

Taplow Cricket Club

Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2021

Minutes

Present:

S. Abbas, Y. Ahmed, E. Atkins, D. Barton, S. Barton, A. Bond, A. Butt, R. Butt, S. Christy, G. Court, R. Court, B. Daghish, G. Daghish, S. Daghish, Haseeb Haider, G. Lightfoot, W. Malik, W. Midlane, G. Mills, I. Pulsford, P. Rao, A. Somerville, D. Wigmore.

Apologies for absence:

J. Abbas, Sanjoy Bassi, Sandeep Bassi, J. Bristow, J. Elder, L. Fisher, D. Goodrham, S. Goodrham, Hasan Haider, G. Herbert, A. Hill, J. Hill, C. Kellett, M. Knight, N. Malik, A. Mills, K. Paskins, V. Patel, E. Pettman, D. Price, F. Qureshi, A. Raja, Z. Tughral.

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. Whilst it is not one full year since the last AGM, we have had a full season of cricket, and tonight's meeting brings us back to the "normal" date for our Annual General Meeting.

Minutes of last AGM held online on 26 January 2021: Minutes read and accepted.

Proposed: B. Daghish, Seconded: G. Lightfoot.

Matters arising: At the last AGM, Andy Mills was awarded Honorary Life Membership. The club had made a plaque showing Andy's playing career but it has not been possible to present this to Andy during the summer. We will find a suitable occasion to do this.

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman began by reporting the sad passing of Neil Garner, a previous Treasurer of the club, who was also involved with Swans Football Club.

We started the 2021 season with Covid restrictions in place. As the season progressed there were several changes and we needed to adapt to these changing regulations, particularly in indoor areas such as the bar and changing rooms. The Chairman thanked everyone for their understanding and support as we moved through these changes and succeeded in completing a full season of cricket activities without interruption.

With regard to teas, these were not a requirement on Saturdays for Thames Valley League games, but on Sundays we were keen to get back to the full cricket "experience" as soon as this was allowed. We did this by serving teas outside. This worked well and was appreciated by visiting teams and home players.

The Chairman thanked the captains and their vice captains for representing the club with honour and dignity in victory and defeat, and the umpires who always officiated with honesty and integrity and ensured that the spirit of the game was upheld. Also to Barney Stay, our groundsman, who produced better wickets than the previous season and produced a practice wicket on the square as requested by the players.

The Chairman invited Drew Somerville, Chairman of Cricket, to talk more about the playing season.

Chairman of cricket:

Drew said that this had been the club's fourth season in the Thames Valley League and we had perhaps found it a little harder than in previous seasons, with the first team finishing in eighth place and the second team in ninth place in their respective divisions. We await confirmation of which division our teams will be playing in next season, which we expect the league to confirm in January.

Fifty players had represented the club on Saturdays which was a strong player base but also indicative that availability had been a challenge. Two colts players had made their league debuts – Charlie Badman and George Price.

The club were fortunate in having four qualified umpires among the membership. Three of those ensured that Taplow provided an umpire for every league game this summer, except one.

Drew thanked Simon Christy for organising the list of Sunday fixtures and Ben Daghish for captaining the Sunday team and keeping alive the spirit of Sunday cricket.

The club had made the ground available for a Berks & Bucks over 70s match versus Worcestershire.

Drew handed back to Andy.

Chairman's Report (continued):

The Chairman commented on how important finances, and in particular income, was to running the cricket club and thanked Treasurer Gillian Daghish who was able to secure a number of grants that have been vital in keeping the club running.

The club needs this money to survive but also to improve the conditions for our members. The players will have noticed that we have invested in a new outfield mower and we can announce that a new pitch roller is on order and we plan to purchase new wicket covers for the new season. Through a grant, we also repaired the leaking veranda roof and an umpires' room was created by Geoff Court by converting a "junk cupboard" into a changing room. This was a Thames Valley League requirement following their last inspection of the club.

Grants cannot be relied upon and are not enough to keep the club going and moving forward, so it is important for members to ensure that subscriptions and match fees are paid on time. Also for any ideas for events we could hold, or sponsors that might be willing to support the club. Thanks to those who were able to get some sponsorship monies for the club.

Colts Chairman's Report:

Unfortunately, Duncan was unable to attend as he is away. He sent his report to the Secretary, who read it to the meeting.

We entered two colts' teams in the Berkshire League at Under 9s and Under 13s. Results were mixed but feedback was that all enjoyed their cricket. We also saw a large influx of Under 9 players and we need to take steps to develop our colts' section. As well as providing

players for our senior teams, the Friday evenings contribute to the financial well-being of the club.

It was pleasing to see Charlie Badman, Ethan Duckworth, George Price and James Weston-Kaye as regular members of the Sunday side and also support the Saturday Second XI as and when required. All have represented Taplow from Under 9s.

For next season we will allocate our colts into the relevant age categories in preparation for League registration in January. This may result in two to three colts in the Berkshire and/or Buckinghamshire leagues. Additionally, we need to find and assign Team Managers as some parents who currently perform this role are not in a position to continue next season.

Another key priority is coaching. Rob Court and Ed Atkins have performed a sterling job this year. However, given the large number of Under 9s we need to plan how we can better support them. One option is to bring in external coaching resources and this is currently under assessment. Our decision is dependent on retaining our existing coaches, commitment from existing colts to re-join the club next year and anticipating how many new colts might join us in 2022.

Treasurer's Report:

The Profit and Loss account was shown.

The financial year to 31 August 2021 had been a most unusual year. During last winter the club was closed from October to March with no social events and no income.

Grants: the club has been fortunate to receive grants that have replaced lost income and enable us to move ahead. Grants were Covid grants from the government, an ECB Return to Cricket grant and a grant from Heart of Bucks that enabled us to replace our failing veranda roof.

Subscriptions and match fees: With support from the captains, along with Greg Lightfoot and Drew Somerville, we have ensured that subscriptions and match fees were paid in a timely manner.

Barbeque and bar takings returned to 2019 levels this summer and we had a number of hirings. I would like to thank Sue Barton for again organising the 100 Club which continues to bring in welcome funds.

We have had some significant expenditure.

Equipment: We have invested in new grounds equipment, including a new square mower and replaced the aging John Deere outfield mower with a new Baroness machine. Keeping the equipment in good working order is another significant cost. We have plans to replace the old roller and covers for the new season.

Maintenance: Geoff Court has spent much time creating the Umpires' Room, new shed door and security for equipment and numerous maintenance jobs around the club.

Trees: We had some expense for tree work to cut back trees in the copse overhanging the footpath and neighbouring properties, with further work for trees overhanging the road to come next month.

Running a cricket club is expensive and we rely on fundraising, donations, sponsorship, bar takings and hirings to keep us afloat. We have benefited this year from significant grants but these will not be available next year and we need to look at other opportunities.

Thanks to Geoff Herbert who acted as our independent examiner of the accounts.

Election of Committee

There were no new nominations for the Committee. The motion for the Committee be re-elected en-bloc. Proposed: W. Midlane, Seconded: I. Pulsford.

Election of Captains and Vice-Captains

Votes were required for First Team Captain and Vice-Captain, and Second Team Captain, where two valid nominations had been made for each position.

The Secretary had received a number of proxy votes in advance from members unable to attend the meeting, as allowed by club Regulations.

A vote by show of hands was taken at the meeting. These were added to the proxy votes.

First team captain:

Candidate	Votes at meeting	Proxy votes	Total
Rob Court	8	18	26
Yasir Ahmed	7	3	10

Rob Court was elected first team captain for 2022.

First team vice-captain:

Candidate	Votes at meeting	Proxy votes	Total
Haseeb Haider	7	4	11
Ben Daghish	7	15	22

Ben Daghish was elected first team vice-captain for 2022.

Second team captain:

Candidate	Votes at meeting	Proxy votes	Total
Ed Atkins	6	13	19
Rizwan Khalil	7	3	10

Ed Atkins was elected second team captain for 2022.

There was one valid nomination for each of the other captain and vice-captain positions.

Second team vice-captain: Ed Pettman

Sunday team captain: Amar Dade

Sunday team vice-captain: Dale Barton

Appointment of independent examiner to audit accounts

Proposed that Geoff Herbert be appointed as independent examiner. Proposed: W. Midlane
Seconded: G. Lightfoot

Any Other Business

None.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

Minutes prepared by:
Stephen DGLISH
19 October 2021