

Wanstead & Snaresbrook Cricket Club (incorporating Snaresbrook Football Club)



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*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held virtually on Zoom on Friday
11th March 2022 @ 8:00pm.*

Apologies: Trevor Hebden, Pauline Osborn, Ben Phillips, Ibrahim Dar, Sophia Dar, Keith Lloyd, Thomas Howl, Mrs Maureen Fretwell, Pavan Patel, Gary Sheen, Geoff Pickless, Jeremy Green, Harith Wajid, Tony Richardson, Anish Patel, Sai Niranjana Thamarakulam, Atheswr Iyinkaran, Ibrahim Wajid, Lynn Rising, Tom Bentley, Mike Freeman, Finn Lane, Viraj Mehta, Arnav Prabhakar, Niam Patel, Kiah Mehta, Priya Sian, Sephara Runglall, Areez Majeed, Zareen Riaz, Saba Nasim, Mark Bentley, Arfan Akram, Scott Emmons, Stuart Phillips, Simon Osborn.

The meeting was chaired by the club Chairman, Martin Pluck, who introduced the meeting. This included reading the notice of the meeting and confirming the full agenda.

This was our second virtual AGM and, once again, the turnout for the meeting was excellent.

1.0 Adoption of the Committee Report for 2021

This had been another excellent year for the club both on and off the pitch and the Chair, on behalf of the whole Management Committee, thanked club members for their continued support during what had been a turbulent period for all recreational sports clubs. Despite the ongoing disruption caused by Covid we had been able to play a full season, redevelop the bar and maintain our links with the local community. Our facilities had been used to support collections for food banks and thanks to events organised for club members we had raised money for NHS charities and the Corner House project.

The refurbishment of the bar was completed in April and had been a great success. After over 20 years at the club Lynn Rising retired at the end of June. She had given outstanding service to the club over this time and we would all miss her friendly, welcoming presence at games, training and events. Everyone at the club would like to thank Lynn for all her efforts over the years and wished her a much deserved, long and enjoyable retirement. Niki Rising had taken over the responsibility for running the bar from July 2021 and had integrated into the role quickly and effectively.

Environmental considerations were playing an increasingly important part in all our lives and as a responsible community club we were aware of the need to address environmental issues that were within our control. We proposed to set up a Green Heron Forum to identify initiatives and explore ideas for addressing green issues.

Members who would like to be involved in Wanstead's green initiative should contact Len Enoch.

At the end of 2021, Trevor Hebden stood down as Club Safeguarding Officer. The Management Committee wished to thank him for everything he had done in this demanding role over the past five years and also to thank Vivienne Hebden for all the support she had given him during this period. We were very pleased to confirm that Niru Williams had agreed to take on the position of Club Safeguarding Officer.

Martin Pluck highlighted the subsection in the Agenda relating to Safeguarding and the fact that two important new ECB documents, the 'Anti-Discrimination Code' and the 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2021', were issued towards the end of 2021 in response to widespread concerns about racial abuse in cricket. Members were reminded of the importance of these initiatives and that we followed best practice safeguarding procedures to address all forms of abuse, however they might arise. Delivery of these policies was driven by strong leadership under an experienced Club Safeguarding Officer supported by a Safeguarding Panel, 'the eyes and ears' of our safeguarding capability. We had implemented a Members' Charter and Family Charter and a whistleblowing facility that encouraged anyone to report confidentially, either in writing or verbally, any concerns that they might encounter.

The club would like to thank our major sponsor, Keatons, for their continued and very generous support.

The Committee Report was approved – *proposed by P. May and seconded by J. Gray.*

2.0 Adoption of the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30th September 2021

Covid continued to impact the finances of the club. We had been forced to close the bar from September 2020 to April 2021, and when we were able to open we had to launch a table service facility, which was relatively expensive to run. This could have had a serious financial impact, but we were fortunate to benefit from continued grants from Redbridge Council as well as the Government furlough scheme.

Having a full playing season in 2021 meant that membership numbers had risen when compared to 2020 and this in turn had led to increased subscription income. Overall, the club ended the year in a strong cash position, which had enabled us to increase the provision against the pavilion refurbishment to £60,000. This had however resulted in the accounts showing a deficit of nearly £18,000 for the year.

Despite the Covid headwinds, the club remained in a good financial position and was able to continue to invest in our facilities to secure and develop our long-term future. It was important to note that we would continue to raise funds to invest in the infrastructure of the club, notably the pavilion. We aimed to provide the best possible facilities to our members, and therefore the club would continue to look to raise funds through social activities, membership, grants and donations.

The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts was approved – *proposed by J. Pluck and seconded by P. May.*

3.0 Club Constitution Amendments

These changes related to clauses 5, 7 and 20 and primarily involved replacing the wording Child Protection with Safeguarding to reflect better the policies and practices required to keep children and vulnerable adults safe and to promote inclusivity and well-being. It was important to note that the Club Constitution included wording that stipulated the adoption of any Safeguarding Policies or Guidelines made mandatory by the club's various sports' governing bodies.

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

4.0 Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Management Committee

Vice-Presidents

Sadly, we had to report the passing of one of the club's Vice-Presidents, Ron Worf, who had made an important contribution to the club over many years. He would be greatly missed.

Following their outstanding service to the club over many years, it was proposed that both Lynn Rising and Simon Andrews be elected as Vice-Presidents

The Officers and Management Committee members would be as follows:

President	John Gray
Vice-Presidents	Mrs C. Richards Mrs P. Osborn F. Rumsey M. J. Mead G. Jelley H. Chambers Mrs G. E. Pluck C. J. Hurd L. Enoch T. Hebden N. Hutchings N. Rathakrishnan S. Phillips N. Baldwin Mrs L. Rising S. Andrews

Club Management Committee

1. Honorary Club Secretary	Nigel Hutchings
2. Honorary Club Treasurer	Mark Bentley
3. Cricket Secretary	Martin Pluck
4. Bar Sub-Committee Chairman	Scott Emmons
5. Social Sub-Committee Chairman	Scott Emmons
6. Club Captain	Arfan Akram
7. Other representatives of the members	Matloob Piracha Joe Ellis-Grewal

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

The Club Safeguarding Officer, Niru Williams, and Len Enoch would both be co-opted onto the Management Committee.

Honorary Auditor

Alun Evans

The election of the Officers, Vice-Presidents, Management Committee and Honorary Auditor was approved – *proposed by J. Pluck and seconded by P. May.*

5.0 Subscriptions

Whilst we were always reluctant to recommend increasing subscriptions or match fees, this year we were forced to do so by rising costs. We were facing an ever-increasing inflationary environment, where running costs continued to rise, notably gas and electric costs. To help offset these additional outgoings the proposal was to raise fees by around 5%, which was the first increase since 2019. Unfortunately, if inflationary pressures continued, we might need to consider a further increment in 2023.

The recommendation for 2022 annual subscription was approved– *proposed by J. Gray and seconded by A. Lord.*

6.0 Match Fees

The fees for adult matches had not changed since 2014 and those for junior matches had remained the same since 2015. The recommendation was that adult match fees should increase to £11.00 (£5.50 if no teas were provided) and junior match fees to £5.50. It was noted that our match fees compared very favourably to those of other clubs.

The recommendation for 2022 match fees was approved – *proposed by J. Gray and seconded by J. Pluck.*

The meeting was formally closed by the Chair.

7.0 Club updates

The following updates followed the main AGM:

7.1 Project Heron Stage 3 – Mark Bentley

This related to the further refurbishment and extension of the Overton Drive clubhouse. The key features of this initiative were:

- Adding a single storey extension to the end of the pavilion
- Incorporating the scoreboard into the main clubhouse building
- Relocating the umpires' room
- Reorganising and refurbishing the players' changing rooms

- Relocating and extending shower facilities
- Relocating the ladies' toilets.
- Extending the bar area into the space freed up by the relocation of the ladies' toilets
- Adding outside steps up to a viewing gallery

We had applied for, and received, planning permission for this development. The revised construction drawings were now available.

Martin Pluck and Mark Bentley were in the process of obtaining 3 quotes for the building work. This was a prerequisite for applying for any grants that we would need to be able to go ahead with the work. Due to the amount of fund raising that would be necessary, the earliest we were likely to be in a position to carry out the refurbishment would be 2023/2024.

7.2 Safeguarding – Niru Williams

The new Club Safeguarding Officer, Niru Williams, introduced herself and provided details of her background and personal and professional experience relevant to this role. She covered the following topics:

Club Safeguarding Officer Responsibilities

- Manage and report concerns about children and vulnerable adults.
- Put in place policies and procedures to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
- Ensure coaches, managers, other volunteers and employees had the right DBS/qualifications.
- Report to Management Committee regularly.
- Liaise closely with the County Safeguarding Officer for Essex Cricket, Phil Knappett.

Sound safeguarding practice

- This was a team effort – **Everyone's Responsibility**
- Safeguarding Team – 'the eyes and ears' of our safeguarding capability.
- Important and increasing demands by ECB. The Azeem Rafiq affair had been a key catalyst here.
- High level awareness and actions required by community cricket clubs.
- ECB commitment to tackle racism and promote inclusion and diversity at all levels of cricket.
- ECB Anti-discrimination Code.
- ECB Equality & Diversity Inclusion Plan.

Safeguarding requirements

- Safeguarding Policy – reviewed/updated regularly, adopting ECB requirements.
- Management processes to deliver policy promises
 - ⇒ Codes of Conduct (Members' Charter & Family Charter) – available on club website.
 - ⇒ Human Resources (HR) – volunteer selection and training. Len Enoch and Matloob Piracha were key to this. Volunteers were carefully selected to ensure individual's skills and interests were matched to roles. Follow-up support and training provided as required.
 - ⇒ Risk Assessment.
 - ⇒ Disciplinary procedures.
- Feedback
 - ⇒ Whistleblowing: 'Howzat – what do you think?'. Available on club website – all submissions were entirely confidential.
 - ⇒ Complaints procedure.
 - ⇒ Regular reports to Management Committee.

How members can help

- Report concerns.
- Volunteer
 - ⇒ Safeguarding, including first aid.
 - ⇒ Data Protection.
 - ⇒ Risk Management.
 - ⇒ Human Resources.
 - ⇒ Equality and Diversity.

7.3 Upcoming cricket season (juniors) – Jon Gritten, Head of Junior Cricket.

Jon emphasised that the key objective for junior cricket at Wanstead was to engender a lasting love of the game from an early age.

Plans for the 2022

- Continued growth of girls' cricket
 - ⇒ New Thursday women's & girls' evening.
 - ⇒ High level coaching.
 - ⇒ Focus on playing more games and festivals.
 - ⇒ Generous sponsorship of girls' section by TTS Solicitors would be a great help this season.
- Providing the right opportunities for our 350 junior members
 - ⇒ Quality of coaching going from strength to strength.

- ⇒ Thursday/Friday evening sessions.
- ⇒ Monday Tape Ball League for younger players.
- ⇒ ECB, Essex and Met District competitions.
- ⇒ Aim to increase the number of friendlies.
- ⇒ Growing provision for U7s, which would accommodate 30 more children.

Members who would like to support the junior section should contact Jon Gritten

Junior registration for 2022

- There had been a high number of renewals already.
- Open to new members from 25th March, although not many spaces were anticipated.

7.4 Upcoming cricket season (adult ladies) – Saba Nasim, Women’s Captain.

Martin Pluck provided the update as Saba was not able to attend the AGM in person.

- The ladies’ team was looking forward to the upcoming season when they would be playing in the Essex Women’s Premier League.
- There would be 14 league games supplemented by friendlies and T20 games.
- We planned to enter sides in some new 6-aside and 8-aside tournaments. The plan here was to encourage additional ladies to play in a more social environment.

7.5 Upcoming cricket season (adult men) – Joe Ellis-Grewal, 1st XI Men’s Captain.

- The 1st XI was playing in 5 competitions again this season – League, Dukes Essex League Cup, Dukes Essex T20, ECB National Cricket Club Championship, Club Cricket Conference Cup (Bertie Joel Trophy)
- All men’s teams would be actively competing to win their respective leagues.
- It was important for the selection process to be transparent. Players would always be picked on merit.
- We should all “play the game the right way”. It was important that all teams adhered to the Spirit of Cricket.
- A new coach was available for Wednesday evenings training. All players were encouraged to attend.
- Attendance at winter nets had been good, which was very positive
- It should not just be question of turning up and playing games – players should consider how they can help both their team and contribute to the club as a whole.
- The plan was to organise monthly social events – players were encouraged to participate in these.

The following adult captains had been appointed

1st XI Joe Ellis-Grewal

2nd XI Jay Williams

3rd XI Alan Lord

4th XI Faris Bhatti

5th XI Don Parsons

6th XI Ash Patel

Women's XI Saba Nasim

The meeting finished with the Chair reiterating his thanks to all members for everything they had done for the club and the community that they served over the past 12 months.