upcoming junior registration meetings might need to be postponed pending further guidance as to the steps that clubs should take to protect their members. Sport England would be issuing a formal policy statement during the week beginning 16th March. All Wanstead members were reminded of the importance of following the published NHS advice to help ensure that they and their families stayed safe.

1.0 Adoption of the Committee Report for 2019

The Club Secretary summarised this year's events and activities, on and off the field.

The 2019 season had been another successful one for the 1st XI. They had won the Essex Dukes T20 Competition and finished runners-up in the League for the second year running. Whilst they headed the League for long periods they couldn't hold off Brentwood CC in what was a two-horse race. The batting suffered from the absence of a number of senior players during the season due to injury and other factors. The leading run scorer had been Tom Cummins with 542 League runs, including his first League century. Bradley De Villers, Joe Ellis-Grewal and Aron Nijjar had been the leading League wicket-takers, all taking 25 wickets. But the real highlight of the season had been the performances of 16-year-old Naïve Dwivedi and 17-year-old Robin Das. Naïve had taken his first 5 wicket 1st XI haul while in only 11 League games Robin had scored 538 runs, including 2 centuries, at an average of 53.80. This definitely augured well for the future.

The 2nd XI had a roller-coaster season while the 3rd XI had been in the relegation zone for much of the season but eventually avoided relegation by just one point. After 4 years in the 3rd XI Division Two, mainly playing against other clubs' 3rd XIs, the 5th XI had not been able to stave off relegation. The 6th XI had continued to introduce a number of

juniors to League cricket. The club would like to thank all team captains for their efforts throughout the summer as well as to those members who scored or umpired during the season.

The Ladies had a very successful season doing the double by winning the Middlesex Women's F40 and T20 Leagues. They also won the Rachel Heyhoe Flint Six-a-side Trophy in Spain for the fourth time in 6 years and the London Sixes Competition for the fifth time in 6 years. There had been notable performances from a number of the Ladies, particularly Zainab Khan, who finished as the League's top run scorer, and Saba Nasim, who had been the League's top wicket-taker. The Ladies had a good combination of youth and experience with many new women taking up the game during the season. The Ladies team would be playing in the Essex League next season where there would be 15 games, comprising timed matches and T20 fixtures

The Juniors had another very good season both in terms of participation levels and success in competitive fixtures. The U15s had won the Peters Cup for the first time since 2010 and had gone on to reach the regional finals. The U14s had played the U15s in the final of the Met Essex Cox & Kings competition. The U13s had won the Jeff Rodrigues trophy and our U11s had another excellent season, winning the Midweek League, and the Haydn Davies Trophy.

After an excellent season in 2018-19, Snaresbrook had struggled to find their form this year, having lost several players to the Essex Senior League. After a slow start results had picked up of late with the team now just below mid-table.

Once again it had been a very busy year off the field. The major priority for 2019 had been Project Heron, which had been an immense success for the club. This initiative had been launched to raise money for specifically identified capital projects, the first of these being the refurbishment of the nets at Overton Drive. The target we had set ourselves had been extremely ambitious but, nevertheless, we had managed to raise the funds required through grants from the London Marathon Charitable Trust, Sport England and the Community Lottery Fund as well as through members' donations and fundraising events. The Management Committee would like to thank the Project Heron team, especially Mark Bentley, for their tremendous work as well as club members who had put on and supported events over the 2019 season and all those members who had donated so generously to the cause. The Club Secretary noted that it would not have been possible to achieve our target without these outstanding contributions across the whole of the club. Whilst the initial focus of Project Heron had been on replacing the nets it was stressed that this had only been the first stage of the club's development programme – there was a lot more work still to do. Stage 2 would be to complete the refurbishment of the pavilion, notably the changing rooms and the male toilets. Mark Bentley emphasised the fact that the fundraising would continue into 2020 and beyond.

Good progress has been made in relation to the key recommendations made in the 2018-2022 Development Report. There had been a particular emphasis on the club's communication strategy (including a revamp of our website) and the volunteer programme, which was critical to the long-term viability and future success of the club. Len Enoch provided an update on these two key initiatives.

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 S. Phillips and seconded by J. Pluck.*

2.0 **Adoption of the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2019**

The club had made a small profit over the year. This had been achieved even though our income was down in comparison to the previous year, primarily thanks to the careful and proactive management of the club's expenditure throughout the year. The Income & Expenditure Account highlighted the fact that, as well as the bar, our main sources of income were subscriptions, match fees and grants/sponsorship. There was a limit as to how much we could grow our income by relying on these three sources alone. This underlined the importance of our continuing to look for ways of increasing income from other, including the bar and social events, so that the facilities could be maintained at a level that our members expected. The Social Subcommittee had done an excellent job during the year in supporting a number of the Project Heron fundraising events as well as running their own events. It was crucial that members supported club events wherever possible as this would help sustain the social and bar income that was so important to the club's finances.

The reviewing auditor, 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 S. Emmons and seconded by M. Bentley.*

3.0 **Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Management Committee**

John Gray was re-elected as President – *proposed by Ar. Akram and seconded by T. Hebden.*

There was one enforced change to the list of Vice-Presidents following the sad passing of Peter Rogers in 2019.

The remaining Vice-Presidents were re-elected en bloc – *proposed by S. Emmons and seconded by M. Bentley*

Before electing the remaining Officers and agreeing the Management Committee membership, the Club Secretary provided details of some proposed changes to the way the Management Committee intended to manage the club's finances going forward. As the club continued to grow and financial oversight, management and planning became increasingly complex, a need had been recognised for a Commercial Officer to look closely at all club functions with a view to identifying potential revenue enhancement opportunities. These would be both in relation to making existing processes more efficient and through the introduction of fundraising initiatives. This would involve

developing a 3-year plan for the club that encompassed all areas of financial activity, including cricket delivery (ground hire, expenses, match fees, subscriptions etc), sponsorship, the bar and the clubhouse and, importantly, fundraising (including grants). The role would entail liaising closely with the club Chairman to agree direction and any specific initiatives. In their most recent meeting, the Management Committee had approved Mark Bentley's appointment as Commercial Officer.

In February, Nalliah Rathakrishnan announced his intention to retire from his role as Treasurer due to his other commitments that did not allow him to devote the time that was necessary to this role. He had kindly offered to stay on for as long as it took to onboard a replacement. Mark Bentley had agreed to take on the role of Treasurer.

The club would like to thank Nalliah for the excellent job he had done, and all the hard work he had put in, over the past 4 years.

Due to the increasing responsibilities of the club Treasurer, we now had an opportunity to restructure the role by splitting the job responsibilities between the Treasurer (Financial Officer, incorporating the Commercial Officer role) and the essential day-to-day housekeeping activities (keeping the books, making certain expenditures are approved and paid and income collected, monthly PAYE, quarterly VAT return and bank reconciliations).

Following a highly successful recruitment campaign co-ordinated by Len Enoch, Anjum Elahi had agreed to take on the job of Assistant Treasurer/Finance Manager. She would work closely alongside the Treasurer in this role.

The Officers and Management Committee members would be as follows:

1. Core Club Management Committee

Honorary Club Secretary	Nigel Hutchings
Honorary Club Treasurer	Mark Bentley
Cricket Secretary	Martin Pluck
Bar Chairman	Simon Andrews
Social Sub-Committee Chairman	Scott Emmons
Club Captain	Arfan Akram

The election of Core Club Management Committee was approved – proposed by S. Andrews and seconded by T. Hebden

2. Two other elected Club Management Committee members

Matloob Piracha
Joe Ellis-Grewal

The election of two other Club Management Committee members was approved – proposed by L. Enoch and seconded by S. Emmons

3. Independent Reviewing Auditor

Alun Evans

The election of the Independent Reviewing Auditor was approved – *proposed by S. Phillips and seconded by S. Andrews.*

The Welfare Officer, Trevor Hebden, would be co-opted onto the Management Committee.

Other members would be co-opted onto the Management Committee as necessary.

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

4.0 Subscriptions

As in the previous year a small increase to subscriptions was proposed. This increment was in line with inflation.

The recommendation for 2020 annual subscription was approved– *proposed by J. Pluck and seconded by M. Bentley.*

5.0 Match Fees

It was recommended that the 2020 season match fees for both adult and junior members should remain the same as in the previous two years. Wanstead match fees continued to be competitive when compared to other Essex clubs.

The recommendation for 2020 match fees was approved – *proposed by S. Phillips and seconded by B. Phillips.*

The meeting was formally closed by the President.

7.0 Any Other Business

The following items were discussed under AOB:

Project Heron

The 2020 Ball was one of the cornerstones of the fundraising activities planned for Project Heron 2020. This had been arranged originally for Saturday 4th April but unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we had decided to cancel this. If circumstances allowed, we would look to reschedule this at the end the end of the season.

First home games

Due to the appalling weather we had experienced this winter, the groundsman was weeks behind with his pre-season work. As a result, it had been agreed that the earliest that cricket could be played at Overton Drive would be the weekend of 25th/26th April

and even this looked doubtful unless we had a sustained period of dry weather. Obviously, this start date was now in jeopardy as a result of the Coronavirus emergency.

Overton Drive net usage

The new nets would not be available for use until April at the earliest.

Pre-season ground preparation (NatWest Cricket Force Day) – this would take place on Saturday 28th March at 10 am. Volunteers were needed to help get Overton Drive ready for the new season. An email would be sent out to all club members providing details of this.

Kenya Tour in October – 28 people had signed up for this. We still planned to go ahead with the tour if circumstances allowed. Insurance would cover any cancellation if government guidelines advised against travel because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Defibrillator training – on 31st August last year, just after the end of the last home game of the season against Ilford, John Pluck experienced a near fatal heart attack at Overton Drive. Thanks to the sharp thinking of several club members and the fact that some of them had the necessary First Aid training a tragic outcome was thankfully prevented. However, we had to rely on Linkside Tennis Club to provide the defibrillator needed to revive John. Since then the club had acquired its own defibrillator, which was installed in the kitchen at Overton Drive. A training course on how to use this had been arranged for 23rd March. Anyone interested in attending should contact Trevor Hebden. Ben Phillips noted that Forest School were also happy to offer defibrillator training at no cost as part of their outreach programme.