



Gloucestershire Cricket Board

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 25 March 2021 by Zoom.

Present: Directors: Andy Shield (Chair), Steve Silk (CEO), Peter Jubb, Phil Carter, Trevor Crouch, P Boorman.

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

Also present: Sue Brees (Secretary)

The Chairman welcomed all present.

1. **Apologies** – Gloucester CC, Hatherley & Reddings CC, Newent CC and BWIP CC

2. **Minutes of the 2019 AGM**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 28 March 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. **Reports**

3(a) Chairman's Report (available prior to the meeting via the website)

It goes without saying that the past twelve months have been the most challenging of times in our lives and the local cricket environment due to the impact of the COVID Pandemic

In reflection some positives can be drawn from our experiences: unlike other recreational sports it was possible to achieve a watered down version of cricket in open age, junior, women and girls in season 2020.

This was achieved due to excellent and improved collaboration between leagues and organisations who own this particular element of cricket.

Sadly, some of the recreational offering provided by GCB Limited has not been delivered, such as schools programmes, Dynamos etc.

In addition the effects of COVID has impacted on those professionals employed by GCB who have a responsibility for the delivery of the diverse activities that the Board offers.

GCB people who have been involved in the furlough process should be complimented for their understanding and support of the situation and actions taken. In addition the professional leadership of the Board should receive acknowledgement for their continual engagement with our furloughed people. Who are our greatest assets

Moving forward, the environment is changing and there remains cautious optimism that shortly in 2021 GCB will be able to resume normal cricket operations in the County, having understood what the new normal looks like.

Whilst the finances will be presented in greater detail, it should be noted that the reserves held at the end of the financial year are at a very high level. Revenue has been influenced by government initiatives and receipt of income from programmes. Which have not been delivered and therefore not incurred costs. The Board is acutely aware that the road ahead, although safe in the short term, caution needs to be exercised and an element of the reserve forms part of a COVID contingency fund.

In other areas the Board's activities continue to function despite the constraints of COVID.

One such area was the exploration of the unification of professional and recreational cricket into one brand - Gloucestershire Cricket. This objective was complex, particularly as the needs of the professional and recreational game are so diverse. It is fair to say that with no common ground this objective has for the foreseeable future been placed in the long grass although there still remains healthy collaboration between the two parties particularly where there are common ground and synergies.

In other areas of work, there is a realisation that 11 years ago when GCB Limited was incorporated this was the right direction to take at that time. As time moved on there is a need to realign the structure of the Board by becoming a Foundation and the experiences of other Board's who have moved in this direction has influenced the drive for change. There are many advantages for the current organisation to be positioned as a Foundation, particularly with engagement with a wider diverse set of organisations, whilst retaining the important element of operations in the area of recreational cricket.

The current Board has instigated a process to move the organisation toward Foundation status, which includes the recruitment of 6 new Non-Executive Directors to augment our existing board members.

Part of the business of the AGM will be to formally appoint and welcome the new directors to the board as the future direction of the organisation is shaped.

Of equal significance is that three of our current directors have decided to relinquish their roles on the Board and need to be replaced. All three have given highly valued commitment and service to the Board particularly in the role of chair over the past years. The Board is deeply indebted to Peter Jubb, Trevor Crouch and Kevin Langley for their service and wish them well.

On a personal note, I never envisaged that this time in March 2021 I would be submitting a report as the Acting Chair of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board, but circumstances created this situation.

It has been an interesting ten months as I have adapted to the role, I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to all those people who have supported me in the role as I gained increased awareness of the dynamics of the GCB, ECB and other key relationships. This was much appreciated.

I have had the privilege of being involved in the early movement to a Foundation and the Nominations Committee for the appointment of new Non-Executive Directors; it is clear there are positive and vibrant times ahead for the Gloucestershire Cricket Board/Foundation.

The new additions will build on the solid base gained over the years, augment the retained member's on the board and push forward together with enthusiasm, experience and expertise in many areas of the Board's responsibilities.

I wish to state in an open and transparent manner that I am prepared to support the Foundation in whatever is required either in transition or beyond, in order that the needs of the Foundation and delivery of The Gloucestershire strategy for recreational cricket 2020-2024 are achieved.

In the meantime it is my wish that our stakeholder community in Gloucestershire cricket and beyond this boundary, and their significant others, remain safe and well.

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

Wow, what can be said about the season 2020? It was certainly interesting, challenging and yet strangely rather rewarding and certainly like no other year that the cricketing network across Gloucestershire has ever had to experience before, and I hope never will again.

We had to get ready for a season, put a season on hold, realign absolutely everything and then attempt to bring recreational cricket back in a very short timeframe but in a way that would excite and rekindle the love for our great game. We had new words integral to our game – Bubbles, Sanitisation Breaks, new normal etc. – and new rules to adhere by...but we did and we should all be very proud of what we achieved. You hear people use the phrase " a game of two halves", well this was certainly a season of two halves!

I look back at the start of the year and fondly remember a slightly Covid impacted February tour to India. We were able to safely take both boys and girls U18 squads for a cricketing trip that will be forever remembered. Whilst Covid was very much around the UK at this time, never could we see what was just around the corner and I must hugely thank Dipan and his team from Lions Sports Travel for their excellent support of our touring party.

As always the boys and girls did us proud and I truly hope that several of these two squads will go on to greater things and emulate cricketers that have travelled with the GCB before, before turning professional – Drissell, T. Price, O. Price, Goodman, Gibson and Wraith.

It was an absolute team effort to get through what challenges were put in front of us; and by team, I not only mean the remunerated staff of the GCB but more importantly the whole of the Gloucestershire cricketing family. To build on what our Chairman has already mentioned, the collaboration between County Boards (Wiltshire, Somerset and Gloucestershire) and Leagues (WELP, GCCL, B&D, Wiltshire and Somerset County Leagues) ensured that the offer when cricket could return in July, was well thought through, as extensive as possible and provided with everyone's safety in mind.

All of this though would not have been required if it hadn't have been for the incredible leadership of the ECB. Their positive relationship with Government was like no other sports and as a consequence they were able to show that cricket could be played in a way that would satisfy those in the most important of positions in the land and gain exemptions for our sport. The leadership from the ECB throughout the year was superb and we all owe a lot to them for what could be done in 2020.

To my staff I thank you all hugely. It has been a roller coaster to say the least and whilst some staff have worked throughout, the majority of our 'delivery' department have had to deal with full furlough or flexi furlough. Staff have worked from home whilst attempting to home school in an ever changing environment and yet throughout all of this, everyone has stayed committed to our overall cause.

We saw All Stars programmes run in smaller group sizes; we saw a condensed, yet incredibly busy County Age Group season; we saw the vast majority of cricket clubs and their teams play competitive or friendly cricket throughout the permitted season and we saw 'workforce' courses delivered in periods of time that would allow. All in all, a significant amount of 'cricket' actually took place.

Some thought Covid would have an extremely negative impact on the immediate health of our sport, both from a financial and a players perspective, but I am happy to report that the absolute opposite could well be more true. Members of the GCB worked tirelessly to support clubs to direct them to funding opportunities to cover outgoing costs and loss of revenue. This direct support has enabled over £1.1 million to come in to Gloucestershire Cricket Clubs to help and support them through the times when doors were closed and yet bills had to be paid.

But what for 2021, what lies ahead and what will our season look like due to the ongoing challenges? All I can say now is that the ECB are again working brilliantly with Government to get the show back on the road as soon as is safely possible. At this time of writing (05/03) and having been part of many national conversations, I can inform you with confidence that cricket will return this summer, we will have a full season and most, if not all of our normal opportunities to play or engage in the game, will be available to us. We will of course have to manage cricket in a different way due to the ongoing challenges but we have done it before and we will do it again.

Two final thank yous; firstly to the outgoing and current Directors of the GCB. It has been a frustrating and challenging year in part as we have had some major hurdles to overcome but I thank you all for your direction and support. As volunteer Directors you have all had to endure a great deal and have given your time to Gloucestershire Cricket incredibly, far more than could ever have been expected. What is coming with the birth of the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation, the delivery of the Inspiring Gloucestershire Strategy, and for this to be done with an exciting new team of Directors, certainly energises me and I am very much looking forward to what we succeed in during 2021 to 2024.

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 a more normal 2021 season and I wish everyone involved the most enjoyable of years.

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

The review of any set of accounts with a financial year ending in 2020 is to review something that is outside anything any of us have seen before. The effect of the pandemic on cricket caused the shutdown of the recreational game from the beginning of March 2020. Consequentially The Board was unable to carry out much of the planned summer programme. The Cricket Board used the government's furlough arrangements to retain a highly motivated team. Any comparison of income and expenditure against a prior non pandemic year has little value. The accounts show a surplus for the year of £104506 on turnover down 20% on 2019. The surplus has been generated by two factors, the use of the furlough scheme where the Board received £66453 in grants up until

the end of September 2020 and is currently still benefiting from furlough arrangements. The second factor was the E C B maintained the core funding at 100% following a short period when it looked possible that this would be reduced. E C B was able to organise a test summer which maintained certain income streams and it agreed to use reserves to maintain core funding for the Boards. Due to a reduction in activity staff recruitment was put on hold.

The Cricket Board reviews its Reserves policy annually but this year in addition to the normal format to cover a winding up, an additional reserve to cover the potential loss of E C B core funding has been provided this results in a reserve requirement of £277386 the actual Balance Sheet Reserves are £300063 (see note in the Directors Report in the accounts).

The accounts for the current financial year ended September 2021 will also be affected by the pandemic, but the Board's reserves are in a healthy position, and the Board is in a strong position to recommence work in the educational sector and assist the recreational game and engage with the public in reinvigorating cricket in the county when given the go ahead. I am sure all the staff are looking forward to a return to a form of normality.

The Chairman 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 Cricketers (reports available prior to the meeting via the website)

4. Rule changes

The Board will be looking to become the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation during 2021. We are in the early stages but the aspiration is to move towards becoming a charity from the 1 October 2021. This will have no detrimental impact on recreational cricket and we will be supporting the game in the same way as before. Becoming a charity will support our community aspirations.

5. Elections

5.1 Chairman – Phil Carter proposed that Andy Shield should be appointed Chairman of the Board.

5.2 **Non-Executive Directors** – Both Trevor Crouch and Peter Jubb have expressed a wish to stand down and Kevin Langley stood down earlier this year. After a robust selection process, 6 new NEDs were asked to join the Board – Sybil Ruscoe, Justin Hopwood, Razi Ahmed, Nigel Hill, Andy Parsons and Mark Lambert. Thanks to Steve Peyman (Operations Director at Chance to Shine) and Kate Aldridge (Strategy and Insights Manager at the ECB) for their help with the process.

Peter Boorman, Sybil Ruscoe, Justin Hopwood, Razi Ahmed, Nigel Hill, Andy Parsons and Mark Lambert were all elected unanimously.

6. Presentations

Both Trevor and Peter who served as Chairman and directors of the Board were presented with framed Jack Russell prints which featured personalised messages from the former Gloucestershire and England wicketkeeper, as was Tom Boore, who recently stood down as the GCB's Welfare Officer after 17 years in post and 53 years' service to grass roots cricket in the county.

7. AOB

Steve thanked all club volunteers for all the work they do for their clubs. The ECB is giving more money to the Boards and expects them to be more accountable which means that this puts more pressure onto club volunteers who have to use the different platforms so the ECB can collate information easily.

The question "when will we hear when the Return to Cricket grant application form will be available? The GCB will be receiving training in April with the scheme going live on the 6 May. If clubs meet the criteria and are successful they could receive up to £10,000. The GCB hope to have a pot of around £160K to distribute.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.02pm with the Chairman wishing everyone all the best for the season ahead.