

# Wanstead & Snaresbrook Cricket Club (incorporating Snaresbrook Football Club)

*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held virtually on Zoom on Friday  
12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 @ 8:00pm.*



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KEATONS**

**Apologies:** Hamza Shoaib, Ramon Chesney, Millicent Brown, Keith Lloyd, Robert Wallis, David Richards, Joan Worf, Gary Sheen, Arman Bashir, Rupert Verdi, Elsie Roe, Mike Freeman, Mike Mead.

The meeting was chaired by the club Chairman, Martin Pluck, who introduced the meeting. This included reading the notice of the meeting, confirming the full agenda and reminding attendees of the club's volunteering programme, stressing how important this was to the ongoing success and smooth running of the club.

The Chair expressed condolences on behalf of the club to any members who had lost relatives or friends as a result of the Covid pandemic.

The turnout for the meeting had been excellent with more than 50 club members joining Wanstead's first virtual AGM.

## **1.0 Adoption of the Committee Report for 2020**

The focus this year had been on responding to the numerous challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic and associated lockdowns, whilst ensuring the club continued to operate successfully during such an unprecedented period for the country. That we were in a stronger position than anyone expected was testimony to the underlying strength of the club and community spirit that prevailed throughout. The club would like to thank all members for their continued engagement and active involvement during these difficult times. The Committee were extremely grateful to Lynn Rising and her team for their outstanding efforts in keeping the club safe during the summer, to Mark Bentley for helping to manage the club's finances so effectively and to our major sponsor, Keatons, for their continued and very generous support.

**The Committee Report was approved** – *proposed by S. Phillips and seconded by J. Pluck.*

## **2.0 Adoption of the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

At one stage it looked as though the club would not be able to play any cricket at all in 2020 and our ability to complete successfully a cut-down fixture list during the second half of the season had been a real bonus. We had benefited from sizeable Government Coronavirus Business Grants from Redbridge as well as from the ECB and the Jack Petchey Foundation. These had enabled the club to generate an unexpected surplus, meaning that it could continue to operate despite the severe restrictions in place in the short term, including being totally shut down over the winter. The stronger than

expected financial position had also ensured that we would be able to continue investing in our facilities to secure the long-term future of the club.

**The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts was approved** – *proposed by J. Pluck and seconded by A. Akram.*

### 3.0 Club Constitution Amendments

These comprised minor wording changes to clauses 7 and 9 of the Club Constitution.

**The revised Club Constitution Amendments were approved** – *proposed by and seconded by A. Lord.*

### 4.0 Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Management Committee

#### Vice-Presidents

Following their outstanding service to the club, 3 new vice-presidents were proposed:

- **Stuart Phillips**, who had been heavily involved in numerous junior cricket roles over many years. He had done excellent job Head of Junior Cricket for 5 years.
- **Nalliah Rathakrishnan**, who had worked as Junior Fixture Secretary for several years and had then been club Treasurer for 4 years. Although he had stepped down from this role in early 2020, Nalliah continued to provide invaluable assistance to the current Treasurer and the Chairman throughout 2020 and into 2021.
- **Nigel Baldwin** for his continued hard work and outstanding overall contribution to the club.

The Officers and Management Committee members would be as follows:

<b>President</b>	John Gray
<b>Club Management Committee</b>	
1. Honorary Club Secretary	Nigel Hutchings
2. Honorary Club Treasurer	Mark Bentley
3. Cricket Secretary	Martin Pluck
4. Bar Sub-Committee Chairman	Simon Andrews
5. Social Sub-Committee Chairman	Scott Emmons
6. Club Captain	Arfan Akram
7. Other representatives of the members	Matloob Piracha Joe Ellis-Grewal

The Chairman would be elected at the next Management Committee meeting.

The Safeguarding Officer, Trevor Hebden, and Len Enoch would both be co-opted onto the Management Committee.

**The election of the Officers, Vice-Presidents and Management Committee was approved** – *proposed by J. Mudhoo and seconded by C. Hurd.*

## 5.0 Subscriptions

It was recommended that the club should maintain subscriptions at the same level as in 2020.

**The recommendation for 2021 annual subscription was approved**– *proposed by T. Hebden and seconded by J. Pluck.*

## 6.0 Match Fees

It was recommended that the 2021 season match fees for both adult and junior members should remain the same as in the previous 3 years.

**The recommendation for 2021 match fees was approved** – *proposed by J. Ellis-Grewal and seconded by L. Enoch.*

*The meeting was formally closed by the Chair.*

## 7.0 Club updates

The following updates followed the main AGM:

### **Project Heron – Mark Bentley**

Launched in 2019, this was a comprehensive multiyear/multiphase programme of fundraising to re-develop club infrastructure to elite standard. In the region of £120k had been raised in two years via grant funding, donations and various social events (ball, raffle, cake sales, race nights). The first phase, the Overton Drive nets, cost £80,000 and had been completed on schedule for the start of the 2020 season. Stage 2, the refurbishment of the bar and lounge area at Overton Drive, was nearing completion and would be ready for the start of the 2021 season. The cost for this was £42,000. During phase 3 we were looking to carry out further refurbishment work on the Overton Drive clubhouse. The estimated cost for this was £150,000. Although we had submitted a planning application to Redbridge, it was expected to be some time yet before we would be in a position to start work on this due to the amount of fund raising that would be necessary. This was an ambitious initiative, the success of which would depend on our being able to raise sufficient money both through grants and various fundraising initiatives.

We had achieved a lot in just 2 years but were not finished yet. The Committee thanked everyone at the club for their continued support of, and contribution to, this exciting programme.

### **Bar Refurbishment – Scott Emmons**

The key aims of this were to increase the range and quality of products available to members and guests whilst at the same time creating a space that would encourage greater use of the facilities at Overton Drive. The enforced closure of the clubhouse over the winter had provided an ideal opportunity to carry out an extensive refurbishment of the bar and lounge area. Scott shared a series of before and after pictures that showed the extent and nature of the changes and the progress that had been made to date. Work would be completed in time for the bar to reopen on 12<sup>th</sup> April in line with the easing of Covid restrictions.

The Committee thanked Lynn Rising, Scott Emmons and Joe Ellis-Grewal for all the hard work they had done to ensure the success of this initiative.

### **Overton Drive Nets – Mark Bentley**

The nets opened in May 2020 with usage managed in line with the prevailing ECB guidelines. These changed several times during the season and the club was able to react promptly to ensure any new directives were strictly adhered to. By the end of the season over 1,500 supervised net sessions had been booked.

The same booking arrangement would be in place for the 2021 season. Each session would last 45 minutes with 15-minute gaps between sessions. Booking would be done a week in advance with a maximum of 2 sessions being allowed in any one week. The online booking system Skedda had been set up for this. The plan was to open the nets on 29<sup>th</sup> of March, in time for the Easter holidays. Squad training would start the week being 5<sup>th</sup> April and substantial slots would be used for this.

### **Upcoming cricket season (juniors) – Jon Gritten and Pauline Osborn.**

Jon, the new Head of Junior Cricket, confirmed that junior registration was already progressing well with 170 existing club members having already re-registered. Registration would be open for new members from the 13<sup>th</sup> of March. The primary aim for junior cricket in 2021 was to facilitate high levels of participation by playing plenty of friendly matches. Junior cricket was very important to the club with 75% of players in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI team that won the Premier League last season coming through the junior section.

Pauline, the Head of Women's and Girls' Cricket, had helped set up the girls' and women's section in 2002. Older girls would train with the women on Thursday evenings and the younger ones on Friday evenings. Girls would play against other girls' team, against boys and in mixed teams. A key aim here was to attract more girls and women to the club.

Jon reminded everyone of the Members' and Family Charter which was to:

- respect each other
- encourage fair play and recognise good performance
- encourage children to support their manager/coach

The Slate application was being introduced this season to facilitate the payment of match fees. It would make life easier for managers and players/parents and was covid secure. Slate was available online or as a downloadable phone app. It would be used by juniors and adults.

### **Upcoming cricket season (adults) – Joe Ellis-Grewal.**

Joe, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain, provided the following timeline for the 2021 adult season:

<b>Now</b>	membership renewal open
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	nets open compliant with ECB guidance
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Wednesday night adult training starts
<b>17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	first adult men's match (1st XI friendly)
<b>24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	first round of Essex League Cup
<b>8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	adult men's leagues start
<b>9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	women's league starts

The following adult captains had been appointed

<b>1<sup>st</sup> XI</b>	Joe Ellis-Grewal
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> XI</b>	Jay Williams
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> XI</b>	Nofal Raja
<b>4<sup>th</sup> XI</b>	Alan Lord
<b>5<sup>th</sup> XI</b>	Sam McGrath
<b>6<sup>th</sup> XI</b>	Ash Patel
<b>Women's XI</b>	Saba Nasim

Joe's "One Club, One Dream" ethos highlighted the importance of the following:

- attending training regularly
- players think about what they can do for the club rather than what the club can do for them
- providing help and support to captains and managers
- ensuring transparency regarding performance and selection

*The meeting finished with the Chairman reiterating his thanks to all members for what they had done for the club and the community that they serve over the past 12 months.*