

Wanstead & Snarebrook Cricket Club (incorporating Snarebrook Football Club)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 27th February 2009 @ 8:00pm.

Apologies: Mike Mead

1.0 Introduction

The President introduced the meeting, including reading the notice of the meeting.

2.0 Adoption of the Committee Report

John Gray confirmed that he was standing down as Chairman of the Management Committee and that Martin Pluck would take over this role. John Gray was happy to carry on as President in the event of his being re-elected. Martin Pluck thanked John for all his hard work as the Management Committee Chairman and for his outstanding service to the club over many years.

The 2008 season had been a very successful one for the club. The 1st XI had won the Shepherd Neame Premier League losing only one match following an unbeaten run of 25 games. The 4th XI achieved promotion for the third year in succession – they would be in the Shepherd Neame 3rd XI Division 1 in the coming season. The 5th XI had an outstanding season, winning their division comfortably and would play the in the Shepherd Neame 4th XI Division 2 in the 2009 season. The Ladies finished fourth in their League, a very creditable performance considering the availability challenges they had in the early part of the season. The Junior Section also had a very successful season with both the Under 13s and Under 15s reaching the regional finals of their respective national competitions.

The club were very appreciative of the efforts of Nigel Baldwin and his father in ensuring both Overton Drive and Nutter Lane grounds were maintained to a high standard throughout the season. Lyn Rising, John Rising and Simon Andrews were also thanked for all their hard work behind the bar and in sustaining the high number of social functions at the club throughout the winter months.

The Football Section had experienced difficulties with the playing conditions at Nutter Lane during the winter due to the adverse weather. An U10 girls' team had now been established and this initiative was very well supported.

The Committee Report was approved – proposed by Trevor Hebden and seconded by John Pluck.

2.0 Adoption of the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 30th September 2008

Finance has again been very difficult and the accounts showed a loss of £10,000 for the financial year. This was the third year in succession that the club had lost money and there was a pressing need to make a profit in 2009. A Special Management Committee had taken place on 9th December 2008 to discuss this issue and identify

ways of addressing the problem. As a result of the meeting several initiatives had already been followed up on, including:

- Successful renegotiation of bar prices with our supplier
- Successful renegotiation of the contract with the groundsman (Jordan's) to obtain more competitive rates
- Careful monitoring of utility costs to achieve cost savings
- Submission of further grant applications, including the reinstated Sportsmatch grant
- The formation of a special Fund Raising Committee (to be chaired by Martin Pluck.) The initial meeting of club members willing to participate in this was scheduled for 12th March.

The key message was that the club could not spend money it did not have. As a result, it would be necessary to realise cost savings where appropriate and ways of raising extra money would need to be found. Every attempt would be made to ensure facilities available to club members were not reduced.

Henry Chambers asked whether the renegotiation of the contract for maintenance of the Overton Drive and Nutter Lane grounds would result in any reduction in quality. Martin Pluck affirmed that this would not be the case and explained the terms of the new contract and the fact that the reduction in equipment hire was responsible for a large part of the cost savings. Careful monitoring of work on a regular basis would ensure that high standards were maintained. Concerns were also voiced over the viability of Jordan's in the current economic climate. Martin Pluck confirmed that, as far as the club was aware, Jordan's was financially secure.

Tony Burgess noted that there was a 40% increase in the cost of ground maintenance during 2008. It was explained that this was primarily the result of the need to purchase a new roller.

Regarding grants and subsidies, Len Enoch observed that in the past not all of the monies promised to the club were forthcoming. This was particularly true of coaching courses and as a result the club could not afford to subsidise attendance on these in future as external funding could not be guaranteed.

One proposal from the floor was that we advertise the availability of the hall to host social events so that we could increase revenue coming into the club. It was confirmed that the club constitution did not allow this and that the hall could only be used by members.

The Treasurer's Statement of Accounts was approved – proposed by Ron Worf and seconded by Keith Wilson.

3.0 Election of Officers, Vice Presidents and Management Committee

John Gray announced that Tony Pluck had formally relinquished his role as Club Secretary, a position he had held since 1962. On behalf of all club members John Gray expressed his thanks and appreciation for Tony's unstinting efforts over the past 47 years. His work and commitment had been largely responsible for the growth and success of the club resulting in Wanstead being considered as one of the leading recreational cricket clubs in the country. Tony Pluck confirmed that, even though he

was standing down he would continue to be available to provide advice and assistance whenever required.

In recognition of his service to the club, Trevor Hebden proposed that Tony Pluck should be awarded the title of Emeritus Secretary.

The President, Vice Presidents and Management Committee were re-elected the following exceptions:

- John Gray would be replaced as Management Committee Chairman by Martin Pluck
- Nigel Hutchings would take over as Club Secretary
- Helena Mills, the Welfare Officer, had requested to stand down. She would continue in the role until a replacement had been found

The following Officers and Management Committee members were elected:

President: John Gray

Club Management Committee

Honorary Club Secretary:	Nigel Hutchings
Emeritus Secretary:	Tony Pluck
Honorary Club Treasurer	Chris Hurd
Cricket Secretary/Chairman:	Martin Pluck
Ground Chairman:	Nigel Baldwin
Bar Chairman:	Simon Andrews
Social Sub-Committee Chairman:	Joe Palmer Snr
Welfare Officer:	Helena Mills (awaiting replacement)
First Team Captain (Saturday & Sunday):	Arfan Akram
Head of Junior Cricket:	Trevor Hebden
Football Section Manager:	Paul Staniford
Football Section Secretary:	Keith Lloyd
Other Members:	Len Enoch Sanjay Batra

Honorary Auditor: Alun Evans

The election of Officers, Vice Presidents and Management Committee was approved – proposed by John Pluck and seconded by Ron Worf.

4.0 Adoption of New Annual Subscription Rates

Chris Hurd explained the rationale behind the rates and structure of the annual subscription. The key features were:

- An increase across the board of between 3½%-4%
- Rationalisation of subscription bands where possible
- Enabling members to spread payments. The overall rate would be higher but members would be able pay in four equal instalments.

The new annual subscription rate recommendation was approved – proposed by Martin Pluck and seconded by Sanjay Batra.

5.0 Adoption of New Match Fee Rates

The adult match fees were to be set at £8.00 across the board. This would apply to both home and away games and would cover the cost of teas. Junior members playing in adult cricket would also be asked to pay this rate. Fees for junior members playing in junior games would remain the same as last year – £2.00.

The most contentious issue was the cost for juniors playing in adult matches. This generated a lively discussion with Tony Burgess declaring that he considered £8.00 as being too much for juniors to pay because of their lack of earning power. Pauline Osborne felt strongly that juniors should pay the same as adults and that overall our fees were competitive when compared to other clubs. Chris Hurd explained that the overheads of running 5th and 6th XIs were high when the costs of hiring pitches (around £115) and paying for teas (around £40) were taken into consideration. It was largely junior members playing in these teams and if the rates were not increased affording to run these two sides would become ever more difficult. Nigel Baldwin stressed the importance of making juniors aware of this rate in advance when they were selected to play for adult teams. Trevor Hebden pointed out that there was a club fund available to help juniors who were in financial difficulty.

The new match fee rates were approved – proposed by Martin Pluck and seconded by Sanjay Batra.

6.0 Any Other Business

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting was closed by the President.