



**ROPLEY  
C.C.**



**Ropley Cricket Club AGM – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019**

**MINUTES AND ACTIONS**

**Present:** Dave Burgess (Chair), Jayne Forrest, Andy Erskine, Merv Durrant, Ian Goodwin, Wendy Morris, Ed White, Tom Stroud, Dave Forrest, Jayne Forrest, Alex Ehrmann, Frank Branagan, Tom McCartan, Jackie Harrison, Karen Bennett, John Sutton, Alex Minnett, Julie Minnett, Beth Cazalet

Ref	Minutes and Actions
1.	<b>Welcome:</b> Dave Burgess welcomed everyone to the meeting
2.	<b>Apologies:</b> Chris Graham, Giles Stogdon, Andrew Morris, Helen Smith, Donna Sebastian Todd, Fiona Gray, Sarah Adam
3.	<b>Minutes of last meeting</b> – unavailable at this time
4.	<p><b>Chairman’s report -</b></p> <p>This year has been a busy one for the Committee in ensuring that not only is the Club in a strong and healthy condition but that it remains in a credible position for the future.</p> <p>I must firstly thank everyone on behalf of the committee for your commitment and without you all contributing behind the scenes we could not and Ropley Cricket Club certainly would not function as it does.</p> <p>On a personal note, I’d like to extend my thanks to all those on our committee who have supported me, I’m indebted to our President who has with difficulty managed to keep me on the straight and narrow. I have been very fortunate to have received his support, guidance and a few glasses of red wine! I would therefore like to thank Chris on behalf of the club for his dedication, commitment and for what he has achieved for Ropley Cricket Club.</p> <p>Our cricket achievements on the field this year has been generally very good with some outstanding team performances. As the Captain’s or their representatives team reports will show. Teams do not just happen and without the hard work of all our cricket captains, managers and volunteers, we would not be playing cricket so on behalf of the club, I would extend our thanks and appreciation.</p>

In typical Ropley Cricket Club fashion though, the men's teams have experienced many ups and downs this year, albeit frustrating at times. It was notable that whatever they have had to overcome, they have done so together. I would therefore like to thank Martin and in particular Rob and Ed, for their tenacity and determination in trying to resolve the issue of the players availability.

On a positive note, we have seen our women and girl's games evolve and grow, laying the foundations for a strong future. Congratulations must go to the women and girls for their continued achievements and a special mention for Andrew Morris, for his commitment, his energy and his loyalty to the Club.

Our Junior section is equally on the up and evolving, this again has been another successful year with some notable individual efforts as well as teams performing well. Particular credit and special thanks must go to Andrew Erskine and his amazing band of coaches and volunteers who are continually doing a truly outstanding job. I would also extend our thanks to all the parents who support the teams in various roles, as with driving and all the other numerous jobs the teams need doing.

As ever, we are all highly indebted to all of our scorers, our umpires and our ladies for the teas, without whom none of the players would be able to enjoy their cricket. We all very much appreciate your support and I personally would like to thank you, particularly, Merv, your generosity and your determination for bringing the Cub into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with the electronic 'The Merv' scoreboard!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our resident gourmet burger chef, Frank, for all that you do and all the time and effort that you routinely put into co-ordinating and organising our social events. We couldn't have burgered without you!

We have also been extremely fortunate to have had Martin, Adrian and Tom as our groundsmen, with their skills, knowledge and experience they have continually produced a square that has become the envy of every club in Hampshire and the teams that have played at our Club. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Martin, Adrian and Tom for the many hours they have devoted to maintaining the ground and preparing the square, it has been extremely well appreciated.

I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to our sponsors. We are indeed very fortunate to be associated with so many fantastic people many of whom who have stayed loyal to us for several years. The support comes from near and far, personal and corporate and without which we would not be able to achieve much of what we do in continuing to provide opportunities for young and old to play and enjoy cricket at Ropley Cricket Club.

Our Cricket Club like many other Clubs rely heavily on the generous spirit of volunteers. They are the lifeblood and in most cases the clubs wouldn't be able to function without their tireless support and dedication that is received from them. I particularly would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank you all for your contribution and recognise that you are all making a difference, not just to the Club but to all players of all ages and the participants as well.

	<p>Finally, and following the completion of my 3 year tenure as Chairman of Ropley Cricket Club, I will therefore be stepping down this evening. It has been a great honour, a privilege and a pleasure to have served Ropley Cricket Club and to have worked with everyone associated within the club.</p> <p>So, drawing this to a close, I'm sure you'll join me in wishing all the new officers and all those standing for re-election the very best of success for the coming year and in the future.</p> <p>I would therefore like thank you once again personally for all your support, good humour, determination and for believing in Ropley Cricket Club</p> <p>My very best wishes to you all and thank you.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer's report – Jayne Forrest</b></p> <p>Receipts of the year total £24,307.79 which compared to last year would be up if we took the donations for the scoreboard out.</p> <p>Wicket maintenance is higher than last year – due to the higher costs of the groundsmen material costs.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I overpaid the groundsmen by £1,000 which is being sorted and returned so the cost will reduce to £6,752.</p> <p>The ladies have had a great year with 100% subscriptions and match fees paid and they now field two teams.</p> <p>Men's match fees are down due to no Sunday games</p> <p>Fundraising and donations are up with thanks;  Frank for the BBQ's and quiz night  Andrew Morris and the Ladies for the Help for Heroes and Pink Day's  Andrew Erskine for getting £500.00 from Ropley Society to go towards the new mower  We also received a donation of £327.00 from Old Alresford Cricket Club when they folded</p> <p>Money still outstanding  £300.00 in sponsorship  £240.00 men's subs – which is being dealt with</p> <p>A copy of the RCC income and expenditure is attached.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Election of President</b></p> <p>Chris sends his apologies for not being present tonight, but is happy to stand for another year</p> <p>Chris Graham was proposed by Ian Goodwin and seconded by Tom Stroud</p>

7.	<p><b>Election of Hon Vice – President</b> None available</p>
8.	<p><b>Election of Vice-President</b> Andrew Morris proposed for services to Ropley Cricket Club – proposed by Merve Durrant and seconded by John Sutton</p>
9.	<p><b>Election of Officers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chair – Alex Ehrmann</li> <li>● Vice Chair – Andy Erskine</li> <li>● Secretary – Jackie Harrison</li> <li>● Treasurer – Jayne Forrest</li> <li>● Fixture Secretary- John Sutton</li> <li>● First XI Captain – to be addressed at next meeting</li> <li>● Second XI Captain – Tom Stroud</li> <li>● First Women’s XI Captain – Fiona Gray (remain as is at present, bring to Committee January 2020)</li> <li>● Second Women’s XI Captain – Sarah Adam (remain as is at present, bring to Committee January 2020)</li> <li>● Sports Club Representative – Adam Wheeler</li> <li>● Social Secretary – Frank Branagan</li> <li>● Club Welfare Officer – Men/boys – Vic Harry</li> <li>● Club Welfare Officer – Ladies/girls – KarenBennett</li> <li>● Club Mark Lead – Alex Minett</li> <li>● Junior Co-ordinator – Andy Erskine</li> </ul>
10.	<p>Discussions entwined with election of Officers</p> <p>Noted that on Alex’s appointment as Chair, she thanked the outgoing Chair for his work and commitment at Ropley Cricket Club.</p> <p>When discussing the appointment of a First XI Captain, Jon Sutton asked whether there were in fact any candidates. Alex mentioned that there had been no positive feedback as yet for candidates. This will be addressed at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was asked whether Tom S would be prepared to Captain one men’s team if Ropley could only secure one. To be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Alex E stated that the issues around the men’s teams would be discussed in a months’ time at an open meeting.</p> <p>Alex E went on to say that the Juniors and Women’s teams are thriving, happy and growing; there is no reason why the men’s cannot thrive either.</p>

11.

Alex E mentioned that moving forward it is how two Saturday teams are managed, the recruitment of a Captain and the recruitment of players that is crucial and needs further discussions.

Ian G stated that his personal view was that with a transition phase, not all players were interested in playing Division 1 and very much depended on player's availability. There is a responsibility to fulfil Division 1 league matches and he doesn't feel Ropley is equipped to play first team cricket.

Tom S felt this needed to be discussed at the next meeting.

Ed W agreed to organise the Sunday teams, assisted by Ian G. A question around Sunday cricket was raised and whether it was continuing. Agreed by all that this would be discussed later on.

**AOB**

Alex E brought to the floor for discussion the matter of an overseas player for next season and whether this is something the club would like to pursue.

Dave B mentioned that the overseas player from last season, Brad would like to come back.

Beth C felt an idea to pursue would be a women's overseas player, which would send a positive message to Hampshire. Inspiring the younger players.

Alex E stated that perhaps in years to come we could have a male and female overseas player. For the coming year, in the first instance, Brad would be a strong candidate.

Jayne F, questioned whether the men's team would warrant an overseas player?

It was felt that this was a discussion for the next meeting; growth and evolution of the men's section and move we move forward.

Andy E felt that the club needed to know the views of the men's players, and the meeting would enable this to happen and work together to find a way forward.

Ian G said that he was happy to corral players together for the next meeting.

Ed W, felt that communication needed to improve. H felt that not everyone knew about the Awards evening recently and Captains not aware perhaps

Alex E explained that the juniors/women's had a comprehensive database of names and asked whether the seniors had a database of players?

Jayne F stated that the Captains need to turn up to Committee meetings to hear details concerning the club but they are often absent.

Alex E strongly agreed that there needs to be communication across the club and a comprehensive database across the club and use of social media.

Ed W stated that he felt this was possible

Ian G stated that GDPR needs to be adhered to in terms of database's

Beth C mentioned that the women's teams use Teamer for which you give your consent when you download the app

Ian G, spoke of the need to perhaps have one team this coming season and that expectations have to be managed. He felt that the club was not in the same situation as a couple of years ago. He doesn't want to be negative but pragmatic.

Ian stated that in his opinion that there would be quite a few first team players not playing next season, with the likelihood of only one team – sensible for what we want to achieve.

Ed W, felt that a thorough discussion in the meeting next month, will need to draw out players otherwise the issues will never be resolved.

Jayne F stated that players need to come forward and have their say

Andy E, felt that the involvement of juniors and women in the men's teams was positive last season and looking forward having 4/5 juniors/women playing in the seconds team could be the life blood of the club moving forward.

He stated that it feels that the first team are feeling disgruntled and we need to turn this around, but they have got to want to play cricket.

Dave F, mentioned that in the past, people have felt that the Committee have not managed to control the situation and some, outside the committee have done their own thing. Ian G stated that he will back the Committee fully, but they need to be aware of the pitfalls.

Dave F said that everyone had taken Ian's points on board.

John Sutton stated that it had taken time and effort to get where we are now, there is a lot of history and it would be a shame if Ropley goes to just one team. We need to try and preserve two sides with juniors and women being involved.

Frank B, replied, point well taken

Alex E, said that all points had been taken on board and were valid. She explained that in the past both the juniors and women's team have occasionally looked as though they would not have enough players, but have been able to pull it together.

Ian G stated that the juniors and women's sections are where we should aspire to be.

Andy E mentioned that there had been no one at the recent Awards evening, only a handful of players available and very little input from the first and second team

	<p>players into discussions. They have representation on the Committee but do not show.</p> <p>Andy E asked whether Ropley could go to the League and ask for self-relegation.</p> <p>Ian G stated that he didn't believe this could happen and that Hampshire would not want to see this happen.</p> <p>Agreed that Tom S and Ed W will communicate with senior players.</p> <p>Ed W asked whether a formal comms will be going out about the meeting in December.</p> <p>Frank B felt that telephone calls to players was needed if possible to voice concerns regarding lack of players for next season and how progress can be made.</p> <p>Tom S, felt that we needed to know the number of players available for next season which would determine the way forward.</p> <p>Jackie H to contact Helen Smith to ascertain what data she has regarding players.</p> <p>Alex E stated that a statement from the Committee would go out about the steps being taken and the engagement of players moving forward is vital.</p> <p>Tom S, voiced his opinion that the entire Club is in crisis.</p> <p>Alex E, said that the Club has an untapped resource of parents</p>
12.	<p><b>Next Meeting Date:</b> Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December @ 8pm  <b>Venue:</b> Ropley Pavilion</p>

**APPENDIX**

Financial record – will be attached



**Development Plan Aims for 2019 for consultation**



## **Play**

- a) Run two senior and two female weekend league teams.
- b) Continue with roll out of Junior Development Plan 2014 – 2019.
- c) Develop a plan for transitioning juniors into senior cricket.
- d) Recruit new players; specifically getting experienced players to strengthen the playing and coaching side of the senior club.
- e) With a view to fully integrating the membership in the running of the club appoint a Head of Senior Cricket who reports into the committee and oversees the recruitment and coaching of senior teams, including the U17's and U19's.
- f) Preserve the Sunday Friendly team thereby supporting the promotion of juniors into senior cricket and to continue benefit to local community.
- g) Celebrate the ICC Cricket World Cup Focus Weekend. 7-9 Jun 2019 through organised events to help encourage more children and adults to take up the sport.

## **Grounds**

- h) Appoint a new grounds' person.
- i) Replace wicket mower.
- j) Install new electronic scoreboard.
- k) Consider the purchase of a roll up wicket for the U9 'academy pitch' (to avoid another wicket having to be prepared each weekend), which can also be used to increase general training capacity across all age groups, including seniors.
- l) Re-develop nets, including the purchase of deployable white netting for rear of nets (behind bowler).

## **Funding**

- m) Bring in expertise to develop and deliver a marketing strategy to generate more sponsorship.
- n) Develop funding / support from the Cricket Club around junior training, coaches, equipment, under 9 pitch and winter nets.
- o) Submit application for funding from the Cricket World Cup 2019 – Club Fund.