

NORMANDY CRICKET CLUB
Minutes of the AGM at NCC
At 8.00pm on Wednesday 13th December 2023

Committee Members Present: -

Attendee	Initials	Position
Jill Scott	JS	Chair
Rob Wellfare	RW	Vice Chair
Russell Home	RH	Secretary
Sara Job	SJ	Colts Manager
Andy Hemingway	AH	Treasurer
Tim Page	TP	House Manager
Philip Hodgson	PH	Social Media
Phil Moss	Phil	Bar Chairman
Ali Robertson-Fox	ARF	Membership Secretary

In addition, there were 15 other club members present. A total of 24 attendees.

1. Apologies

Received from Carl Bowen, David Iliffe, Andrew McPherson, George Newton, Peter Scott, Trevor Walter.

2. Summary of Minutes from 2022 AGM

RH summarised the minutes from last year as follows:

Attendees – 15

Matters Arising: – None.

Chairman's Report: -

JS thanked various members and committee for all the hard work and support throughout the year, PS is working on sharing the cricket workload more effectively with clear defining roles. Colts were going from strength again this year. PH has been working hard on finding sponsorship and developing social media. Grants were received from the Parish Council to go towards the building of the FM ground scoreboard, plus a grant from the ECB was obtained for installation of new heaters and energy saving LED lighting. Shelly Jones has stepped down from her role as Vice-Chair.

Treasurer's Report: -

AH reported the club made a loss of £1.1K in 2022 and that our reserves were £57K at the bank. Match fees were increased in 2022 to include teas which were now outsourced for the first time. We also received COVID support in the shape of a final £2.7K government grant.

Bar revenue was very good, with a net surplus of £28.4K.

The largest expense came with the purchase of a new mower.

AH thanked all the committee, club members for their support and Mike Davis for carrying out the audit.

Cricket Manager's Report: -

PS reported the following: -

1st XI – 6th – Premier League

2nd XI – 3rd – Division 1

3rd XI – 3rd – Division 2 West

4th XI – 5th – Division 4 West

5th XI – played 13 matches

6th XI – was fielded for the 1st time

Academy – Tier 2 losing finalists

15 new players were recruited for all XI's, with a view to continuing to recruit at all levels to maintain the best standard of cricket, furthermore, the development and introduction of more colts playing senior cricket in 2022 was heartening.

PS thanked the ground staff, scorers, umpires and coaches for their assistance and help.

Colts Manager Report: -

Sara's report stated that colts fixtures were played with teams from U8's to U19's, including the U9's coached by Andy Macpherson winning their league.

Focus remains on player development, and coaching on Friday evenings continued for All Stars, U8's to U15's, with older colts XI's on Thursdays.

Several colts had taken and passed young leaders and level 1 coaching courses to ease the reliance on external coaches.

Our summer holiday coaching courses were highly successful and expanded in 2022.

Sara thanked PH, the age group managers, coaches, and the committee for their help.

Election of Officers: -

All other committee positions remained as per 2021, except: -

Robin Wellfare replaced Shelly Jones as Vice Chair

Tim Jones replaced Phil Moss as Ground Chairman

Ali Robertson-Fox replaced Tania Bell as Membership secretary

Andy Macpherson replaced Ross Skidmore as Club Captain

Anthony Clarke, Derek Morgan, Mark Rosser and Nathan Sowter were nominated and accepted as Vice President members of NCC for 2023.

Membership/Subscriptions: - These will be decided upon in February 2023 after further financial analysis.

2022 Recommendations from committee: - Replace clubhouse entrance carpet, Fred Mayhead Ground Scorebox/Enhanced social media presence/Solar panels/Bar refurbishment (long term).

2022 Recommendations to committee: - none.

AOB: - George Iliffe, Andy Martin, Tom McAllister, George Readings and Roy Turnbull were remembered as members past and present who has passed away this year.

The AGM closed at 8.35pm.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Chairwoman's Report

JS delivered her report as follows:

As you all know, cricket is at the heart of everything we do. Most of us are able to support all the teams playing at home and, thanks to my mobile, I have been able to support the away games as well! It has been very encouraging to see so many supporters each week, after a very damp start to the season when the Fred Mayhead ground could not be used for the first few weeks. However, Peter was able to find other venues for these teams with Mark Rosser organising fixtures for the 5th and 6th teams. I have been very fortunate to have the opportunity to support the colts on Friday nights as well and some of their games on Sunday mornings. All in all, we have a very strong club with 6 teams playing most Saturdays and more colts' teams than I would care to mention!!

We have a very strong, hard-working committee, all of whom go above and beyond to support the club.

During the winter months Sara Job and Chloe Power set about revamping the Policies for Colts cricket. This was then taken over by Andrew Hemingway who was between jobs at the time – we were so lucky to have him spending hours and hours researching ECB recommendations and updating all our policies, including the club's Constitution. He did a wonderful job for which we are all very grateful - so thank you very much Andrew.

We were also very fortunate to obtain a grant of £2,500 from Normandy Parish Council to erect a score box on the Fred Mayhead ground. I am sure you all agree it is an excellent structure thanks to Phil Moss and his team.

Those on the committee who were responsible for the grounds, kitchen and bar attended a meeting regarding COSHH – Control of Substances Hazardous to Health – recommendations. It was a very informative evening and created a great deal of work checking all our petrol etc in the garage and all the cleaning liquids in the kitchen and bar!

Thanks to Sara Job the colts' parents were provided with the "Goat Box" on Sunday mornings, selling tea, coffee and cake for those watching their children play! For those of you who may be interested, it is called the "Goat Box" because the vehicle originally transported goats! All clean and changed around before coffee was served!

Philip Hodgson and his team have been working hard throughout the year gaining sponsors and updating social media platforms – thanks Phillip.

One loyal supporter I would like to publicly thank is John Stiff who is aware of many happenings around the club and always keeps us informed of any maintenance work

that needs doing or any incidences concerning people who should not be at the club, especially at night. Thank you, John.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 3 years as Chair, thanks to you all. I shall still be around next year to cheer on our grandchildren on Fridays and Sundays!

5. Treasurer's Report

The 2023-23 Financial year was a challenging one for a number of reasons. Set against a backdrop of high energy costs and increasing inflation, matters were complicated further by an unusually inclement summer which had a major impact on the number of revenue-generating activities put on.

But, on a more positive note, these setbacks were mitigated by some generous member donations, both financial and in giving their time, and some wider concerted efforts to generate revenue and control costs that helped us reach a satisfactory position for the year.

A deficit of £9.3k was recorded; however, we hope to receive a donation of £6.5k in 2024 that relates to spend made in 2023. This would reduce the deficit to £2.8k. Cash reserves declined from £57.2k to £46.8k and our ECB loan commitment now stands at £5.0k.

Copies of the financial statements are dotted around the room, so I do not propose to go through the figures in detail. However, a few lines do need mentioning as bullet points in order to provide a bit more context:

- Poor weather impacted revenue from Senior & Colts match fees, Bar revenue and BBQ income as Colts Friday evening were also impacted. We also incurred more costs for indoor net hire to provide opportunities to train when early season friendlies/outdoor training got cancelled.

- Efforts were made to increase sponsorship income and a lot of work was done to find ways of marketing the club to new contacts. Thanks to all involved with this.

- Donations were higher than expected thanks in particular to one benefactor whose donation made a significant contribution to the financial health of the club this year. We are of course very grateful.

- Bar revenue increased YoY due to stronger sales in the off-season with opening hours being extended through the winter – this also reflected the increase in staffing costs. Margin on the bar was impacted by inflationary pressures – this is an area of focus for the committee in 2024.

- The electricity contract came up for renewal at the point when electricity prices in the market were virtually at their highest. The rate payable moved to 77.8 p/kwh, up from 13.3p/kwh. We are now on a contract at 28.17p/kwh and steps are being taken to review our electricity usage and to find ways to manage our consumption.

- Excluding teas, spend on senior cricket was slightly higher than 2022; the regulatory environment in which we operate was and will continue to be tested. Those who volunteered to help with teas are to be sincerely thanked for their efforts and for directly helping the club financially.

- Investments in the year ranged from the construction of the new scoreboard on the Fred Mayhead ground, replacement carpet in the hallway and the purchase of live streaming equipment to enhance the club's online presence.

In all, the challenges of the year have highlighted how precarious the financial state of the club is. Controlling costs is becoming increasingly difficult in the inflationary and regulatory environment in which we operate and, while that will still be a crucial part of our day-to-day ethos, the committee is actively searching for ways to increase revenue across a variety of streams to help mitigate any future cost pressures. This is the only real way to drive the club forward and enable us to continue to invest in the facilities and cricketing activities that I believe a club of our stature should be offering to all its members.

Many thanks to Mike Davis, our Hon Auditor, for once again reviewing and signing off on this year's accounts. Also, I'd like to say a huge thankyou to all of the committee members who have, in their various ways, kept things moving forwards and found solutions to the issues raised in the year. Finally, I also want to acknowledge and thank all the other individuals who have volunteered their services in support of the club, many of them for free. In my opinion, they are the bedrock on which this club is founded.

In response to a question from the Chris Jones asking what revenue options were being looked at AH and RW outlined some of the streams to be investigated – bar, hire facility, sponsorship, daily business usage.

John Scott thanked AH and JS for their hard work in support of the club as Treasurer and Chair respectively on behalf of everyone.

6. Cricket Manager's Report

Presented by RH in PS' absence:

Firstly, my apologies for not being present in person this evening but I am attending a Christmas meal with my other half who having given me up to NCC for vast quantities of the summer deserves to take precedence at least once in a while.

It was the wettest summer for some years, we managed only one match in April and lost 4 league Saturdays to rain but despite this continued to field 5 teams for the majority of the season and at the height of the season were again able to put out six teams and as a consequence a number of young players from our Colt system were able to make their senior debuts, many of them with distinction.

The highlight of the season was the 2nd XI attaining promotion back to the Premier league, with captain Leon Robinson in his final season leading them back to the top tier on the back of an excellent all round team performance throughout the summer. The 3rd and 4th XI both also enjoyed successful seasons, the 3s finishing runners up in their league and the 4s finishing fourth, in both cases a place higher than in 2022.

The biggest disappointment of the year was the 1st XI who were relegated from the Premier league after three seasons back in the top division. The standard of the league was as high as I can remember and even though it felt in the second half of the season that we were often outplayed - had our overseas player not had to return to Australia with three games to go, or had we taken that vital 10th wicket against Reigate in the 15 overs we had to bowl at the last pair and Prahlad Odedra had not inexplicably turned down a single in the penultimate over in the tie against East Molesey we would have picked up enough points to stay up. There was certainly talent in the Normandy side but the manner of some of the defeats (particularly towards the business end of the season) and the fluctuating availability I know was

as much a frustration to those who continued to loyally support as it was to the Cricket Committee.

We have to face the fact that the majority (if not all) of the clubs in the Premiership are running their 1st XI teams on a significantly higher budget than we are and to compete on an even playing field is becoming increasingly difficult. We maintain our aim to allow our 1st XI to play at the very highest level we can but it would be morally wrong to do so at the expense of other areas of the club and we therefore are treading a difficult path. In order to retain our best players, we owe it to them to aspire to the top-flight of cricket in the county but need to do so within the financial restraints of the club. To be truly competitive we will need to find new avenues of income and new approaches in order not only to attract but also to retain the best players within our own club. For their part players at all levels need to understand the importance of paying their match fees and subscriptions on time and supporting club functions.

A number of “thank you’s” – personally a thank you to all the captains for their hard work and support and to Phil Hodgson and Carl Bowen for their help in selection, finding replacement players and general advice throughout the summer.

On behalf of the players thanks to Geoff Burton and Chris McDermott for scoring, Phil Moss, Michael Issacs, Trevor Walter and Chris Cridland for umpiring; Dave Illife for his work on the registration of players and Mark Rosser for his work on the fixtures.

Thanks also to Jonny Nolan, Tim Jones, Phil Miles and Phil Moss for their work on the grounds which continue to be of excellent quality.

And to Jill Scott as she steps down as Chair – her support of cricket and to me personally over the last few years has been very much appreciated.

Looking ahead to the future we have entered our 5th XI into league cricket in 2024 in order to increase the offering of competitive cricket to an increasingly enthusiastic senior playing section.

There is also a strong likelihood that the format of the league will change significantly in 2025 with the Surrey set up likely to follow Sussex in amalgamating three leagues into one with the aim to provide a tiered structure which will be regionalised to reduce travelling at lower levels and to offer more competitive cricket at all levels. Nothing is agreed as yet but it looks highly likely that this will go ahead from 2025 making 2024 potentially the final year of Surrey Championship cricket.

7. Colts Manager’s Report

2023 was another successful season for colts’ cricket at NCC. All teams from U8 to U19 were entered into leagues within the Surrey Junior Cricket Championship framework. We also fielded an U9 and U11 Girls team this season under the fantastic leadership of Andy McPherson. We played an increased number of fixtures this season and our U11 Girls made it through to the semi-final of the cup.

Our focus continues to be on developing all our players, both in training and in matches. Coaching this year has continued on Friday nights for our All Stars and U8 to U15 age groups whilst older colts have benefitted from Wednesday night club nets and Tuesday back to cricket nets. We are extremely fortunate to have such an experienced team of coaches at NCC who are committed to the development of our junior players. I’d like to thank all the club coaches who commit so much of their time

to ensuring that the coaching we deliver continues to be of such a high standard. In the last week, three of our coaches have passed their Level 2 qualifications and one his Level 1.

We continued with our holiday course provision this year, all courses were hugely successful and enjoyed by participants from both within the NCC membership but also from outside the club.

At the time of writing, we have completed our entries to the Surrey Junior Cricket Championship for 2023, colts winter nets begin on 6th January 2024 and we have confirmed the dates for 5 holiday courses in 2024. 2024 looks to be a challenging year with the introduction of new safeguarding legislation and our focus continues to be in keeping ahead of developments in this area via our dedicated safeguarding officers.

Finally, a few thank you's :

To the steadfast Sam Wellfare, our Junior Head Coach who continues to strive for excellence and inclusivity across the coaching for all colts age groups.

To Hannah Jones for the wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and commitment she brought to girls cricket this year.

To all our age group managers who give up countless hours to coach, run matches and do so much more behind the scenes.

To all the committee members for their support during 2023 and especially Andy without whose support the updating of the clubs' documentation would have been a much more arduous task.

8. Election of Club Officers for 2024

The following officers were nominated and elected:

- a) Hon. President – Ian Richards
- b) Election of Life Members – all existing and Andrew Hemingway (proposed by RH, seconded by PS)
- c) Election of Vice Presidents – all existing and Carl Bowen (proposed by PS, seconded by RH) and Andy McPherson (proposed by SJ, seconded by JS)
- d) Hon. Chairman – Robin Wellfare
- e) Hon. Vice Chairman – Philip Hodgson
- f) Hon. Secretary – Russell Home
- g) Hon. Treasurer – Andrew Hemingway
- h) Hon. Auditor – Mike Davis
- i) Hon. Fixture Secretary – Mark Rosser
- j) Cricket Manager – Peter Scott
- k) Club Captains –
 - 1st XI – Chris Jones
 - 2nd XI – Sam Wellfare
 - 3rd XI - Michael Collins
 - 4th XI - Matt Medlock
 - 5th XI – Tim Jones
 - 6th XI – Carl Bowen
- l) Colts Manager – Sara Job
- m) Membership Secretary – Ali Robertson-Fox
- n) Club Safeguarding Officer – Chloe Power (with Sara Went assisting)

- o) Functions Hire – Clare Kennedy
- p) House Chairman – Tim Page
- q) Bar Chairman – Phil Moss
- r) Ground Chairman – Tim Jones
- s) Social Media/Sponsorship – Philip Hodgson

All nominations were agreed.

9. Subscriptions & Match Fees (2024)

RH summarised the subscriptions and match fees as follows:

Category	2023	2024			
Non-Playing	£30.00	£35.00			
Senior non-playing	£20.00	£25.00			
Senior Playing	£140.00	£150.00	Rising to £200.00 if not paid by 1 st April		
Student	£110.00	£120.00	Rising to £160.00 if not paid by 1 st April		
U19/21	£110.00	£120.00	Rising to £160.00 if not paid by 1 st April		
Colts (existing)	£130.00	£140.00			
Colts (new)	£160.00	£175.00	Includes red/black match day kit		
				Colts	
			1	2	3
	Guardians	1	£165.00	£295.00	£425.00
		2	£190.00	£320.00	£450.00
	Family	Existing	£175.00	£315.00	£455.00

Match Fees Proposal for 2024

2023 Match Fees		1st XI	2nd XI	3rd XI	4th XI	5th XI	6th XI	1st XI	Academy
Seniors	Home	£14.00	£14.00	£12.60	£12.60	£10.00	£10.00	£14.00	£10.00
	Away	£14.00	£14.00	£11.20	£11.20	£10.00	£10.00	£14.00	£10.00
Juniors	Home	£10.00	£10.00	£9.00	£9.00	£6.00	£6.00	£10.00	£7.50
	Away	£10.00	£10.00	£8.00	£8.00	£6.00	£6.00	£10.00	£7.50
Proposal for 2024 (assuming Colts matches increase to £4.00)									
Seniors	Home	£15.00	£15.00	£13.50	£13.50	£10.75	£10.75	£15.00	£10.75
	Away	£15.00	£15.00	£12.00	£12.00	£10.75	£10.75	£15.00	£10.75
Juniors	Home	£10.75	£10.75	£9.50	£9.50	£6.50	£6.50	£10.75	£8.00
	Away	£10.75	£10.75	£8.50	£8.50	£6.50	£6.50	£10.75	£8.00
No teas Sundays									

Chris Jones raised some concerns regarding the 1st XI paying match fees as this was not consistent across other club's 1st XI's and was particularly frustrating for those players who also incur significant travel expenses. John Scott asked how this compared with other clubs. AH responded the comparison was favourable and gave some examples of other clubs' subscription fees – Farnham £180, Wimbledon £190, Malden Wanderers £240 but recognised that the inconsistency is a challenge and it was a fair point to raise and certainly something that should be looked at.

10. Recommendations from the Committee

- Membership cards must be shown at the bar and all bar staff should ask to see them.
- 2024 budgets will be tightened.
- The utilisation of the facilities must be reviewed to look at ways of increasing revenue.
- Introduction of walking cricket.

11. Recommendations for the 2024 Committee

- John Scott asked the committee to look at other cricket clubs and complete an overall comparison of membership costs/player packages.
- John Stiff raised concerns about the lower ground outfield and the need for this to be fed. Whilst it was agreed this would be good to do it was not a priority and feedback from playing members is that the pitch is one of the best in the league. AH also added that 3-year plans across all areas of the club are being put together.
- John Stiff also asked if a receipt could be obtained for bar purchases. Phil confirmed that a receipt could be obtained if requested.

12. Any Other Business

Fencing – John Stiff asked if a fence could be put up around the lower ground in the woods beyond the boundary rope, and, if a working party could be put together to erect it, he would be happy to fund this. RW advised that this was already listed as an item to do but that the club would need permission from Normandy Parish Council to do this and he would speak to his contact at the council.

In memory – RH remembered Bill Hilsdon, Gary Rigden, Mollie Scott and Cyril Stiff who passed away in 2023.

Thank you – on behalf of all members of the club RW thanked JS for her time as Chair and for the phenomenal amount of work she has done.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.