

**MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM HELD ON 22nd JANUARY 2018,
AT THE COOPER ASSOCIATES COUNTY GROUND, TAUNTON AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: The President, Mr. Richard Parsons was in the Chair.

The Chief Executive, Lee Cooper began by reading out a list of Members who had passed away since the production of the Almanac.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr. Michael Hill, Mrs. Pat Russell, Mr. Martin Dewdney, Mr. Ken Goodwin, Mrs. Liz Goodwin, Mr. Brian Daniel, Mr. Philip Lloyd, Mr. Ken Jeffrey, Miss Penny Roberts, Mr. Alan Greener, Mr. Chris Twort.

ITEM 2. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2017

All those present approved the formal adoption of the Minutes.

ITEM 3. TO RECEIVE AND, IF APPROVED, ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

The Chairman, Mr. Andy Nash began his report by saying that he had pleasure in reporting on the last 12 months, which was an action-packed year of cricket.

The Chairman then explained the simple strategies that the Club aim to implement:

6 strategic aims set over a 5-year period ending in 2021:

1. To compete in all formats of the game.
2. To deliver safe and successful events.
3. To develop and build first class facilities.
4. To increase our financial strength.
5. To engage with our community.
6. To develop our own people.

The Chairman gave more detail of each strategy based on the performance of the Club, both on and off the field, for the past 12 months: the bullet points of which were:

- SCCC remain in Division I; no mean feat for a small county. SCCC set a record for 10 consecutive seasons in Division I. When cricket re-starts in March 2018, SCCC will have served over twice as long as any other county in Division I.
- Reached Quarter Finals of both white ball competitions.
- Western Storm won the second Kia Super League Trophy. Although the Club share Western Storm with Gloucestershire and Exeter University, SCCC manage the franchise, very proud of the women's team and view Taunton as principle home.
- 3rd highest spender on our cricket squad of the 18 counties, great achievement, proving our strong financial shape.
- Increased focus and greater investment in local talent development, excluding the 4 women in England sides, SCCC have no less than 8 men with England squads this winter.
- Anya Shrubsole, Player of the Match, Women's World Cup Final - fantastic occasion, proud of Anya and her match winning performances.
- England v South Africa IT20 - only the second time that England have played at Taunton since 1875. Magnificent occasion for the Club, strategic for the Club to deliver safe and successfully at CACG.
- Increased attendance at T20s and Women's World Cup, with the increased popularity of the women's game.
- Men's World Cup 2019 - 3 confirmed fixtures to look forward to.
- Developing operational staff and the consistency of delivery.
- Long-term transformation of The County Ground began in 2004; phase IV completed on time and within budget with the opening of the Somerset Pavilion and completion of drainage to the new international standard.
- Phase V (NE Corner), completed in time for 2017 season.
- Full planning and consent for floodlights; first LED lights in cricket in the UK will be installed in time for the start of the 2019 season – required for hosting the World Cup matches.
- Strong financial background; the Club has continued to record a profit, grateful for contribution from England IT20 and Women's World Cup.
- Very proud of what the Club achieves and what it does for the community throughout the course of the year. There will be the creation of the SCCC community foundation, which will bring all charities together.
- Recognition for England representation for U19 World Cup squad with three Somerset players selected.
- Jack Leach and Dom Bess with the England Lions in the West Indies.
- Craig Overton representing England in New Zealand
- Tribute paid to David Gabbitass – David served for 25 years on the Club's General Committee, represented the Cornwall and Devon Area, Vice Chairman for Giles Clarke and Andy Nash and 15 years on the ECB cricket disciplinary committee. David will now retire

from representing Devon and Cornwall. David presented with a County Cap (name and years of service).

In summary, the Club has a very clear and simple strategy and a strong record of achievement over the past 12 months, the aim is to match success off the field, with success on the field.

Questions

Mr Bob Payne asked what plans there are for a limited overs player next season. DoC responded that the Club were already a long way down the process of recruiting a T20 overseas player, following a thorough and robust process to find the right player. Emphasised the importance of availability for a majority, if not all the season. DoC expressed his appreciation of the opportunity to return to Club, he has been overwhelmed by goodwill messages, energy and support shown and going forward he is excited and honoured to be back at SCCC.

Mr Michael Amphlett asked who owns SCCC and why were Members not asked to vote on who CEO and Chairman successors and questioned how SCCC is a Members Club if Members don't vote on anything. CEO reported that the Club is governed by rules and the Club had complied with them on the appointment of Charles Clark, clear in rules 6.1, 6.2, 9.2 specifically. The President added that there is a procedure to follow, and the procedure has been adhered to, furthermore if Members are not happy, the way to proceed would be to speak with a representative on the Area Committee or join the Area Committee.

Mr Alan Foreacre enquired about losing players to England and injury. Do we have enough pace bowlers of quality and in depth? DoC believes that SCCC has pace bowlers in quality and in depth for a short period time, if players are lost to England, then the situation would change, and the Club would need to act on this. Due diligence would be followed, if recruitment required, would look to find right character/skill sets and consideration be given whether development or straight into 1st XI.

Mr Nick Williams asked why the Somerset County Gazette are barred from attending the AGM. The CEO explained that traditionally journalists were not invited, as it is a Members meeting, however due to recent press releases, believed it prudent to invite to this meeting.

Mr Michael Powell asked what would happen with city franchises and the new competition; feels that Club members are against the plans. The Chairman explained that the new competition doesn't work for Somerset, however it is the right thing to do to recognise the new competition, it is in the interest of all to support. The new competition will be owned by ECB.

Mrs Mary Ackland-Hood said that as a Life Member, feels in an uneasy position whereby different layers of Membership are being introduced i.e. places that people pay extra to get into. CEO explained that the Club was reacting to demand of what people are prepared to pay for, which is exclusive Memberships to view from certain parts of the ground. CEO went on to summarise, if

Memberships are purchased according to behaviours, then Members will be 90% better off. The Club is adapting to the financial and economic challenges facing it and the Club has reacted to demand, that's why different categories of Membership have been introduced. The Membership decision was made with the best interest of the Club and hopes that Members can see the rationale behind the change and trust that this was financially necessary to enable investment in the squad and provide entertaining cricket.

Mrs Mary Ackland-Hood also requested recognition of women Members and hoped there could be a silk scarf available to buy.

Mr Fred Nash asked if the Somerset Pavilion would be renamed the "Peter Roebuck Pavilion". CEO explained that he had been interviewed by Ivo Tennant of the Times and the question posed was why we have not named the Somerset Pavilion after a former player and would we be open to consider it. The CEO had responded that options had been considered and from this response The Times and The Cricketer had reported the possible name change.

The DoC was asked about Tom Abell having a difficult season and asked what the pre-season plans would be. He responded that the Club were taking a unique approach with the erection of a marquee on the outfield that would be ready to use from mid-February. DoC acknowledged the season had been challenging for Tom, however Tom had shown great leadership.

The President opened the floor to the DoC, Andy Hurry. DoC explained that he intends to carry momentum through from latter end of last year. He has seen evidence of players demonstrating right skills needed to do this. Several players will be retained, furthermore, he believes whether batting or bowling, there is great competition for places. The Club has a great number of experienced and young players, incredible to see experienced players nurturing and guiding young players. No doubt that the Club has the players and depth to win all three formats, however the priority is to win the County Championship.

There being no further questions, the President proposed the formal adoption of the 2017 Report - seconded and approved unanimously.

ITEM 4. TO RECEIVE AND, IF APPROVE, ADOPT THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2017.

The Hon Treasurer referred to the finance report and highlighted points on the performance of 2017, comparison with other FCCs and the anticipated financial challenges for 2018:

- A Trading Surplus before tax of £421,000, down on previous year of £600,000.
- Turnover of £7M up 15% on previous year with the ICC Women's World Cup and IT20 strong financial performance.
- Expenditure of £6.6M up by 18% on previous year.

- ECB income up by £200,000.
- Gate receipts and Membership generated £1.5M income – 20% of overall income.
- Catering and Commercial activities generated 40% of overall income.
- £2.6M spent on playing staff and cricket support costs a 17% (£400,000) increase from the previous year.
- ECB central funds were £2.1M, 30% of overall income (a comparison with Leicester shows Leicester at 70% centrally funded).
- Membership numbers – 6190
- Net debt is £2.8M, repaying £225,000 per year, plus £120,000 interest, total costing £345,000 per year.
- No audit qualification, clean bill of health.
- Floodlights due to start October 2018. Estimated cost of £2M, received £1.1M loan from ECB.
- £300,000 spent on NE corner, funded by Club generated funds.
- Primary loan partners are Barclays and TDBC, working well within covenants.

The Hon Treasurer ran through a comparison with the other FCCs. We are 4th in the table for investment in playing costs, 11th for least amount of debt and 2nd in gate income.

The financial health of the Club is good, however with no special events scheduled for 2018, the Club needs to be more active at generating additional income. In 2019 the Club will host three Cricket World Cup matches, which should offer significant returns along with the new T20 competition.

Questions

Mr Martin Seale applauded catering, saying it had been superb, however queried the reduction in catering income and whether this would impact during the following year. The Hon Treasurer reported the main reason for reduction was because the ground had been closed for the Women's World Cup. CEO reported there would be more opportunity in 2018 with 50 days of cricket.

Mr Hugh Gregor requested that the volunteers that run the tombola's etc., be thanked and their value acknowledged. The Hon Treasurer apologised for this omission and thanked all volunteers and added that the contribution is valued by the Club.

Mr Chris Pitman referred to the superb carol service held at the CACG and run by the Taunton Area Committee but added that the Club had hardly advertised the event and asked that this be reviewed for future events.

There being no further questions the Hon Treasurer proposed the formal adoption of the Accounts, seconded and approved unanimously.

ITEM 5. TO ELECT AN HONORARY TREASURER FOR 2018

Mr. Malcolm Derry was nominated as Honorary Treasurer, seconded and agreed unanimously.

ITEM 6. TO APPOINT AUDITORS FOR 2018

N H Monahan (same auditors as 2017 with a different name) were proposed for 2018, seconded and agreed unanimously.

ITEM 7. TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF BALLOTS FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE COMMITTEE.

In the Areas that were due for re-election, the following were elected unopposed, with the exception of Devon & Cornwall (retirement of Mr. David Gabbitass) and Taunton (retirement of Mr. Brian Daw):

- Bath & Wiltshire: Mr. David Pope
- North Somerset and Bristol: Mr. Martin Parker
- Devon & Cornwall: Mr. Eddie Dymond
- Taunton: Mr. Richard Brice

ITEM 8. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman, Andy Nash thanked the members, colleagues, players, staff, volunteers and supporters for entrusting him with Chairmanship for past 10 years.

Introduction of new Chairman - Mr. Charles Clark

Mr. Clark stated that it was huge honour and privilege to be Chairman, and along with the members, players and staff was very much looking forward to seeing everyone at the ground in 2018.

Mr. Clark thanked Andy and Linda Nash, articulating that Andy had led Somerset astutely through difficult times while sharing his business skills with the Committee, pleasure to announce that Andy to be granted Honorary Life Membership of SCCC.

Meeting closed.

Signed Dated