

# Bearsted Cricket Club Executive Committee

The Green, Bearsted, Kent

Hon. President  
Gareth Oakland

Hon. Chairman  
David Patton

Hon. Secretary  
Steve Pearce



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021

### Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from N. Arasaratnum, P. Court, T. Croom, R. Cross, A. Dampier, G. Oakland, P. Judges, A. Lush, T. Howard, R. Pearce, Y. Oakland, R. Luxton and D. Vant

### Minutes of the previous AGM

Acceptance of the previous years AGM was proposed by B. Watling and seconded by S. Barker. Accepted by all.

### Treasurers report (Circulated)

Acceptance was proposed by D. Patton and seconded by S. Barker  
Accepted.

A. Griffiths informed the meeting that the ECB will pick up the public liability element of insurance in 2020.

### Secretary's report (Circulated)

Acceptance was proposed by D. Latter and seconded by D. Patton.  
Accepted.

### Captains reports

#### 1<sup>st</sup> XI

The season started as we meant to go on... A wash out vs Speldhurst. The following week we left our goggles at home and in a reduced 35 over game set 292-7 vs Cudham Wyse as we won by 153 runs. This saw the first century for Benj Johnston and Lewis Bedwell score 75 at a strike rate of 153. Oh and Will Terry then took 6 wickets in 4.4 overs.

Next we faced Sissinghurst in a 30 over reduced game. Charlie Luxton scored a superb 76\* as we finished 187-4. Will Terry then took 6-18 from 7 overs as we won by 150 runs, bowling out Sissinghurst for a BCC club record 37. Their 6 ducks were a fitting tribute to the weather that day as we sailed from the ground with great tact and diplomacy following such an epic win.

Forever champions Bidborough were up next and we continued to make a statement about our plans for the year, setting 209 before bowling them out for 70. A Benj Johnston 50 followed by Charlie Luxton bowling 5 overs for 1 run and taking 3 wickets.

Any champion team needs a whole squad ready to stand up and be counted at any time. We had that throughout the year with 22 players featuring across our 18 games. To be Invincibles, you have to show different sides of your game to win in every scenario. Our penultimate ball, 1 wicket win vs

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Cudham Wyse will live long in the memory, with Steve Benjamin hitting an almighty 6 supported at the other end by Lew O'Brien. Outwood away when we were 40-5 chasing 173 before the best Bearsted innings I've ever seen saw Benj Johnston score 93, supported brilliantly by Miles Henslow with 44\*. We scored 6 centuries, 2 each for the Johnstons, 1 for Lewis Bedwell and finally Mark Sandhu with the highest score in the league, 128.

Our 18 fifties testament to a whole team stepping up when needed.

Benj Johnston had a sensational season, finishing 161 runs ahead of the 2nd highest run scorer on 722. Noel Johnston, ever dependable opening, was the 5th highest run scorer with 486 runs. Lewis Bedwell and Dave Charlton finished 13th and 14th highest with 370 and 354 respectively.

Our bowling has always been strong and there was no let up this season. We had the 10th, 11th, 12th and 14th top wicket takers. A sign that our overs and wickets were shared amongst the bowling unit with more talent and depth than any side. Will Terry 18, Mark Sandhu 17, Alex Lush 17 and Benj Johnston 15. Steve Benjamin had the 5th best economy in the league with 3.15, Lewis Bedwell bowled some match winning spells, Andrew Dampier bowled some match winning spells as did Charlie Luxton. Miles Henslow also finally took a wicket..... But his contribution for the team with disciplined opening bowling game after game created the pressure that allowed others to steam through sides. 9 bowlers who would all be the top wicket taker at any other club comfortably.

We pride ourselves on our fielding and our determination to be the best in this area was never in doubt. Led from our gloveman, with Dave Shutt finishing with the 2nd highest dismissals on 18 and James Midgley taking an incredible stumping.

None of this would be possible without the help of Barry Watling as our umpire with Jerry Shepherd also standing in for games, Robin Cross for scoring with enthusiasm as always, our club coach Dave Charlton with his passion for helping us improve, Tim Croom for often sacrificing the 2s when half the 1s were pinged every other week (including 7 on one fun Thursday...), the committee for their immense work led incredibly by our chairman Dave Patton and everyone at the club who has trained, played and drunk beers with a smile on their face.

I'd like to reserve one special mention to our head of grounds, Si Barker. In his first season he has consistently prepared the best 2 grounds in the league with squares that were immaculate, the flattest outfield the Green has known, the best mown stripes the Green has known, strips for training and more. His attention to detail and care to ensure the best for this club is immeasurable.

Of my 15 years at Bearsted Cricket Club these two as captain have been the biggest privilege I could have asked for. This club means the world to me and I thank everyone who has helped me as Club Captain. I look back on my time here with immense pride and I'm grateful for all of the friendships that I've been lucky enough to have. Thank you everyone and here's to another amazing year for the club next year.

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> XI**

A season of two halves saw the 2s finish 6th in division 6. After spending the first half of the season in and around the 3 promotion spots, in then took until the penultimate game of the season to be certain of avoiding relegation.

With the bat, Dave Latter again led the way, scoring 656 league runs at 82 to finish second in the divisional batting awards. Chris Filmer topped 350 league runs for the season, but after that there wasn't enough support from the rest of the team, leaving us too short on runs when setting a target, and unable to chase down any significant scores.

The bowling was led by the veteran pair – Steve Horrocks (22 wickets) and Ben Lush (21 wickets) although we only managed to take 10 opposition wickets twice in the season.

We used a total of 30 players in the league season, although some weeks we occasionally struggled for 22 as a club. Taking the field with 10 men away at the eventual champions Penhurst, was not an ideal situation.

The struggle for availability did have a bright side in the performances of some of the younger members of the club. Flynn Armstrong and Ewan Coveney stepped up from u13 to play twice at the end of the season. At the other end of the spectrum, we saw a few appearances from Kevin Mullins and Mike Redman too.

One of the highlights of the season was to see the development of Louis French who ended up playing in 10 league matches, making good contributions to the team, and as a result he was awarded the players player award for the season which was presented at the club weekend in September. Dave Latter deservedly and unsurprisingly took the player of the year award.

Thanks as ever go to Simon Barker for his efforts on both grounds, Helen Turner for scoring another season for us, to Dan Skinner, Tim Lush, Jon Savage for umpiring, to Chris Filmer as my vice captain and to every one of the 30 players that have made it a pleasure to captain another season.

## **Sunday XI**

With the Sunday League being abandoned due to covid for the 2020 season, the 2021 season brought the return of Sunday League cricket to the Green as we took on Division Two for the second time in the Kent Village League. There was also a change in Captaincy with Yannick Oakland stepping down after countless seasons at the helm to be replaced by Alex Lush.

We started the season similar to previous seasons, with a wash out at Harbledown. Something which seemed to set the example for the rest of the season. We struggled for availability in the early stages of the season as a convincing defeat at home to Mersham Le Hatch was followed up by a concession against Littlebourne.

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Once availability did improve, we had three consecutive Sunday games rained off and by the start of July, we had only played one league game in its entirety. It did manage to stop raining for at least one week as we defeated a useful Harvel side at home by 35 runs. A game which included a superb knock from Christian Roberts (112) and also saw fellow youngster Louis French pick up three wickets. However, more and more rain offs followed which prevented us from being able to build any momentum. Relegation seemed a real possibility at this stage, simply from the fact we could not play any games due to the weather. That said, comfortable victories at home to Brookland, followed by another on the final day away at Bapchild meant we were able to avoid relegation with relative ease and finish in 5th place. Overall, it was certainly an odd season for the Sunday XI with more games being rained off than were actually played. Nevertheless, there were still some standout performances, specifically from the youngsters; Christian Roberts, Louis French and Sam Luxton who scored a rapid century during a friendly in the first half of the season. Hopefully, we are able to play a little bit more cricket in the 2022 season and make a real push for promotion into Division 1.

## **Colts Report**

It was reported that there had been a challenge at the start of the 2021 season around coaching availability. Nigel Numas came into the under 11s set up and started well but tailed off by the end. Andy Petty led the under 13s for a second year, moving to under 15s in 2022. There were also the under 9s led by David Patton.

Simon Barker is stepping down as chair of the colts due to other club commitments. He reiterated that more coaches and assistance would be needed for 2022.

David Patton informed the meeting that the club had nearly 100 colts signed up in 2021. He thanked Simon Barker for his Colts Chairmanship.

In 2022, there is an idea to have all colts training sessions on one night, perhaps to be skills based rather than age based.

## **Ladies Cricket**

Bearsted CC started ladies cricket with the idea for 5 weeks of training. This was extended for another 3 weeks as it was an absolute success. 2022 was planned to start early with indoor nets.

Dave Charlton expressed thanks to Simon Barker for his role in setting up and coaching the ladies.

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It was agreed that the ladies would join at the junior rate (£60) in 2022. There is the potential to play matches in 2022, possibly festivals.

The feeling of the meeting was that the ladies team is a great step forward for the club.

## **Pavilion and Ground**

Simon Barker reported that the bar facilities were installed at BCC in the spring. He thanked the club for the investment in ground equipment.

The meeting wished to thank Simon and expressed how many comments there were about how good it looks. Robin Cross informed the meeting that most oppositions were complimentary.

Simon said that the expenditure on the squares in the autumn of 2020 had worked very well and was well worth it.

Simon and Steve Pearce had done the end of season work at both grounds.

Barry Watling asked if the club was secure due to reports about clubs having equipment stolen. Ben Johnston asked if we should be improving security?

Ben also asked about a new pavilion. David Patton's view was that Hollingbourne practice facilities were more realistic.

## **Hollingbourne**

The transfer of the ground to Bearsted CC has been completed.

Kent Royals wish to rent the ground for 15 games.

Calipso cricket used Hollingbourne to enable more income.

The proposed redevelopment of Hollingbourne will not be going ahead due to the cost of the project.

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## **Fundraising**

2022 is the year for new sponsorship deals. Gullands and Ferris have been offered the chance to renew.

There are also the potential for investment from Miles Henslow and Cinch.

The club weekend returned a £1000 profit. Simon barker asked if there were any ideas to improve the weekend? He also asked that all members push that weekend.

## **Election of President, Vice-Presidents, Life Members, Officers and Committee**

President – G. Chapman

Vice-Presidents were re-elected en bloc, proposed by D.Patton and seconded by S.Barker  
D.Patton was proposed as a vice president by S. Pearce and seconded by N. Johnston

Chairman – D. Patton

Secretary – S. Pearce

Treasurer – T. Lush

Fixture Secretary – S.Pearce

1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain – M. Sandhu

1<sup>st</sup> XI Vice-captain – A. Lush

2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain – T. Croom

2<sup>nd</sup> XI Vice-captain – C. Filmer

Sun XI Captain – A. Lush

Sun XI Vice-captain – C. Roberts

Colts Chairman – Vacant

Child Welfare Officer – S. Pearce

Auditor – P. Judges

Committee Members – I. Gutteridge, S. Upton, W. Terry

## **Any Other Business**

R. Cross informed the meeting that the play cricket website has been backdated to 1985.

B. Johnston wished it to be minuted thanks to R.Cross for this work updating the website.

BCC had entered an indoor team and would enter again in the new year.

The chairman thanked the attendees.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

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