

CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB
MINUTES OF THE 99th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET
CLUB HELD AT THE GOLDEN PHEASANT PLUMLEY ON
18TH NOVEMBER 2013

The meeting opened at 19:30 with the President, AB Percival in the Chair.

Also present were JB Pickup (Chairman), DE Hastings (Hon. Secretary), PAG Babbage, Mrs. D Babbage, P Chorlton, D Bailey, KS McGuffie, C Murphy, A Newton, Mrs. S Percival, Mrs E. Scrimgeour, R Sproston and P Syddall

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence in memory of ex-players, H.N. (Snowy) Nuttall, P.A. Robinson and D.E. Watts, and in memory of Sandy Scrimgeour and other members who had died during the previous year.

The President offered his congratulations to the Team and the two Captains for their magnificent performances during the year in which Cheshire won the Western Division of the Minor Counties Championship and beat Cambridgeshire comprehensively in the overall Final at Wisbech.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from the Patron, TD Briggs MBE DL, Committee members JD Bygate, GC Hardstaff, JW Law and JA Duffy (Captain), and from members A Ashurst, Mrs. J Herbert, AJ Melville, HJ Rice, AJ Syddall and M Talbot-Butler.

2. MINUTES OF 98th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 19th NOVEMBER 2012

These were approved and signed by the President as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2012

The Hon. Treasurer said that the Examined Accounts to 30th November 2012 had been published on the web site. The Accounts showed a small surplus, helped by the bad weather during the season which reduced the cost of matches. It is possible that the Club may be faced with paying a small amount of Corporation Tax.

In preparing the Accounts, The Hon. Treasurer had been forced to amalgamate a few items as some records from the early part of the season were unavailable. He thanked the Hon. Secretary for his help in preparing the Accounts.

Moving on to the Accounts to the end of November, 2013, the Hon. Treasurer expected to see a deficit of about £1,500, which, given the additional expenses in the 2013 season, represented a good result.

The Accounts were approved.

A Newton said that he felt that the Accounts were very clear and well presented and that the Hon. Treasurer should be congratulated for all his hard work.

5. FIXING OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

No change was proposed to the subscription rates.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Twelve months ago the Chairman had remarked that, whilst 2012 was a season when the County was building for the future, the performances in the latter part of that season gave reason for optimism for 2013. He said that this optimism was heightened at the beginning of the 2013 season when it appeared likely that there was potentially a strengthened squad of players from which to select.

In the event the season got off to a very disappointing start with poor results in the MCCA Knock – Out Trophy. This gave rise to some apprehension as to how the County would fare in the MCCA Championship but a hard fought victory against Oxfordshire in the first match proved a turning point, into what proved to be one of the Club's best Championship seasons, culminating with winning the Western Section in a very tight finish to the points table. This was topped by then securing the Championship with an outstanding display in the Final against Cambridgeshire, at Wisbech, when victory was thrillingly secured in the dying moments of the fourth day, despite stubborn opposition and threatening weather conditions.

He offered his congratulations to the team which were outstandingly well led in the Championship by Danny Woods, as acting Captain, as James Duffy, the County Captain, was not regularly available owing to work commitments but who nonetheless played an invaluable role in establishing the team spirit which was so apparent. Danny took full advantage of the opportunity to lead from the front and had an unbelievably successful season with his slow left arm bowling which was crucial to the team.

It was, particularly, pleasing that success was achieved with a team who had come through the Cheshire Board age Representative teams and all of whom played or had played for Clubs in Cheshire. The future of the County Club was dependent on continuing this close liaison with the Board and Clubs for whose support the Club is most grateful, not least for the Board joining with the County Club in running the Development X1 which continued to produce players for the County team.

The team were superbly supported off the field by the Cricket Committee led by their Chairman, David Bailey, and Vice Chairman, Andy Newton, Team Secretary, Peter Babbage, Elise Scrimgeour and Derrick Hastings. He offered his thanks to all the Clubs which staged matches for the County over the season.

The season also saw the successful introduction of the "County travelling tent", supported by Sport Cheshire, which owed everything to the initiative of David Bailey to whom the Chairman, on behalf of the Club, offered grateful thanks for his commitment to that enterprise. The Club, also, had the pleasure of welcoming our Patron, the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs, and was grateful for his support and advice, particularly in the Club's endeavours to seek sponsors, whose support is essential to the finances of the County, mention of which enabled the Chairman to thank Keith McGuffie who settled very capably into the role of Hon. Treasurer in the first year of his appointment.

As ever the Club was well served by our loyal Scorers, Janet Herbert and Jim Law, the latter in addition being not only responsible for the production of the scorecards but also for providing the pre and post match reports for the web site.

This AGM marked the end of Tony Percival's term of office as President and the Chairman was sure that, as such a devoted supporter of the County over many years in numerous capacities, he would have been delighted to have been present at Wisbech to see the County achieve the winning of the Championship in his final year as President. He thanked Tony and hoped that he would be around to support the County for many more years.

The Chairman went on to thank all the Officers and Committee Members for their support and dedication to the County with a special mention to the Hon. Secretary, Derrick Hastings, for being so utterly reliable and efficient and not least for transporting the Chairman to Committee meetings to ensure he came on time!

Twelve months ago John had indicated that he intended to retire at this meeting from the position as Chairman. He had been appointed as Chairman in 2002, having previously been Hon. Secretary since 1980, so he felt it was time to step down, especially in the knowledge that the Club was blest to be served by so many good people whom he was confident would lead the team to further success.

He had been very fortunate that, in his term as Chairman, Cheshire have reached the Championship Final four times, winning twice, sharing the Championship once and losing once, as well as reaching a Lords Final in the MCCA KO Competition. That success is all down to the players over the years superbly supported off the field.

In conclusion, he gave grateful thanks to the County for allowing him the honour of being the Club's Chairman and to everyone for their superb support. He hoped and believed the County could go from strength to strength and he wished the County Club every success.

The President thanked the Chairman for his outstanding efforts over the last 34 years and for guiding the Club through many upheavals. He also said that he was pleased that John was prepared to stand for the position of President for the next term of office.

7. ELECTION OF HONORARY OFFICERS

The following candidates had been duly proposed and seconded before the meeting. As the posts were uncontested, all candidates were elected without the need for a vote.

Patron: TD Briggs M.B.E.
President: JB Pickup
Chairman: D Bailey
Vice Chairman: JW Law
Honorary Secretary: DE Hastings
Honorary Treasurer: KS McGuffie

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Three positions on the Committee were available for election or re-election for a two year period,

Only three candidates had been proposed so PAG Babbage, P Chorlton and A Newton were therefore elected without the need for a vote.

9. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ACCOUNTS EXAMINERS

The Hon. Treasurer said that Messrs. Murray Smith had worked very hard and had provided a lot of help with the production of the Accounts and he proposed that they should be re-appointed. This was agreed and the Meeting expressed thanks to them.

10. OTHER APPOINTMENTS

There were no other appointments.

11. ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDED CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE CLUB

The Hon. Secretary said that the amendments to the Constitution and Rules of the Club were to clarify the position of what had previously been referred to as Auditors but who were, in fact, Independent Examiners of the Accounts in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011.

The proposals to change Rule 6.2 to read “examined” rather than “audited” and Rule 10.8 to read “Independent Examiners” rather than “Auditors” were accepted unanimously.

The Club is grateful to member Peter Syddall for pointing out the need for this change.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The outgoing Chairman, on behalf of the County, offered his thanks to the outgoing President for his contributions over the years and the outgoing President said that he had been proud to be able to serve the Club.

He also said that he was proposing to deposit the Records of the Club, which go back to 1908, with the Records Office, which would involve no cost to the Club but which would ensure safe storage and would also mean that the Records would be available to be viewed at the Records Office or taken out for longer examination as required. It was agreed that this should be done.

The meeting offered its congratulations to Adam Syddall on his engagement to Ruth Morley.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19:51