

Twickenham Cricket Club

Founded 1833



AGM 10th February 2023

Minutes

Present

In Person

Tony Bendelow, Eugene Berger (Chair), Colin Blunden, Carol Bryant, Andy Donelan, Oli George, Nigel Gordon, Dan Hough, Victoria Jennings, Paul Johnson, Sarai Knight, Paul McLoughlin, Phil Parker, Liam Tebb, Dom Thamby and Chris Wylde.

Via Zoom

Robbie Bosier, Brian Dolton, Jonty Hunt, VP Singh and Lucy Webster.

1. Apologies for absence

Janet Bitmead, Jonathan Bosier, Gerry Brennan, Pete Burke, Betty Cassidy, Hinay Dassani, Leanne Dedunu, Martin Fairn, Janet Hopper, Holger Kriess, Colin Messenger, Hannah Munday, Carlos Nunes, Praween Siriwardena, Dan Taylor, Nakul Vishvanath, Aly Vokes, and Phil Walker.

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising from them.

Reports

3. Committee's Report

Dan Hough (DH) had tabled a written report on behalf of the 2022 committee.

DH raised two particular issues. Firstly, the club was entering something of a transitional period. A number of club stalwarts are standing down and it is important that other club members step up and continue their good work. DH namechecked both the legend that is Janet Bitmead and Paul McLoughlin for their sterling efforts over long periods of time. Both are stepping back and the meeting was quick to back DH in stressing how much their gargantuan efforts were appreciated. It was entirely appropriate that both were nominated as Vice Presidents of the club. DH also noted that whilst Paul Johnson (PJ) is

continuing as club captain, Colin Blunden (CB) is coming on board to join him in the role (as co-club captain). The room was very supportive of this and felt it made a lot of sense to use the experience and nous of CB to help keep the club on the straight and narrow.

DH also noted that whilst the club's finances were not particularly problematic now, there were decidedly choppy times ahead. The cost of living was hitting everyone, including TCC. That came in the way that things such as electricity bills were increasing, but also in the fact that sponsors were simply not able to be as generous as they once were. The club was going to need to continue to be prudent moving forward.

There were no questions or comments on the report.

4. Annual Accounts

Like the committee report, the club's statement of accounts had been posted on the TCC website. Phil Parker (PP) added a little more detail to that which had been previously circulated.

Bar Sales were down by £6,250 to £51k. It should be noted for context that 2021 (£57k) was a record in PP's time as Treasurer. Full member annual subs were also down, although only by £200. The new system of collecting match fees via Stripe worked well; match fees were up by £2,338 on the previous year.

The club had significant sponsorship income in 2022. That included £8,000 from the main sponsor (Hedsons Ltd), plus £3000 from Location Live and £3,000 from Stone Rowe Brewer. Laybuy Holdings were also very generous, contributing £10,000.

Income from various junior section activities came in at £26,217. This is pretty much on a par with the previous year (£26,500). The club again broke even on winter nets (as was the case in 2021). TCC only brought in £2,020 in grants/awards. This compares with £23,734 in 2021. The reason for that is simple; there was much less on offer than there was in the previous 12 months. The drop in grants and awards is really the single contributing factor in total income dropping by £14k in the year.

Catering Expenses almost doubled to £8,324 (from £4,320). This wasn't unexpected. The club changed its first team caterer to Heavenly Dish and members will have noticed much more emphasis on Saturday evening BBQs/Braais in order to keep the bar busy. The return of match day teas also contributed to the increase in costs.

In terms of pavilion repairs, cleaning and other costs were up. They rose to £7.3k (from £3.8k in 2021). The standouts were a number of IT upgrades (£1,750), updating the honours board (£408), Cleaning services (£1,450) and bar acquisitions (£500). It's worth noting that the club did not have a bill from Thamesians for TV rental – maybe TRFC are working in two year cycles! Hence TCC might have a double dose with a catch up bill in 2023.

Finally, TCC spent 5k less on nets, putting on coaching camps and on cricket kit (mostly for the juniors). Costs went down from £27.5 in 2021 to £22k in 2022. In terms of new equipment TCC spent £11,079 on mowers and other grounds machinery, £650 on a router and an Ice Machine and £2,669 on a Bola bowling machine. The club also spent £12,412 on re-kitting the bar and £1,500 on a new carpet.

All in all, the club's financial position remains ok (see formal document on the TCC website), but times are getting tougher. TCC needs to remain prudent through 2023 (and beyond).

5. TCC Women's Report

Janet Bitmead (JB) had tabled a written report. That had been placed on the TCC website. No questions or comments were emanating from the floor on JB's report.

6. Safeguarding Officer's Report

Victoria Jennings (VJ) delivered a verbal report. In that report she stressed a number of things.

Firstly, all club events and activities need to be looked at through a safeguarding lens. That lens needs to include the interests, needs and concerns of those under the age of 18, but also those of members who for whatever reason are vulnerable. This cannot be seen as an optional extra. Everything that the club does needs to be done with safeguarding and 'risk' concerns very much to the fore. It's vital to remember that we aim to be inclusive club and indeed to look out for *all* members of TCC.

Secondly, the Clubmark 'Safe Hands Management System' has to be compliant by 31st March 2023. All those with roles in the club have to be on the system and need to be in possession of all relevant certificates.

Thirdly, the new ECB Anti-Discrimination Code needs to be adopted by TCC and written into the club's constitution. DH thereby suggested an amendment to the constitution. A new section 4.i. would be created and it would state that "The Club adopts and implements the ECB Anti-Discriminatory Code of Conduct". The change to the constitution was unanimously accepted.

Fourthly, there is a new course available for those interested in finding out more about safeguarding around young cricketers. The club is awaiting details of the link and as soon as it lands DH will send it to all members. The basic course lasts 30 minutes and is optional. It'd be good if as many people (captains, coaches, activators etc.) as possible could complete it.

Finally, VJ advised that the ECB have launched a new initiative called 'We Care'. It's available to all those involved in cricket and provides free access to mental and medical support. Members are requested to contact VJ or Sharon Eyers (Middlesex's safeguarding officer) to get the access code.

Items for Discussion

7. Membership Fees

- Proposal was accepted to keep annual subscriptions for all senior cricketers at £180.
- Proposal was accepted to keep annual subscriptions for all full-time students/the unwaged at £90.
- Proposal was accepted to keep annual subscriptions for senior female cricketers to £40. Membership for female students and the unwaged to be set at £20.
- Proposal was accepted to maintain social membership at £25.
- Junior Membership to remain £100 for the first junior in a family.
- Junior membership to remain £85 for any further junior in the family.
- All Stars' membership to be £80. £40 to the ECB and then £40 when they register for TCC via our website.
- Men's matchday fees
 - i. £15 (£8) for the nine first XI games that are played over 120 overs (i.e. including lunch and tea).
 - ii. £12 (£8) for all other Saturday (league and friendly) games plus MCCL games played on Sundays
 - iii. £5 for all players playing senior friendly cricket
 - iv. £5 for juniors playing a senior game of cricket
 - v. £5 (£3) for all midweek 2020 games.

8. Election of Officers – Nominations

- President – J. Varney

- Vice-Presidents - R. Joyce, A. Kay, D. King, B. Thorne, J. Richards, P. Johnson, D. Fabian, B. Dolton, G. Brennan, G. Sanchez, C. Messenger, C. Nunes.

Paul Johnson nominated five further members who he felt deserved to be made life-members. They were J. Bitmead, H. Dassani, D. Hough, P. McLoughlin and P. Parker.. The room unanimously agreed and all five are now vice-presidents of the club.

- Chairman – E. Berger
- Secretary – D. Hough
- Treasurer – P. Parker
- Club Captain – P. Johnson and C. Blunden
- Committee Members – Three officers plus club captains, facilities manager, junior section manager and women's XI rep.
- Fixtures' Secretary – P. Johnson

9. Election of Captains - Nominations

- Sat 1st XI – C. Nunes
- Sat 2nd XI – N. Vishvanath
- Sat 3rd XI – E. Berger & R. Bosier
- Sat 4th XI – H. Dassani
- Sat 5th XI – C. Wylde
- Development League Manager – TBC
- TCC Women's Captain – S. Knight

10. Any Other Business

A number of further bits of business were discussed. Oli George asked whether the Saturday 3rds will continue to play at Broom Road. Eugene Berger advised that the answer was 'yes', and that the club is investing in new equipment and indeed extra manpower to improve the playing surface there. The 3s and 4s will subsequently play at that venue, the 5s will continue to play at Molesey Hurst Park (all nine games have already been booked in).

Eugene Berger raised the issue of sponsors. The club is always open to new sponsors. Hedson are leaving us, as are Location Live. They have both come to an end of their respective agreements. Big Smoke, Laybuy, Hailwood, Stone Row Brewer are remaining.

Eugene Berger also raised the issue of bar staff. Ana Cavilla – who has been fantastic over the last few years – will not be working for TCC in 2023. She simply has too much on elsewhere. The club is looking for replacements. They will need to work on Fridays from 18h-22h and then Saturdays (longer hours, but definitely 18h-23h). EB asked members to please spread the word that these positions were up for grabs.

Liam Tebb asked if there has been any progress in terms of sourcing a new ground. Eugene Berger advised that the club were working alongside the ECB and Middlesex Cricket to try and locate another ground. Kneller Hall is an option, Heathfield Rec was an option until recently but is now looking unlikely. There is also talk of bringing in a non-turf wicket at Broom Road. This will help facilitate more cricket there. The fact that we need planning permission to lay the artificial wicket there is slowing things down somewhat.

Liam Tebb also asked about upgrading the nets on the Green. Would it be impossible to invest in new and improved batting cages as well as concertina nets? He reckoned this would cost around the £5K mark. EB and Phil Parker (as treasurer) were very much open to this. DH noted that Carlos

Nunes also very much recognised the problem and he was attempting to source outdoor nets at Tiffin School. This is something the new committee will carry forward as a matter of urgency.

Dom Thamby asked about recruiting a new coach for adult members of the club. There was an interesting discussion about this and it was agreed that EB would approach Don Manuwelge about possibly taking on this role.

Tony Bendelow (TB) advised that two boilers (the ones upstairs) were broken and effectively unrepairable. TB has been talking to the council about this but hasn't really got anywhere. It is going to cost around £9k to replace them. TB is also talking to Hampton Fuel Allotments to see if they can perhaps cover these costs. He'll advise as and when he has more information on this. Eugene Berger noted that this is actually an issue for the pavilion committee to take forward, TB was simply raising it here to make the room aware. Chris Wylde asked whether there were not government grants available to cover this stuff? EB advised that the answer was 'yes' but we'd need to conclude negotiations with the council concerning a new lease first.

Andy Donelan raised the issue of the showers at Broom Road. They were in poor condition and were in effect unusable. He asked if anything could be done. EB would investigate.

Nigel Gordon raised the issue of the roller. We need a new one, and it's going to cost £20K. The old one is getting on for 60 years old (!) so it has now most definitely run its time. The club has applied for an interest free loan from the ECB to cover the cost of this.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21h32

Dan Hough
TCC Secretary