



<b>Minutes:</b>	General Committee
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
<b>Time:</b>	18:00
<b>Place:</b>	Committee Room, Kia Oval
<b>Chair:</b>	O Slipper
<b>Members in Attendance:</b>	Z Ansari M Eadon T (Patricia) Garrard A Grabiner KC A Harinath J Hudson W Jones E Lewendon C Payne P Pocock M Reeve A Stewart OBE M Tee R Trinick
<b>In attendance:</b>	C Doyle S Elworthy MBE A Lane K Leach (minutes)

**ITEM 1            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1    Apologies for absence were received from D Gill, K Kumaria, L Rolles, C Thompson and A Tudor.

**ITEM 2            MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- 2.1    The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

**ITEM 3            MATTERS ARISING**

- 3.1    O Slipper welcomed the new members to the Committee – Zafar Ansari, Emma Lewendon and Warwick Jones. The Committee also congratulated O Slipper on his election to the General Committee.
- 3.2    The Committee recognised the recent passing of both Patsy Lovell and Dingle Newton and acknowledged their contributions to Surrey CCC.

**ITEM 4            CRICKET**

- 4.1    A Stewart confirmed that after the men's teams' victory at Worcestershire this week, the team is still top of Division 1 in the Vitality County Championship and the team is also top of the T20 Blast South Group.
- 4.2    A Stewart updated on the England contracted players that would be available for the next County Championship game against Essex. Sai Sudharsan will be available for the Essex match.
- 4.3    The Committee was updated on current player injuries and loans.
- 4.4    Alex French has been selected for the England U19's Test squad.
- 4.5    The Club will be losing 15 players to the Hundred tournament and will bring in Academy players for the 50 Over competition if necessary.
- 4.6    There are now 12 women contracted to play for the Surrey women's professional team from 2025.
- 4.7    The ground staff received an excellent rating for the men's IT20 pitch.

## **ITEM 5            CEO REPORT**

- 5.1**     S Elworthy updated the Board on discussions at the recent PGC meeting, regarding domestic scheduling of the Metro Bank 50 and T20 Blast for 2025. The Club will push for Wednesday and Thursday night Blast matches next season, rather than Friday given the soft attendance numbers at the Friday fixtures this season.
- 5.2**     All counties have experienced reduced T20 Blast sales for this season and the audience model will be used to influence next season's schedule. The PCA are requesting a rest day for the players between each T20 Blast fixture, eliminating back-to-back matches. There will be no change to the County Championship schedule for 2025.
- 5.3**     S Elworthy advised that the ECB is not running a tender process for the Women's Cricket World Cup in 2026. The Club has proposed hosting one of the semi-finals along with 5 or 6 group stage matches.
- 5.4**     The Club is expecting around 7,000 spectators to attend the Festival of Red Ball Cricket on 30<sup>th</sup> June. It was noted that the day 1 attendance would be similar to a number of counties entire season's County Championship attendance.
- 5.5**     S Elworthy advised the GC on a player registration issue that has affected most counties. The Club will plead guilty to the charge, which was caused by an ECB/PCA error with the new system, and there will be a minimal penalty imposed, if any.

## **ITEM 6            EDI**

- 6.1**     Club EDI Lead, Elliott Rousen, has been conducting staff focus groups to discover greater insights into the EDI Census results. The feedback will be shared with the Committee once collated.
- 6.2**     S Elworthy outlined the areas of focus for the Culture & Values Working Group including office behaviours, dress code, meeting etiquette, etc and also the various community projects that the club is undertaking.
- 6.3**     The Committee discussed the ECB EDI Census and the focus of the Culture & Values Working Group. The Club also runs its own internal mid-year EDI pulse check.

## **ITEM 7            FINANCE**

- 7.1**     Forecast 1 has been circulated and is in line with budget, although there are challenges around T20 ticket sales and retail catering. Sponsorship is ahead of budget.
- 7.2**     Forecast 2 will be issued mid-July.

## **ITEM 8 MEMBERSHIP**

- 8.1** A Lane presented the proposed membership categories and rates for 2025. Women's matches will now be included in the membership packages and there are to be two new categories – 21-26 and Taste of Surrey. Two members of the General Committee were consulted on the categories and prices.
- 8.2** The Committee questioned the omission of a T20 only membership and it was noted that there were only around 500 of these memberships sold last season.

## **ITEM 9 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

- 9.1** Planning applications have been submitted for the new floodlights and digital screens and will shortly be submitted for the dressing room project. All projects are time critical and to be finished for the start of next season.
- 9.2** A feasibility study is being carried out on the Whitehouse, now that it has been handed back from the hotel building contractors. The site could potentially be used as office space.
- 9.3** ABT is going to auction in July. The Club will not be bidding and will work with the Duchy of Cornwall or whoever is the winning bidder to identify opportunities.

## **ITEM 10 ECB**

- 10.1** The Committee discussed at length the proposed sale of a stake in the Hundred tournament by ECB. O Slipper advised that an Investment Working Group has been formed by the Club (Oli Slipper, Martin Eadon, Steve Elworthy, Andrew Lane, Michael Lavelle, Claire Wills, Arun Harinath and David Plowman) which will help the club identify the right partner for Surrey CCC. O Slipper also advised the GC that Surrey CCC is finalising its investment conditions such as branding, commercial, finance, cricket operations, capping the Hundred window at 31 days etc. It was agreed that the Club needs to maintain control of the team that plays at the Kia Oval.
- 10.2** W Jones asked O Slipper whether the club planned to offer the members a vote like the MCC had committed to do. O Slipper explained that the MCC members were voting on whether to accept a free 51% stake in a team to be based at Lords, because it is a complete departure from the MCC's core business model, which does not currently include operating a professional cricket team. O Slipper explained that Surrey is very different to the MCC and that the Club wants to control and operate its own Hundred team. A Grabiner and M Eadon agreed that the GC was the right committee to make this decision on behalf of the members, following input from the Investment Working Group.

- 10.3 The ECB is planning to start the sale process in September, after this year's tournament.
- 10.4 The Committee agreed that members should be kept up to date with developments, through regular communication and members forums. The Committee also agreed that conditions around the investment are important and discussed what would attract investors to a team.
- 10.5 O Slipper confirmed that a single investor would not be able to invest in more than one team.

#### **ITEM 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 11.1 P Pocock asked for an update on the Travelodge. A Lane advised that the contract was working well, with invoices being issued every quarter. Travelodge have a 35-year lease on the building.
- 11.2 T Garrard advised that the Beehive owner had complained that the Club's plastic concession cups were being discarded on the street by the pub and suggested it would make sense to have one of the recycling bins located near the pub.
- 11.3 E Lewendon asked who would replace the King as Club patron and was advised that this discussion is ongoing.
- 11.4 The Honours Committee will discuss Roly Walton's proposal on ways to honour Raman Subba Row.
- 11.5 M Tee asked if there had been a change of policy regarding bicycles on site, as none were allowed at the recent T20.
- 11.6 M Reeve requested a Club organisational chart.

#### **ITEM 12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 12.1 The date and time of the next meeting is Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 18:00.