

WANSTEAD & SNARES BROOK CRICKET CLUB

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday 22nd June 2017 @ 8:00pm

Present: N. Hutchings, T. Hebden, L. Enoch, M. Piracha, S. Andrews, S. Emmons,
N. Rathakrishnan, M. Pluck, P. Staniford.

1.0 Apologies for absence

S. Phillips, P. Osborn, J. Ellis-Grewal, Arfan Akram, J. Palmer.

2.0 Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the previous Management Committee meeting on Tuesday 24th January 2017 and the AGM on Friday 3rd March 2017 were both agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Action Nigel Hutchings to arrange for a copy of the minutes of the previous Management Committee meeting and the AGM to be published on the club website.

3.0 Actions from the previous meeting

3.1 *Work with Scott Emmons to publish a Summer Events calendar – see under Social section*

3.2 *Before they are put up, co-ordinate an overall review of the nets, including how they should be secured – as agreed with Saba Nasim, the Jack Petchey grant had been used to help pay for the refurbishments, including the securing of the netting, which was nearing completion. The net surfaces themselves were still not being maintained in the way they should and needed to be rolled at least once a month. The portable net now had a lot of holes in it and would need replacing or refurbishing next year. One of the wheels is also bent, making it difficult to manoeuvre.*

The club would like to thank the Jack Petchey Foundation for their generous grant to the club as a result of Saba's Leader Award.

Action Trevor Hebden to speak to Fayyaz to see if he can repair the wheel on the portable net or, if he is unable to do so, identify someone else who can.

Action Trevor Hebden to get hold of some cable ties for use in repairing both sets of nets.

Action Len Enoch to fully document/itemise what the Jack Petchey Leader Award grant had been used for.

3.3 *Speak to Saba Nasim regarding the possibility of using the Jack Petchey Leader Award grant to help refurbish the Overton Drive nets – completed (see 3.2 above.)*

- 3.4 *Liaise on arrangements for registration evenings, cricket week events and coaching sessions* – Len Enoch and Stuart Philips had done this.
- 3.5 *Book Fairlop pitches for the coming season* – Len Enoch had booked the pitches up until Saturday 2nd September. However, as the season started a week later this year he would need to book an additional pitch at Fairlop/Hainault Recreation Ground for the 9th September.

Action Len Enoch to book a pitch for 9th September at Fairlop/Hainault Recreation Ground.

- 3.6 *Email all club members asking for volunteers to help organise social/fund raising events* – covered off by the food questionnaire recently sent to all club members. This included a question asking whether respondents would be interested in volunteering or joining the Social Committee. 24% had said that they would.
- 3.7 *Speak to the 1st XI players prior to the start of next season to clarify the standards that are expected of them and ensure they are aware of the consequences of repeating the poor behaviour shown during the 2016 season* – completed. Overall behaviour had been far better this season.
- 3.8 *Research the possibility of obtaining a grant to contribute to towards the cost of a new sightscreen at Nutter Lane* – in 2016 we had received a grant from the Essex Cricket Foundation to help towards the cost of the new covers at Overton Drive and more recently the club had been successful in their application for an England & Wales Cricket Trust (EWCT) Small Grant Scheme grant, which as used for the range in the new kitchen. Neither of these avenues would be open to us for a grant until 2019 at the earliest. New meshes for the 2 Nutter Lane site screens had been purchased at the cost of £150 each.
- 3.9 *Confirm the date of this year's cricket week* – this would take place during the week beginning 7th August. Once again, the junior and adult cricket weeks would run concurrently.
- 3.10 *Arrange for a copy of the minutes of the previous Management Committee meeting to be published on the club website* – completed.
- 3.11 *Request Keatons logo artwork from Martin Pluck* – completed.
- 3.12 *Arrange Sunday morning surgery to help club members complete their DBS forms* – all coaches had been chased on this and there were now just a couple of the adult team captains whose forms were outstanding. Len Enoch would get the remaining forms reviewed on Monday 26th June.
- 3.13 *Check if any First Aid and/or Child Protection courses are required for club members whose certification has expired or is due for imminent renewal* – a First Aid course had been arranged for Wednesday 28th June. This would accommodate 13 out of the 14 members who needed to attend. Trevor Hebden was working with Phil Knappett to organise a Child Protection course.

Action Trevor Hebden to arrange a Child Protection course for club members whose certification has expired or was due for imminent renewal

3.14 *Replace the bars on the old covers before the start of the season* – Trevor Hebden confirmed that one of the bars had actually snapped. He had arranged to repair this on 23rd June.

Action Trevor Hebden to repair the snapped bar on the old covers.

4.0 Development Report Progress

4.1 All of the key areas highlighted in the Club Development Report had been addressed.

4.2 There were still concerns regarding the declining levels of participation across recreational cricket at all levels. More than one of our high-profile adult games had been called off at the last minute this season and a greater number of Essex League games than in previous years had been cancelled this season. Wanstead was the only club to run 6 senior sides on a Saturday. Len Enoch and Trevor Hebden had been working with the Metropolitan Essex District Cricket Board to improve the organisation of junior fixtures with a view to increasing the number of games being played, thereby getting more players involved.

4.3 Work on the next Development Plan would start next year. Matloob Piracha would be organising a team to produce this – a formal appointment to co-ordinate this initiative was a ClubMark requirement.

5.0 Pavilion Refurbishment

5.1 Work was now almost complete and had come in at round £5,000 over the original budget. Outstanding items included setting up a trophy cabinet and dartboard. Repairs had been made to the gents' toilet but these still needed to be refurbished. The financial impact of this work would need to be evaluated and at the end of the season we would assess the costs of doing this along with an overhaul to the showers/changing rooms.

5.2 Our landlords, Wanstead Sports Grounds Limited had kindly agreed to cover the costs of clearing and replanting the grass area in front of the pavilion.

The Management Committee would like to thank Sam and Mani Velani for all the work they had done on the pavilion's hanging baskets.

6.0 Fund Raising

6.1 There had been several positive developments in this area, including the following:

- 11+ Teachers were sponsoring cricket balls for all girls' and ladies' matches
- Edwards Duthie have paid for an advertising board and website advert
- Mullaley would be sponsoring a new advertising board and website advert

- A further substantial contribution had been received from Walsh Construction to pay for a new advertising board

7.0 Treasurer's Report

7.1 Nothing to report.

Action Nalliah Rathakrishnan to produce a mid-year Statement of Accounts for review at the next Management Committee meeting.

8.0 Bars

8.1 Bar Chairman's report

The comparative bar takings for April to June were as follows:

	2016	2017	
April	£8,100	£4,100	(from 15th following refurbishment)
May	£12,935	£11,113	(one Friday evening lost due to weather)
June	£8,831	£7,800	(to date)
	£29,866	£23,013	

The 2017 figures compared favourably with 2016 when taking into consideration the fact that half of April was lost due to the clubhouse refurbishment and June was not a full month.

9.0 Grounds

The squares on both grounds were playing well, despite the lack of rain. The recent dry weather had reinforced the benefits of relaying the Overton Drive square in 2015 as without this work we would have really struggled to prepare decent pitches over the last month.

10.0 Social

10.1 Catering Committee

The food questionnaire had been sent to around 400 club members and 100 replies had been received. The following was a summary of these responses:

Are you happy with the current food arrangements?	No (78%)
Would you eat at the club if there were alternative food options?	Yes (94%)
If there were more extensive food options would you pay more?	Yes (90%)
Would you volunteer to help prepare the food?	No (86%)
Would you contribute to special 'Bring a Dish' events?	Yes (60%)
Would you eat at the club on Saturday evenings if food was provided?	Yes (55%)
Would information about joining the Social Committee be of interest?	Yes (24%)

Feedback had also been elicited on general activities and social events at the club. One of common themes in the comments received was that organised events lacked diversity and that they should be more multi-cultural. The hosting of a Bollywood evening was one of the suggested alternatives that was likely to appeal to a broader section of the club membership. In addition, some

of the parents of junior players intimated that they did not feel particularly welcome at events during Adult Cricket Week.

The questionnaire results highlighted the need to formalise the way the club's Social Committee was run and to extend the attendees so that the diverse nature of the club's membership was fully represented. As part of this we would also need to ensure that an up-to-date calendar of events was published so that club members could be made aware of upcoming club activities.

10.2 Friday evening food

After providing food for many years at the Friday evening coaching sessions, John Rising had decided it was time to step down from his catering responsibilities. Despite the relatively short notice, Tracey Burgess had kindly offered to take over. There were a wider range of food options now available, although the majority of the junior members still gravitated towards the 'traditional' Friday evening fare. Although chips and burgers continued to be the mainstay, chicken noodles and curry, as well as chicken nuggets, were proving to be very popular. It was noted that we should advertise the wider menu more extensively to ensure that club members were fully aware of the more varied options now available.

The Management Committee would like to thank John Rising for his sterling efforts on the catering front over many years. Several generations of junior members had fond memories of Friday evenings thanks to the food that John had provided, week in and week out, following the coaching sessions.

Action Martin Pluck to send an email to all club members informing them that, following the recent questionnaire, food arrangements for Friday evenings had now changed.

10.2 Other social

Arrangements for this year's Cricket Week were nearing finalisation. The junior and adult cricket weeks would be combined as they had been last year. Evening entertainment would include a range of events that would appeal to both junior and adult membership, including the traditional Animal Encounters and also Steve Brookstein on the evening of the Slow Coaches Festival.

A Bingo Night had been arranged for Saturday 8th July.

11.0 Safeguarding

11.1 Training courses

A First Aid course had been arranged and a Child Protection course would be organised in due course (see 3.13 above.)

11.2 Juniors in adult games

Three U12s had played for adult teams earlier in the season. Although there had been some confusion at Essex, the appropriate guidelines and procedures had been followed, including gaining written permission from the parents as well as notifying Essex.

11.3 Juniors player injury

A Wanstead U12 player broke a bone in his foot when playing for West Essex against Wanstead as part of an arrangement between the two clubs to enable West Essex to put out a full team for a friendly game. The injury was dealt with according to club safeguarding procedures.

11.4 Wicketkeeper safety

The recent hot spell reinforced the need for junior (U18) wicket keepers to wear helmets at all times. The club did not allow the wearing of light-weight face protectors, similar to those worn by baseball catchers.

12.0 Cricket

12.1 Adult Cricket

It had been a difficult start to the season in terms of player availability. Exam commitments and Ramadan had meant that the 5th and 6th XIs had struggled to put out competitive teams during late May and June.

Although the 1st XI had already lost two games they were currently in second place in the league. They were still in all four cup competitions, being due to play Waltham in the regional final of the Royal London National Club Championship and also with upcoming ¼ final games in the Essex T20 and Dukes League Cup. All these cup games were at home, which meant that ground availability was starting to become a challenge, especially if there were any problems with the weather. It might be necessary to play the T20 game on Friday 30th June or 7th July, which would obviously impact junior coaching.

As a result of this home fixture congestion, allied to the fact that the Ladies had 5 consecutive home league games over the next 5 Sundays, we did not currently have a home pitch for the Matchplay Shield game on the 25th June.

The Slow Coaches had entered a side in the Ilford Catholic CC T20 Invitation League. This was somewhat more competitive than they had expected, with some clubs playing 1st or 2nd XI players in these games.

12.2 Junior Section

Although yet to play a game in the main Matchplay competition, the Matchplay Shield, we had a good side this year and hoped to do well in the county's premier U16 tournament.

The U15 side had reached the Metropolitan Essex District Peters Cup final where, unfortunately, they lost to Woodford Wells.

The U12s and U13s were a strong age group this year. We had a good chance of going a long way in the Peter Coe Cup. This was the main U12 competition in Essex, the winners of which would qualify for next year's national stages of the NatWest U13 National Club Championship.

There was a lot of cricket, both friendly and competitive, being played across the various age groups although there were problems at the U15 level, where a lot of fixtures were being cancelled because of lack of player availability across all Essex clubs.

Two School Festival days has been arranged at Overton Drive – Tuesday 11th July (mixed) and Friday 14th July (girls). Both days would start at 12 o'clock.

12.3 Ladies Section

This was the club's first season in the Women's Cricket Southern League. At this stage of the season the main challenge was the availability of older girls, who were not playing at the moment due to exams. To date, the team had won one and lost one of their league fixtures.

In the U16 girls Matchplay, the team had won two games so far but had to concede the other fixture. This was due to a limited number of girls being available and the fact that a ladies league fixture was scheduled for the same day, meaning the girls players were needed to enable us to put out a full ladies side.

In a close game, the U15 girls lost to a strong Ealing side in the regional semi-final of the Ladies Taverners National T20 competition.

The U13 girls were playing with the U15s in the West Essex League.

The U11 girls were enjoying playing on Sunday mornings in an U9 boys competition (the Don Coates Cup) and were improving with each game.

13.0 Football

We continued to have similar problems to last season with regard to player availability. Two players had left the club and would need to be replaced. The team would be playing again this year in Senior Division One of the ProKit UK Essex Olympian Football League. The standard of football was high and we were likely to face another challenging season, as had been the case in 2016-17 when the team were 10th of 12. Although 3rd from bottom we were 3 points behind the team that finished 3rd in the division.

Paul Staniford had decided to stand down as team a manger. He would be replaced by one of our ex-players, who had to retire early from playing due to injury.

The overall standard in local football had greatly improved in recent years but, unfortunately, participation levels had gone down as far less people were now playing the sport.

Tony McGrath's Redbridge Reserves, a team mainly comprised of 18 year old players, would continue to play their home games at Nutter Lane this season.

Changing room and shower facilities at Nutter Lane would continue to come under the spotlight and we would need to review these in the near future.

14.0 Any Other Business

No AOB items were raised.

15.0 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would take place during the week beginning 25th September.