



BRIGHTON & HOVE CRICKET CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 – Minutes

The **Annual General Meeting** of **Brighton & Hove Cricket Club** was held on **Thurs 29th November 2018** at the Nevill Clubhouse, Eridge Road, Hove, starting at 7:30pm.

26 members were in attendance.

1. Arthur Harman was proposed and elected as **Chairman of the AGM**.
2. The **Minutes of the last AGM** held on 30th November 2017, were unanimously approved.
3. **Apologies for Absence** were received from: Chris Brotherton, Peter Underwood, Chris Grammar, Bob Sansom, Alison Bruce, Ian Parker, Rod Cole, Michael Slade, Geoffrey Theobald, Chris Mates & Dave Marks.
4. There was no **correspondence received** by the committee that required discussion.
5. Fergus Guppy provided the **Management Committee's report** for the 2018 Season (full reports for each section are available in the Appendix to this document). Fergus commented on the successful seasons for the Boys & Girls sections with a number of league & cup wins, including the Boys U10's who went unbeaten all season. We have had a record number of players selected for Boys & Girls Area/Sussex winter training.

The Girls section goes from strength to strength and next year has a new Girls Cricket Manager & a new Coaching team, led by Kieran Buck & Lucy Trott and which includes a number of young Womens players who will be great role models for the girls. The Boys section currently has nearly 140 players and growing, and is a massive operation, expertly led by Pete Underwood and his team of managers & coaches, while the All Stars coaching sessions, run on Saturday mornings during early Summer, saw over 70 'littluns' get introduced to our wonderful game.

The Men's sections prime success this past season was that we fulfilled every arranged match, which is remarkable for a club putting out 5 Saturday league teams every week and with the patchy availability that we still suffered from. The 1st XI had a particularly strong first half of the season when they were top of the league and it was great that they didn't have any relegation worries going into the business end of the season. Both the 4th & 5th XI's were promoted which is a great testament to skippers Chris Brotherton & Mick Brazil and Chris also led a mixed 3's/4's to a great T20 Cup Final win.

The Women's team had a solid season despite struggling to field a full side for the 45 over matches. They have recruited some ex-players who thought they had retired and this next season, they are keen to transition more girls into the adult 45 over team, which can be difficult due to the playing time and travel distance.

Overall a very successful year both on & off the playing field but not without its struggles due to player availability and late pull-out's. Fergus asked that every Men's player try to make themselves available more often and once confirmed as available, to not pull out as this has a huge knock on effect across the whole club.

6. Andy Scott provided the **Ground & Clubhouse Development report** (full report can be found in the Appendix). Andy commented on the vast amount of work that was done around the ground and clubhouse during the year, which resulted in us winning the Sussex League Most Improved Pitch. A prime reason was the club's investment in equipment (the now legendary 'Bensons1' outfield mower) and also in refurbishing the nets.

The committee have now confirmed that we will not be pursuing a new clubhouse build. This is largely due to the high funding required but also as we have been consistently told by the council that we are unlikely to get planning permission. While the Hockey club are still pursuing a much smaller build, it is expected that they will struggle with planning permission and in the interim, they are committed, as we are, to investing in the existing clubhouse to improve facilities.

A major activity over the winter will be finding a replacement groundsman, as we learnt through the grapevine that the existing one was closing his business. This will not be an easy exercise and is likely to incur additional running costs.

We now have a particularly strong relationship with the Council and this has resulted in them committing to do over £80k of work on the clubhouse in the next year. While they will maintain & improve the building & infrastructure, we will have to provide investment in changing rooms, showers & toilets. We are working with Hockey & Dolphins to explore options and will be preparing plans in the New Year.

We had a particularly successful year in the clubhouse with record bar takings. This was largely due to the card machine, the World Cup, the weather & some well run events, including the bar at the Firework display. This will

need to be repeated next year when we continue to have ambitious plans for investment in the clubhouse & ground equipment.

7. Emma Bennett provided the **Welfare Officers report**. Emma discussed the new GDPR compliance regulations that we must adhere to. This requires us to register every playing member, including boys, girls, men & women, which obtains their approval to communicate with them (the default is 'yes' otherwise we can't contact you to play!) and which confirms our Welfare Policies are understood. An online registration form is available which generates a central Member Database which must be the club's only contact list, so if you don't register then we can't contact you.

8. Fergus Guppy presented Chris Brotherton's **Commercial & Social report** which quoted huge successes in securing a number of new sponsors which pushed commercial income up to its highest ever level. This included renegotiating with Kew Electrical, our main club sponsor, for a new 3 year deal for a much higher price.

Chris asked that all members, which there are well over 250, consider if they or the companies they work for, could provide some level of sponsorship for the club. Details are available in a new Sponsorship Brochure on our website or from any committee member.

The one disappointment was the service provided by Newbery, our new kit provider. While the quality & look of the playing & training kit was excellent, they accept that they fell well short on delivery, communication & customer service. We have been working with them over the winter to ensure that this dramatically improves in the New Year.

9. Duncan Gwynn presented our **Annual Accounts** for the past year and the Proposed Budget for next year. This year was particularly successful as we invested over £11,000 on the mower & net refurbishment but largely covered this expense through increased sponsorship, bar takings & donations.

Collection of Annual Subs was another successful area where we exceeded the budget by a fair margin. This takes a lot of effort to chase and we ask that all members make an effort to pay early or switch to Standing Order.

Our expectation is that our groundsman expenses will increase next year as we replace Seed Services, but we don't yet know by how much. We also expect to continue to invest in the ground & clubhouse on items such as sightscreens for the West Square, increased storage & improvements to changing rooms, showers & toilets (full list of targeted items are in Andy's report in the appendix). Therefore its imperative that we continue to fundraise, collect all monies due & secure new sponsorship.

Overall we showed a £1500 loss for the season, which could have been worse had Pete Underwood not secured an ECB Grant late in the year for ground equipment.

10. One amendment was made to the **Club's Constitution** to remove AFC Brighton & Hove as a membership type, as they no longer used the Nevill clubhouse.
11. Chris Pearson was unanimously re-elected **Club President**.
12. There were no new **Vice Presidents** nominated, however it was sadly reported that Tony Pope, a former club captain and Peter Wales, both VP's of the club, had passed away in recent weeks. The clubs deepest sympathy has been sent to both families.
13. Arthur Harman was re-elected as **Chairman** of the Club's Executive Committee.
14. The following members of the Executive Committee were unanimously elected or re-elected :

- Dave Mates re-elected as **Hon General Secretary**.
- Duncan Gwynn re-elected as **Hon Treasurer**.
- Emma Bennett re-elected as **Hon Welfare Officer** - an additional Welfare Officer is still required urgently and will be sought from the Womens/Girls section.
- Fergus Guppy re-elected as **Men's Cricket Manager**.
- Alison Bruce re-elected as **Women's Cricket Manager**.
- Peter Underwood re-elected as **Hon Boys Colts Manager**.
- Matthew Prior was proposed & unanimously elected as **Hon Girls Colts Manager**. The club would like to thank Simon Partridge for his huge efforts leading the Girls Section for 9 years and who built it into the success that it is currently.
- Andy Scott re-elected as **Ground Manager**.
- Ian Parker re-elected as **Bar & Clubhouse Manager**.

15. The following members of the non-Executive Committee were unanimously elected or re-elected :

- Peter Davies re-elected as **Fixtures & Pitch Booking Secretary**.

- The role of **Commercial Manager** was left vacant at this time due to Chris Brotherton feeling he could not commit to it this year due to his impending wedding. We will look to fill the role, if only temporarily until Chris has more time available to him, to ensure the great work in securing new sponsors, is continued.
 - Given that the club are no longer looking to build a new clubhouse, the committee didn't feel that there was a requirement for a **Ground Redevelopment Manager**. Chris Grammar was thanked for all the very complex and time-consuming work that he has done in this role over the past few years.
16. The role of **Hon Auditor** was left vacant at this time. The Club Accounts will be audited in the New Year but the auditor is still to be appointed.
17. The following **Team Captains** were elected or re-elected :
- **1st XI** – Simon Hetherton re-elected.
 - **2nd XI** – Matthew Smith was proposed & elected. Many thanks to Paul Hardwick for his efforts last season. The club wishes him well as he moves to London to take on a new teaching role.
 - **3rd XI** – Chris Brotherton was proposed & elected. Many thanks to Dave Marks who stepped back in to lead the 3's over the past 2 years.
 - **4th XI** – This role was left vacant. The Cricket Committee will make an appointment in the New Year.
 - **5th XI** – Mick Brazil re-elected, however since the AGM Mick feels that he will not be able to take on this role and therefore the Cricket Committee will make an appointment in the New Year. Many thanks to Mick for his efforts, in difficult circumstances, last season.
 - **Women's XI** – This role was left vacant. The Womens Cricket Manager will make an appointment in the New Year. Many thanks to Sarah Fogwill for her efforts over the past few years in this role. The club wish her well as she moves abroad to take on a new job.
 - **Men's Under 19** Development team – Luke Chafer was re-elected.
18. Due to the restructure of the Men's Adult leagues, there is now just one single Men's league in Sussex (the largest amateur cricket league in the world with 335 teams in 34 divisions!). The role of **Sussex Cricket League Representative** was left vacant however volunteers would be appreciated to attend the 2 league meetings each year and to handle correspondence on behalf of the club.
19. **Annual Subscriptions** for 2019 are being held at current levels. These are :
- Men's - £150 for all regular players (£175 if paid after 1st June) or £12.50 per month by Standing Order (half for those not in full-time employment).
 - Boys Colts - £160, with a Family Membership of £220 (more than 1 boy or girl member).
 - Womens - £70.
 - Girls Colts - £140, with a Family Membership of £220.
 - Match fees will remain unchanged
20. Any Other Business
- The monthly Supporters Club is still one of the club's major fundraising initiatives. The club are having a major push in the New Year and look to all members to sell at least one monthly ticket to a friend or family member.
 - The Football club still owe us money for some of the shared expenses we incurred. Its unlikely we will be able to recover this but Andy took an action to chase them.
 - Men's Winter Nets have been booked for Thursday's from 8:00pm till 9:00pm at the Sussex County Ground from end of January.
 - All Men's teams now play in the Sussex Cricket League. The 1st XI play a split season of 110 over win/lose/draw matches and 50 over win/lose. All other teams, despite our vote against this, will play limited overs all season (45 overs for 2's and 40 for all other teams).
 - # Post Mtg : Three cup competitions have been announced as Sunday T20's split by Prem to Div 4, Div 5 to 7 and Div 8 & below. We are likely to enter one team in each competition.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Appendix I

AGM – Mens Cricket Report 2018

Fergus Guppy, Men's Cricket Manager

Overall a successful season for the Mens Section in 2018, with our first achievement being that we managed to complete every fixture that the weather allowed, which is a fantastic achievement from all the captains but especially Mick Brazil in the 5th team who had the hardest time in terms of players dropping out from higher teams. One of our big challenges is to ensure that we avoid as many late drop-outs as possible, and one way is to educate players as to the issues that these cause.

In terms of on-field success, the first team had a great season under the leadership of Simon Hetherton, with a 6th place finish, well clear of the recent battles for relegation. We are hoping to improve things in 2019. The 2nd XI built on the work of previous seasons under the leadership of Paul Hardwick, and also ended up with a 6th place finish, a credible effort in a league featuring some very strong sides. We are losing Paul after this season, and we must put on record our thanks for the time that he has given to the club and that he will be welcome back at any time!

The 3rd XI had another struggle this season, which unfortunately ended up in relegation. However, we are hoping that this will allow us to rebuild and develop a strong group of colts coming through and we hope to have them bouncing back in the next few seasons. Dave Marks has stepped down as captain, and I want to again put on record the sterling work he has done over the past few seasons.

The 4th XI finished well backing up promotion from last season with another one, credit must go to Chris Brotherton and his players, which they managed to take a step further this season winning the midweek T20 cup. Next season is going to be a challenge, with another step up, so hopefully we can consolidate in 2019.

Mick Brazil in the 5s did amazing work keeping the faith (when even I lost it at times) but this passion drove the team to a top 2 finish and promotion. A couple of highlights were the wins (with declarations) that were true team efforts, as well as seeing young players getting their first taste of adult cricket. This, alongside completing all games, is a massive success and I hope that Mick can build on this in 2019.

Off the field, the club continues to go from strength-to-strength and this is a credit to everyone who is involved. Lets hope that we can continue the strong off the field presence that makes us the best club in Sussex to be a member of. Up the Bensons!

Appendix II

AGM – Womens Cricket Report 2018

Alison Bruce, Womens Cricket Manager

The women's team play in 2 leagues. One is the T20 8-s-side Sussex league and the other is the championship division of the Women's Cricket Southern League which includes clubs in Essex, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex.

For the championship (45-over) games it was sometimes a struggle to get a full eleven and indeed we have used 26 players throughout the season. We have tempted back some players who thought they had retired and we hope that they will continue to play next season. Some good performances with the ball by Caroline Barrs (20 wickets in the season and the only 5fer (5/18 against Horsham)) and Sarah Fogwill and Alice Gibbs both chipping in with 10 wickets. Top scorers with the bat were Kathryn Leng (94 not out), Jess Denniff (86 not out) and Amanda Sturmer (83 not out)...all ran out of time to make that elusive hundred. We ended up finishing third in the league which was a good outcome.

Next year the leagues have been re-organised again and we are in championship east division which means trips as far afield as Canterbury. The league is also a combination of T20 and 45-overs. Something we didn't ask for but which has been imposed on us. It will be interesting to see how this develops. We will have a new captain for the 2019 season as Sarah Fogwill, who has been our captain for 5 seasons, has moved to work abroad. We thank Sarah for her valuable contribution to the Club over the last 5 years.

We've used our T20 matches as a way to introduce the juniors to senior cricket and this has gone very well, particularly in the latter half of the season where we were fielding teams that were half seniors and half juniors. We have some strong talent coming through and it will be interesting to see the youngsters develop in the coming seasons. In the end we came 2nd in this league.

It really was a team effort this year and choosing a player of the season was quite difficult. Votes were quite spread but, for her effort, improvement, team motivation, top fielding and solid innings at key moments in games, the 2018 'player of the season' was Emily Kirby-Jones.

Our focus for next year is to get more of the juniors playing in the 45-over games. It is a big step from T20 to the longer format and coupled with the long distances that we have to travel, it can be a difficult transition. It is great that some of our players have volunteered to get involved with the girls' coaching and hopefully 'demystify' the process of playing senior cricket. This is a very positive step and is very exciting as we have some very talented juniors.

Appendix III

AGM – Girls Colts Report 2018

Matt Prior, Girls Cricket Manager

2018 was a very successful year on the field:

- U16 and U13 both won their leagues
- U11 won a number of their weekly tournaments with a couple of second place finishes too
- 10 girls have been selected to train with Sussex team

The Girls' section is going into next year in very good shape

- New head coach – Kieran Buck, supported by Lucy Trott, a Womens 1st X1 player and Level 2 qualified coach.
- 4 new coaching support volunteers – all young women who are either currently 1st X1 players, local teachers or both! These women will be great role models for the girls. With the continued support of our parent-coaches we are now in really good shape for coaching resource
- The committee have agreed to purchase new sets of coaching equipment for each age group. We are also looking to invest in ways to improve the match day equipment (eg. better scoreboards, closer storage etc.) used on the West Square Astro pitch to make preparation simpler
- We have been leafletting local schools to advertise - which has so far generated 9 new enquiries from girls. We want more!
- We strongly believe that cricket is a fabulous game for girls and is one of the big growth areas of the game.
- Many schools are now promoting cricket instead of rounders as the summer team game of choice for girls.
- We are very proud of the achievements of the Girls teams and are fully committed to investing in and building our Girls cricket section.

We would like to thank the managers, coaches and all those involved with the operation for all of their support this season. We would also like to thank the parents for their continued support, whether through umpiring, scoring, teas or the support they have given their daughters and the club. However, we do still need parent volunteers to help with :

- Managing team administration
- Scoring and umpiring
- Marketing support (eg social media, match reports)
- So please get in touch – we really need you!

And finally thank you to the girls. They are a terrific bunch and we look for to an even more successful 2019 season.

Appendix IV

AGM – Ground Report 2018

Andy Scott, Grounds Manager

This year has seen a lot of activity behind the scenes at the Nevill. Improvements, enhancements and new additions have been regular as the committee fulfils their pledge to improve the cricketing facilities as well as the pavilion.

Key Tasks completed since last AGM :

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Refit Kitchen | 9. Cleared tree line [East] | 16. Clock tower & clock |
| 2. Purchased triple mower | 10. New patio fencing | 17. Roof improvements |
| 3. Paint Club House | 11. New guttering | 18. Run up covers |
| 4. New clubhouse furniture | 12. New clubhouse fascia's | 19. New sight screen wheels |
| 5. New nets & flooring | 13. New fire alarm | 20. Winter Square protection |
| 6. Green waste area | 14. New clubhouse windows | |
| 7. Herbicide treatments | 15. New chiller room shelving | |
| 8. New clubhouse lighting | | |

New Clubhouse program: During July we met with the Hockey committee and informed them that we would not be pursuing the joint venture of a new clubhouse. The primary reason for this was affordability & issues with planning permission. We determined that we should focus our efforts & funds on improvements to the grounds and Pavilion over the next few years. The council have been informed and Hockey are pursuing a new, all be it smaller, clubhouse for their membership, however the expectation is that they too will struggle to get planning permission.

Cricket Force: Thank you to all of those that contributed to the day. It was a busy but “transformational” day and most of the key tasks needed were completed. Please do put aside some “volunteer” time to help us improve the club further. It does not have to be ground force weekend, but any occasional Saturday mornings or mid-week evening is always appreciated. The fruits of our endeavours were rewarded with the “Sussex League Most Improved Ground Award 2018” and I am sure that we are at last turning heads across the Sussex cricket community as we seek to impress in all aspects. In 2017 we were ranked 47th place out of 60 and took a massive jump to 25th with the wicket and outfield scores increasing roughly equally. High praise indeed in what was a challenging hot and dry summer.

We decided to look for a new groundsman in October when we learned on the grapevine that the current contractor was closing his business. A replacement is being sought who will be given targets to achieve for next season.

Next season we have more improvements planned. The council are investing £80,000 into the pavilion in 2019 which will see our buildings finally fully fire compliant. The heating and ventilation and internal water provision will all be upgraded. We are in discussion with the council to improve changing rooms, toilets and shower facilities but it is likely we will need to fund this from our extremely limited resources. We are exploring our options with Dolphins and Hockey. We are also hoping to extend our lease beyond 2034 to secure future cricket at the Nevill to +25 years or 2060. The council have been supportive and we hope to change our lease during 2019.

Our priority now is to get a new groundsman, to find more storage space and help reduce match set up times, especially on the West.

We have held a number of “events” for the club bringing in valuable income but also demonstrating our community spirit. We have also done a deal with the local Government Electoral team to turn the clubhouse into a polling station.

2019 Planned Improvements:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Garage door frames | 7. Decorate corridors | 13. Motorised shutters |
| 2. Increase storage space | 8. New lighting for corridors | 14. New safe & till |
| 3. Power to garage | 9. Scorers room | 15. External lighting |
| 4. Clear tree line – nets | 10. West pitch sight screens | 16. Upgrade umpires room |
| 5. Upgrade showers | 11. Net enhancements | |
| 6. Extend green waste area | 12. Square roping off | |

There have been many memories of this past season. Certainly, watching some of the early season Men's 1st team games were thrilling, Bluey's slow roasts and the post-match drinks, especially the comradery amongst our membership was really terrific. I am also delighted with the results of the herbicide treatment to the outfield and the quality of grass is evident to all.

However, the best moment for me has to be the “Cricket All Stars” program on a Saturday morning. Keiran, Mick, Ben & Luke were simply inspirational as they coached a lot [over 70] of very young and engaged children. Their parents were highly impressed with our community club and we can expect to see more youth comes through the club in years to come.

Thank you also for the nomination for “groundsman of the year”. We had a dinner at the County ground and it was really good to build a network of contacts.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for their support and backing of our plans to transform our ground and facilities but especially to Peter Underwood and Fergus Guppy for all their hands on help during the year.

Appendix V

AGM – Commercial Report 2018

Chris Brotherton, Commercial Manager

A mixed year for the commercial team, in terms of high's and low's, but certainly foundations have been laid for further development of this new area of the club. Successes have clearly been achieved in terms of increased revenues to the club in a number of areas.

SPONSORSHIP

Firstly the development of a formal sponsorship brochure along with an expansion of our local business network which has led to an increase in the number of sponsors we have attracted to support B&H. Secondly an uplift in the fees that we sell our commercial sponsorship opportunities at, has increased the amount of income per sponsor. Thirdly the securing of a major sponsor at a higher rate than in previous years as well as the introduction of secondary sponsors, sleeve sponsors etc.

Next year the club could continue to expand its sponsorship opportunities, with the introduction of player sponsors, clubhouse sponsor, match day sponsors etc, so there's plenty of room for further growth.

The two remaining key points are: that this year we have raised the income from circa £7,000 to in excess of £11,000. Secondly, there is no doubt that across our wide and deep membership base, there are many, many more individuals and businesses that could contribute, its imperative we maximise our own pool of support and opportunity, so we would urge all members to consider if they can themselves or if not know someone or some company that could and would consider investing in our great club.

FUNDRAISING

Due to the excellent and tireless work of Pete Underwood and his various teams of helpers, we have delivered a number of events that have led to increased income. Kit Launch Day, various World Cup games, the famous fireworks night, the plethora of BBQ's etc etc, have all increased bar takings and income streams significantly. We would like to thank you for your ongoing and continued support of all B&HCC events.

Next year the club may look to formalise these events into a Social Calendar adding some structure, improved communications and in turn more fun and innovative events across the whole season.

NEWBERRY KIT DEAL

Overall I think probably the main disappointment of the commercial side of things this season was the mixed performance of the new kit deal with Newbery. Before we all criticise this however, I think its important to consider a number of points. Firstly, certain items of their on-field and off-field kit were a marked improvement in terms of quality and look over the previous kit. There's no doubt that the polo shirts, the track bottoms, the hoodies are also an improvement. The playing kit itself was also very robust, easy wearing and modern and I think their product is solid and a genuine step forward. There is certainly the opportunity to continue investing in the R&D of the kit range with Newbery over the winter to expand the range and identify new bespoke products, don't forget this was year 1 for Newbery so teething problems to be expected.

However what is not debated is the disappointing level of service, delivery times, communication and organisation that they offered with regards to the kit supply. Meetings have been held and will continue over winter to be held with Newbery as there commercial performance was incredibly poor and their customer service at times non existent.

In summary however the stats are that there was not as much purchased through Newbery as they expected and they themselves have not made a financial success of the arrangement this year, so there are no winners. We

have a 3 year deal, and jumping out of that to an alternative supplier is not viable, so with the lessons learnt and issues shared over winter, improved collaboration for next season is without doubt the only way for improvement but they should be certainly within our grasp.

Thanks to all members for their investment, support and financial contributions one way or another, the lifeblood of the club in terms of income to facilitate Andy's superb expenditure.

Appendix VI

AGM – Bar & Clubhouse Report 2018

Ian Parker, Bar & Clubhouse Manager

2018 proved to be an excellent year for the bar and clubhouse, with the bar takings significantly up on previous years. This has been due to three major factors, accepting card transactions, good weather and opening at other times than just weekends.

I would like to thank those that volunteered to help and serve behind the bar for the World Cup football, L&G event and many other occasions. Looking forward to 2019, it is in this area that I feel that we can boost the bar revenue for the club.

To do this, at the start of next season, I will be running bar training for up to 10 volunteers who will be able to open and manage the bar when needed. With the Cricket World Cup, Sabers days and with an ever increasing number of colts events, having a bar open whenever there is a need for it makes financial sense for the club. If you would like to volunteer please let me or a committee member know.

2018 also saw the start of a remarkable transformation to the clubhouse. The council has started a 3-year programme of essential works whilst the kitchen has been completely refitted and clubhouse furniture replaced, plus we now have a working clock. There is only one person responsible for driving all this and it is Andy Scott, though I must point out that the Hockey club has been more than willing to reach for the chequebook. Going forward will be more of the same, improving the clubhouse facilities with the Hockey club and as anyone who knows Andy will vouch, keeping costs to a minimum whilst getting maximum value for money.