

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 31 March 2022 by Zoom.

**Present: Directors**: Andy Shield (Chair), Steve Silk (CEO), Phil Carter, P Boorman, Andy Parsons, Razi Ahmed, Nigel Hill

**Clubs present:** Bishopston CC, Bristol CC, Bristol Lions CC, Charlton Kings CC, Cheltenham CC, Chipping Camden CC, Cirencester CC, Downend CC, Dumbleton CC, Frenchay CC, Golden Hill CC, Haresfield CC, Hatherley & Reding CC, Marshfield Gladiators CC, Newent CC, Old Down CC, Rockhampton CC, Shurdington CC, Stapleton CC, Stroud CC, Tewkesbury CC, Thornbury CC, Westbury-on-Severn CC and Winterbourne CC

**Associations & Leagues**: Bristol & District, Gloucestershire County Cricket League, Cotswold District Cricket Association, Cheltenham & Gloucester Cricket Association

**Also present:** Sue Brees (Secretary)

The Chair welcomed all present.to the first GCF AGM.

1. **Apologies** – None

**2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM and EGM**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 25 March 2021 and EGM held on 20July 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**3. Reports**

**3(a) Chair’s Report** (available prior to the meeting via the website)

The final year of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board has been extremely busy and our hard-working team at Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation has done a great job with drive and enthusiasm to establish the GCF while continuing with all our cricket and community work.

At last year's Annual General Meeting, two retiring directors were thanked for their service and we acknowledged the long-standing commitment and dedication of the County Welfare Officer. Two new members who will monitor safeguarding, were welcomed to the team.

We also welcomed six new non executive directors to the board. The board has worked with the Chief Executive to ensure a smooth transition to the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation. This objective was successfully achieved in November 2021, with an official roll-out on our website in January 2022.

Moving to charitable status as a Foundation will bring new funding opportunities, greater engagement with community organisations and closer links with the business world. The focus moving forward will be to understand the best direction of the organisation in order to achieve the best results in every area of our activity - on and off the cricket field.

The Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation will have two core objectives - ‘Good For Cricket’ and‘ Cricket For Good’.

The first key area will concentrate on core cricket - clubs, schools, safeguarding, county grant schemes and coach development.

The second will target community activity with the aim of putting bats and balls into the hands of as many people as possible through cricket-based activities.

Our work in the community is already inspirational and making a big difference to people’s lives through programmes that go beyond a game of cricket.

The Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation community activity is helping to promote cricket as a force for good in challenging times for the game.

In future, we hope to share more of our ‘good news’ story and the GCF team is currently assessing whether we might employ a media and marketing professional within our team to strengthen what we can do in the community and for club cricket.

Running in parallel to the creation of the Foundation, was the essential need to attain the gold standard accreditation required for the County Partnership Agreement (CPA).

This is, in essence, GCF’s contract with the ECB and drives the level of funding received. The ECB is the principal funder of the foundation.

I’m pleased to report that a recent evaluation of our progress shows that the GCF is well on track. In fact, because of the dedicated work of our team, we are able to receive additional funding over and above the baseline funding available.

Moving to GCF means our executive directors are now Foundation trustees and the team has created sub-groups, with the involvement of our staff, to monitor performance. The groups focus on the key areas of Safeguarding, Governance, Finance & Risk, Charity and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI).

You may have seen the news that cricket has an important task ahead to ensure that our game is more inclusive. Our EDI sub-group is putting in extra work to strengthen our position and reputation as an organisation that welcomes everyone. At Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation, cricket is ‘a game for all’.

Working with the ECB, we will be sharing information about the attitudes and behaviour we expect from everyone involved in cricket in Gloucestershire. We all have a responsibility to ensure the game is open to everyone and people are respected, welcomed and celebrated for their differences. ‘A game for all’ will always be our goal at the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation

The financial standing of the GCF is robust after prudent financial management of incomes and expenditure and greater detail of the financial performance will be presented in a separate paper.

On a more general note, GCF is well respected within the game of cricket because of our exceptional level of performance and our ability to exceed pre-set targets in every area of our work. Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation is setting the benchmark for others to follow.

We are not complacent. Our team is determined to maintain our high standards and our ambition is always to be better at what we’re already good at!

The reputation and performance of the GCF is highly dependent on its people, the most important asset in any organisation.

We have a high performing team with professional skills and tremendous motivation - both in our employed staff and our volunteers.

Recreational cricket in Gloucestershire has one of the best squads in the country with our staff supporting and working alongside a terrific team of volunteers who devote thousands of hours to grassroots cricket.

On a personal note, I have been reflecting on the milestones I’ve seen and I have had the privilege to be involved with and have led several teams. The GCF is among the best of the best and I’m thankful for all the support I have received in my first year as chair - especially in such a busy time of change and transition.

Finally, we have all had to deal with the huge challenges that the pandemic placed upon us all and hopefully - because of the great work of our NHS - we can look forward with optimism. Looking ahead, I hope we can work together to ensure that cricket is a welcoming environment for everyone.

I would like us all to respect people for their differences.

I hope we can take care of people who are vulnerable and I hope we can keep people safe whenever they are with us at Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation,

We would like everyone to have a positive experience with us.

Thank you for all you do - in whatever role, whether it’s as staff, volunteers, players, club officials, sponsors or supporters . Thank you for being part of the success of the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation.

Andy Shield -Chair

**3(b) Chief Executive’s Report** (available prior to the meeting via the website)

I remember stating at the March 2021 AGM that I had confidence that cricket would return in the summer and that we had to put our trust and faith in the ECB and the local organising bodies to get the show on the road. I am so happy that some 12 months later our faith was not misguided or misplaced but thanks to a great number of people across our game, we were able to enjoy an even bigger and better season that in previous years.

In some cases, we of course had to manage cricket in different ways, and we find ourselves today making changes for the 2022 season based on some of our learnings, but regardless of these challenges the 2021 season pretty much went off without too many challenges and happiness was once again seen on cricket pitches, in schools, and across community venues across the county.

For this year’s report I would like to pay particular recognition to our clubs who continue to work incredibly hard as volunteer run organisations. They truly are the heartbeat of cricket in the county and without the army of people who give their time so willingly, we simply wouldn’t have the game we do today in Gloucestershire, and the results that are so evident nationwide.

The incredible work that our clubs are doing ensures that Gloucestershire is quite rightly on the ECB radar and the national cricketing map. In a country where we are ranked 14th in size (based on population, number of schools, number of clubs, and any indices of multiple deprivation) we find ourselves across all areas of work severely over indexing.

Two areas of the game where this is abundantly clear is in the number of children that our clubs, schools, and community work, are encouraging and opening their doors to across national programmes. In the country we have the fourth highest number of young children participating in All Stars and Dynamo's Cricket – something that when you think of the size of counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Wales etc, you realise what an impact we are having.

These results were something that we truly wanted to celebrate and where better to do this than at Cheltenham racecourse where we created a spectacle on the home straight. Our role is to create lifelong memories for people and to ensure that the touchpoints people have within the game are such that we retain them and create lifelong cricket fans. In my 13 years of being here I truly don’t believe I have enjoyed a day as much.

The second area where we heavily over indexed in, is the women and girl’s game, where we now boast 57 clubs with women and or girl’s sections. Once again, if you look at the stats alone, we have the 7th greatest number of sections across the country and having just returned from Sri Lanka I can tell you that the quality of young female cricketer has significantly improved over the last two years.

Whilst the results on the pitch for England haven't been great in recent days the appetite from the ECB to continue to drive the growth off the women and girl’s game has never been stronger. Currently this means that if you want any significant funding from the ECB then a woman and/or girl’s section is a must. And why wouldn't you? The opportunity to bring more members into your club, the opportunity to have a brand-new section, the opportunity to create opportunities for all is really what we are all here for so if you do have thoughts about starting up then please get in contact with us.

Away from the traditional club environment is cricket offered through local community hubs. This is an area of work that we have concentrated on over the last 12 months and as a consequence of creating great partnerships, employing great people, breaking down barriers, we have seen more people through non-traditional environments engage with our game and become regular attendees

We have created disability cricket hubs in multiple areas across the county, providing people with all forms of disability the opportunity of playing the game and we've provided free local community hubs in disadvantaged areas of both Bristol and Gloucester, engaging a totally new audience.

Two great examples of this work were seen last summer when Laura launched a South Asian Muslim girl’s programme in Easton, Bristol, that saw over 100 five to eleven year olds get involved in cricket for the very first time. Secondly, the work of Masoor who provided free All Stars and Dynamos programmes for children in the Barton & Tredworth ward of Gloucester, that not only saw over 50 new children get involved in the 8-week programme, but the vast majority of these are still continuing today through our new Chance to Shine Street programme in the city.

This last 12 months I can describe as challenging, exhilarating and yet enjoyable, all things that I would liken to a rollercoaster ride really! Our core work has gone from strength to strength and we have continued to take on new opportunities and challenges as they arise. To do this has meant a huge team effort, especially when you add in for good measure, the recruitment process of new Directors, the move to becoming a charity, the needs of the first comprehensive legal binding contract with the ECB and the changing of the guard in certain areas of our team.

On this note I would like to pay particular thanks to three outgoing staff members who have had a significant impact on our work, and cricket generally, across the county:

1) John Peplow retired in July 21, having been our Club & Programmes Officer for the South since 2016. John’s support of clubs, delivery in schools and organisation of competitions, and his general great humour within the team, is missed but he continues in the sport that he loves as the Vice Chair of the B&D

2) Masoor Khan moved to London in December after 7 years with the GCB. In this time Mas developed from a Community Coach to an incredible Urban Development Officer, and much of the great work that currently goes on across Chance to Shine Street is down to him. We wish all the very best in London.

3) Hot off the press, and to many a huge shock, Eric Woodmason is stepping down after 13 years of working for the GCB, and several years before that as a volunteer on the Board. Eric’s impact on cricket across the county has been incredible and whilst everyone knows Eric, most do not really understand the impact that he has had on cricket in Gloucestershire behind the scenes. The great news is that whilst he leaves us at the Club & Programmes Officer for the north, we are retaining his skills across certain areas of the game. We thank Eric enormously for his time and dedication and wish him all the very best in his next chapter.

Where one, or three in this case, doors close, others open and for this reason I would like to welcome Ollie Forbes, Mollie Robbins and Crispin Shingler to the family. With further new recruits set to join the team in 2022, it is looking like an exciting year ahead.

So, whilst leaving a great year behind us we are truly looking forward to a wonderful 2022. With a new team of trustees challenging us on a daily basis, with an even greater desire to improve the game across all areas and with a new team that has started so well, we very much look forward to the positive impact on the game in 2022.

My final thank you is to the clubs and volunteers across Gloucestershire who have, regardless of the challenges put in front of them, continued to keep the show very much on the road. You have ensured that tens of thousands of people of all ages, across our county, continue to access the game we all love.

Here is to the most enjoyable of seasons

**3(c) Finance Director’s Report & Adoption of Accounts** (Account available prior to the meeting via the website)

The accounts for the financial year 2021 have, similar to the 2020 accounts, been affected by the pandemic and the changes in the government rules to reduce the spread of covid. This had the effect of stopping certain programmes and making working in schools and the community a lot more difficult. Throughout the year the Board used the furlough scheme to maintain staff levels and bring them back into work as the rules enabled this to take place. Throughout the period the E. C. B. continued to fund the Board at a full 100 per cent of core grant income. Due to this and the monies received via the furlough scheme the Board has generated a surplus of £35911 on turnover up 4.75 per cent on 2020. One significant movement in income has been the loss of the County boys programme to the County Cricket Club.

The reserves of the Board are in a healthy state. Each year the reserves policy is reviewed by the Board of Directors and for the year ended 30th September 2021 have been calculated at £301882 and the reserves in the accounts stand at £335974.

The Gloucestershire Cricket Board Limited converted to a Charity on 22nd of November 2021. The Directors believe that this change in status will enable the newly named Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation to obtain increased funding and to focus its energy on engaging with the public and cricket players to strengthen recreational cricket and encourage people to take up the game and discover the benefits they can achieve from the game.

The change to charity status will mean a dramatic change to the reported accounts for the year ending September 2022. We will endeavour to keep the accounts in a format recognisable to cricketer volunteers, but we will be constrained by the requirements of the Charities Commission.

The Board is well served by its staff who all show great enthusiasm for their work and the Board is keen to assist them in their further development within the game. The success of the Board is in no small way down to Steve Silk whose energy and drive continues to keep the Board on track and be consistently in the top Boards in the country.

The Chair thanked Phil on behalf of the Board for all the work he does for the GCB.

The adoption of the annual accounts was unanimously approved

**3(d) Chairs of Development Groups: YL and PD, Women & Girls, Disability and Gloucestershire Young Cricketeers** (reports available prior to the meeting via the website)

**4. Constitutional changes**

Section 3.4 of the GCF Articles - change the spelling of Razi Shebab Ahmed to Razi Shehab Ahmed – passed unanimously.

**5. Elections**

No re-elections due to previously approved terms paper.

5.2 **Non-Executive Directors** – Claire Lyes and Jane Khawaja

Claire and Jane are supported by the current Directors and both are willing to stand. The Chair proposed that Claire and Jane should be elected, and both were elected unanimously.

**6. Presentations**

Clubmark presentations were made virtually to Almondsbury CC, Bradley Stoke and Cam.

**7. AOB**

If any club has any spare kit, pads and gloves etc, Haresfield Gladiators are still collecting it for the Lord's Taveners.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.53pm with the Chair wishing everyone all the best for the season ahead.