

Kemsing CC AGM 20th February 2024
Sir Mark Collet Pavilion, 7:30
Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Colin Scarsi, Chris Gush, Gavin Barden, Amy Smit, Sascha McBride-Wise, Ian Wise, Grahame Wood, Jake Wood, Justin Best, Ben Cooper, Mark Cooper, Ryan Hayes, Charlie Hill, Elliott Smit, Will Barden, Hattie Barden, Hattie Williams, James Walkling, Andy Peng, Pierre Smit, Stuart Robinson, Tracey Hayes and Roger Shaddock.

1) Apologies:

Anand Venkataraman, Doug Parry and those who declined on Spond!

2) Minutes of AGM in 2023:

Accepted by those present.

3) Matters Arising:

The new sightscreen discussed and promised at the meeting was purchased before the 2023 season and used to good effect.

4) Annual Report:

Issued before the meeting.

5) Treasurer's Report:

Andy advised that for year ending 31/12/2023 Cash had increased by approximately £5K from last year, to £22K. The Social Secretaries made a profit of around £2300, double that of last year. Profit down due to the purchase of Colts kit and cost of having a professional Groundsman. Income from match fees reduced due to bad weather and more Colts playing adult cricket. After a review of the Club Officers' liability section of the Club insurance, carried out by a colleague of Colin Scarsi, we have increased the cover to £1million, costing around £80.

Colts' annual sub will be £100, comprising membership of £20 and £80 for the Summer activities. Adults will be paying an additional £5 (£40), Under 18s and concessions will pay £20, and Social Members also £20 (up from £10).

Match fees remain unchanged at £11/£6 for adults/others.

6) Men's Cricket Report:

James told us that the Saturday side had had a strong season, finishing 4th in Division 3 of the KCVL. The Woods have moved away and will not be playing league cricket for us, going forward, and we wish them well in Sheppey. We are looking forward to more Colts playing in the league side and it will be an interesting season! He also confirmed that Justin Best had accepted an invitation to be the Saturday Vice Captain.

Mark advised that the Sunday side had a decent season, with most players given the chance to bat or bowl most weeks, with the aim of providing enjoyable and inclusive social cricket – a very important aspect for all participants in Sunday cricket and the development of the youngsters.

7) Women's Cricket Report:

Hattie W spoke eloquently about the expansion of Softball cricket in Kent, with 27 clubs now involved in the league in 2024. The Belles finished 2nd in the 2023 league group, showing a massive improvement from 2022 and also getting better throughout 2023. Their improvement was commented on by other clubs!

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As well as the league, 2024 also brings a T20 Smash option, which will be a more dynamic competition, and will certainly be more challenging, but will give more players opportunities to be involved.

The ladies are also providing coaches/Activators to run the All Stars on Sunday mornings and hope to have some hardball sessions for existing and potential new players.

They have great hopes of more success this year!

8) Colts' Cricket Report:

Pierre advised the following:

We had 2 x U9 teams, 2 x U11s, 2 x U13s and one U15 team.

In 2023, the U9s won the Holmesdale festival, came 2nd in the Tunbridge Wells festival and 4th in the Kent Finals! Basically, a magnificent effort by the players and coaches.

In summary, the Colts had a very successful season all round! As a result of that, and the number of youngsters in the District squads, we will have teams in U11 and U13 Premier divisions and the U15s in the Championship division! Clearly, it will be a tough season, as we will be playing against the best in the area, so results are unlikely to be as good as in recent years, but the challenge should help to improve playing standards. We will have the same number of teams in 2024, as in the previous year.

Hopefully, a new U17 team will be entered into a league and a Sevenoaks Smash junior midweek competition later in the season?

We have created the new Spond Group for Juniors, with 78 joining so far and more expected. The old Spond group will be closed. This has enabled us to have membership forms completed, as required by the ECB. The Adult section will be going through the same process soon.

We are also very please to announce that six coaches will be taking the Foundation course this Spring, which gives us enough coaches to ensure our ratios are compliant!

9) Election of Officers:

All voted in as listed in the pre-AGM documents, though Jake Wood did ask for clarification of Pierre's new role of Cricket Manager. In addition, it is likely that Matthew Barden and Ryan Hayes will take on the role of Player Reps later in the year.

10) Any Other Business:

Gavin proposed a vote of thanks to Stuart, as he steps down as Chairman, which everyone heartily responded to.

Roger advised that the ECB "Get Set Weekend" is the 23rd and 24th March. He hopes that people will be available on the Saturday morning to assist with tidying the ground, etc?

Pierre advised that the Parish Council now have a new Chairman, so hopes the lease will be signed shortly!! Hopefully, this will be actioned in a timely manner and we might have nets built this year?

Pierre also suggested we invest in some mobile nets, which would cost around £2000.

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We need to get new quotes from the companies who have given them in the past, so we can update the funding stream admins. We will then know the amount we will have to raise.

Indoor nets have not been as well attended as last year. We need 16 each week to break even.

Ian "Bish" Bishop is back as groundsman and hoping for even better wickets than last year. Weather permitting!

The juniors want a fantasy cricket league, which might also be extended to adults. Details TBA...

Amy asked about the work to be carried out at the Pavilion. Basically, the downstairs room will be extended backwards and sideways into adjoining offices and the ladies squash changing room, all of which have been used for Bumble Bees' storage for years. This will create one big room, with new kitchen facilities. There will be increased storage built in, so the stuff in the changing rooms can be removed forever!! It will also provide a better function room for people to hire. This will be actioned before the season starts.

In addition, there is discussion about glassing in the veranda, to provide protection from the elements for the BBs and also anyone who wants to socialise there in the cold! A good idea in principle, but the awareness of how this will impinge on the cricketers has been almost completely ignored, along with the breakability of glass and how it will all be able to be manoeuvred and protected without occupying half of the veranda! Cost will also be an issue!

If there is any building work still going on at the end of April, Luddesdowne CC say we can switch the game on the 27th to their ground.

The electronic scoreboard will probably have to be resited and possibly the scorer?

Tracey asked if we have enough scorers, and Pierre advises there is a local girl who has expressed an interest. We could also have a rota for the youngsters?

Woody advised that when he was the Club Rep at the Pavilion Trustees meeting, many years ago, the glass was discussed then!

Pierre advised that we should be able to buy Colts' kit with names and numbers on this year.

Gav advised that we need more storage for the catering equipment, as we hope to sell more food, etc. We will investigate in March.

New Chairman, Colin Scarsi, brought the meeting to a close by telling everyone that he is very pleased to be the new Chairperson. One Club is important – Men, Women and Colts all together. The adults need to help to bring on the whenever relevant. The new nets are very important to the Club and we need to drive them through this year. His promise to us all, is that we will at least break ground this year, and he will answerable to that.

He thanked all for attending and a round of applause followed!

We finished at 8:30.

Roger Shaddock 7th March 2024