

Ropley Cricket Club AGM

Wednesday 20th November 2024 at 19:30

Apologies from:

Will Wharfe, Nerys Wheeler, Rachel King, Lucas Moran

1. 2023 AGM Minutes approved
2. Chairs Report

Thanks to all for attending, and for supporting the club through my first year as chair. It has been a year of growth and success.

We have grown in almost every metric, with more members, and vitally, more memberships being paid. We have played more games, scored more runs and taken more wickets. We have conceded fewer games.

Full statistics have been bandied about at all the events, especially the awards evening, which seemed to be received well, and on which we hope to grow next year. One brief statistic to mention is Georgina Wilson, who came tantalisingly close to getting 1000 runs in the season - if it weren't for a cancelled last game, she could well have achieved it. As far as I know, this would have been a first for the club.

The Thursday evenings continue to be a big success, with both training and The Ashes BBQ. However, here is our first rub - Coaches and volunteers have made Thursday evenings what they are, but with people stepping back after giving so much, we are at risk of some teams disappearing next year. This is the one metric in which we are not growing. We need a drive for coaches, for registered parent volunteers, for managers of these teams. Adam can provide details on which positions need to be filled.

This drive for additional volunteers is being run alongside a drive for more members, Lucas Moran has been organising a poster campaign, alongside plans for social media to bring new members to all areas of the club. What we do know however is that word of mouth is the most vital element for this, so please encourage anyone you know to come along and join the Ropley Family.

Our ground has been expertly cared for by Q, in a very challenging year. The ground speaks for itself - it has performed beautifully this

year, and whilst we are all very proud of the work Q has put in, I hope he is also very proud of himself.

Looking to next year, I want to take our growth and success and continue to run with it. Both women teams are progressing into the next leagues, and I wish them the best of luck - we want to continue to grow the club, and develop the players - in the open seniors, we look forward to welcoming new players from both juniors and the women's teams, as well as bringing new players in. Let's make this the best year yet.

3. special mention to Georgina Wilson who scored 930 runs this season
4. Financial Report

Chair gave an overview of the financial report provided by Nerys. It was a stable year with a slight loss of around £500. This is accounted for with some unforeseen expenditure and sponsorship fees not yet settled. The quiz evening made over £2,000 this year (special mention and thanks to Quentin). Senior membership also earned an additional £1,000 this year (mainly thanks to ½ year membership).

On expenditure – Ben will question the ball collection protocol and the subsequent fine for clubs. This year has seen some equipment repairs which have had a cost but the club's roller is now operational. Dummer fees have gone up considerably which are reflected in match fees but this is partly explained by the juniors having been undercharged for the last few seasons.

5. Committee members – all committee members re-appointed.

Note – Karen Bennett noted that she would like to step down as female safeguarding officer but will retain the post until a replacement can be found.

Action – Ben Matthews to approach suitable candidates

Note – two new committee members were proposed:

- Lucas Moran as recruitment secretary – *proposed by Ben Matthews and seconded by Tim Phillips*
- Bella Wilson as an ordinary committee member (working on special projects as required) – *proposed by Sarah Harry and seconded by Ben Matthews*

Action – Ben Matthews to speak to Rachel King about her committee role

6. Social media – Andrew Morris suggested that there is a need to create a social media strategy for the club.

Action – Ben, Sarah, Lucas, Andrew and Rachel to have a meeting to agree the strategy

7. Member questions

- a. Question from Merv Durrant – David Otley donated a trophy to the best wicket keeper of the year and would like to know who won it.

Action – Ben and Andy Erskine to go through trophies and update

- b. Question from Merv Durrant – Bismunroptis still has Gordy as the number to call to get to the cricket club

Action – Quentin to contact them again

- c. Questions from Merv Durrant – the electronic scoreboard (and its battery) needs a service.

Action – Quentin to take a look at winter servicing

- d. Question from Chris Rait – who is the lead sponsor for the shirts?
Open Seniors = NFU, Womens = Alresford Beauty and Juniors = History Heroes.

Action – Ben to speak to Rachel about sponsorship benefits and funding

- e. Question from Andrew Morris – what is happening about outfield mowing and could the club do more to assist with the upkeep? The Council have been let down by their contractor and are looking to find a suitable alternative. Ben and Quentin are exploring options but the Cricket Club does not own the right equipment to maintain the outfield.
- f. Question from Lloyd Nash – are there any plans for Sunday games? Ropley pitch is in use most Sundays owing to the women's cricket (some bye weeks may be possible). Andrew Morris made the point that a volunteer would need to coordinate Sunday matches.

Action – Ben and Quentin to call local grounds (Old Alresford, Chawton, Cheriton, Medstead were put forward as suggestions)

Action – Lloyd and Lucas to speak about Sunday matches

Other matches during the season to be scheduled:

- Belated President's match
- Wizmind match
- NFU match (to be started up again)
- Wield fixture
- Hartley Whintney (have offered a fixture)
- Goodwood House (old fixture)

There was discussion around pre or post season matches. Football season bookends (1 September to 30 April) so other pitches would need to be used.

- g. Question from Andrew Morris – has there been any movement on the suggested new nets? Options that have been reviewed include the Flix Mat on the MUGA or an additional rolled area next to the MUGA.

Action – Ben to investigate funding options

8. AOB

- a. Adam Wheeler reported that the club still needs coaches and managers. There is a particular need for the Open U11 role. Chris Rait and Mike Armitage offered to co-own this role.

Action – Adam to speak to Chris and Mike to get them DBS checked and on a coaching course

- b. Tim Phillips noted that parent volunteer numbers had increased this season and that he is able to verify DBS checks.
- c. Julia Phillips noted that membership of the Sports Club is included in membership of the Cricket Club and that the Sports Club is holding a number of member events – it would be great to see the Cricket Club taking part.
- d. Andrew Morris noted that the Women's 1st team has now moved into a league where they can apply for an international player.

Action – Andrew to prepare the information for Committee review