**Minutes of the Norfolk Seniors Cricket Club Annual General Meeting**

**Held by Zoom, hosted by The Chairman, Andy Gregory**

**Monday 23 November 2020 commencing at 19:00**

The meeting started at 19:00.

*Item 1*: The Chairman welcomed the 27 members and one guest who were present.

*Item 2*: Apologies were received from: Clive Adams, Colin Atkinson, Mark Campbell, Nobby Cobb, Shaun Fisher, Brett Gates, Chris Palmer, Sue Palmer, Adam Penton, Mark Spillett, Peter Coote, Ben Collinson, Trevor Shales & Carl Yallop.

*Item 3*: The Minutes of the 2019 AGM which were available for several months on <http://www.norfolk50ccc.co.uk/agms.html> were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

*Item 4*: The were no matters arising.

*Item 5*: No correspondence had been received.

*Item 6*

6.1 Chairman’s report

The Chairman, Andy Gregory gave his report, which follows:

“As we all know, it has been a difficult season due to Covid-19. However, we did get some cricket when it looked for quite a while that there would be no cricket at all. That we did eventually get some cricket was entirely down to the efforts of local organisers in the absence of any national leadership from either the o50 or the o60/70 competitions. Norfolk were involved in local discussions at 50s, 60s and 70s level and I am delighted to say that we eventually had mini-leagues for our 50s, 60s 1sts and 2nds and 70s. These all worked well and some good cricket was played at all levels.

The o50s were in a group with Essex, Suffolk and Cambs. They beat Suffolk and narrowly lost two other very tight games and generally had a very good season, with a new generation of players coming through. Both 60s teams were in groups with Suffolk, Cambs/ Hunts and Essex, and both won 1 and lost 3. Neither side was really at full strength, but both played some creditable cricket. The 70s were in a group with Herts, Beds, Leics, Lincs and they won 3 and lost 2, again a creditable performance. As these mini-competitions ran into September, they pushed out the Norfolk Seniors games we would usually have then, but our opponents understood this and are happy to play again next year.

The club is in good financial order. We have good reserves and we are ready to pay the bills which come at the start of next season. The club is in good administrative order and we have a few small proposed changes to the constitution which will ensure that it remains so. We have recruited well at o50s level, which is excellent for the future of the club

Looking to next season, we hope to be able to put out a 50s second team on a regular basis, building towards having a full set of fixtures for them. We hope too to have the Norfolk Seniors games, where we play as a mix of our 50s, 60s and 70s sides back. It would be wonderful if Covid-19 is completely out of the way for next season, but if not the club needs to be flexible and prepared to generate and take all the opportunities we can to play cricket.

Finally, some thanks to those who do unsung jobs which are critical to keeping the club running. To Nigel Crickmore and his band of umpires, to our regular scorers, Ted, Sue and Glen, to the clubs who hire out their grounds to us and to the NCB who provided us with valuable advice about Covid-19 protocols. Finally, a big vote of thanks to Chris Palmer, who was 60s 2nds captain and has been a great servant of the club over the years, who is now retiring from playing but will be still umpiring.”

6.2 Treasurer’s report

The Treasurer, Mike Banham, gave his report in the form of a balance sheet with recommendations, which is reproduced below:



The Treasurer proposed that annual subscriptions be placed in abeyance and that, instead, the subscription funds be collected as an additional component in the match fees.

The proposal was passed by 24 votes to 1.

6.3 Secretary’s report

The Secretary, Joe Perry, gave his report, which follows:

“The Secretary attended the Annual General Meeting of the National 60+ County Cricket Championship on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at Banbury CC. He pointed out to the meeting that the Minutes of the National Annual General meeting in 2018 were not acceptable, because there were several pieces of text that were not a true record of the meeting and which represented contentious claims against Martin Pearse inserted by the national Secretary, Barry Briscoe. After much discussion it was agreed that these would be removed. In addition, there was considerable disquiet that the Minutes of the EGM held in 2018 were also incorrect; it was agreed that these would be revised by Len Attard. For National O70s, Chris Swadkin (Kent) reported on arrangements to play Australia in 2020-21 and the selection process was outlined. The Secretary sent Chris Swadkin the bowling stats for the Norfolk O70s. The National Committee once again (as in 2018) placed the Norfolk O60s 2nd XI in a totally unsuitable group involving unacceptably long journeys. Despite continued and strong objections from Norfolk they appeared unwilling or unable to ameliorate the situation. This resulted in the Executive Committee losing confidence in the ability of the National Committee to provide fair and impartial decisions on matters involving our county.

Since our last Norfolk AGM, five Committee meetings took place, in February, July, later in July, September and November. All minutes are or will soon be on our Club website. The Secretary supported the election of Colin Croucher (Herts.) to be the Eastern Region representative.

For the 2020 season, 74 members (72 playing + 2 social) were registered. This shows a healthy increase from 2019 back to the levels in 2018, mainly due to the sterling efforts of Alan Lithins to recruit players for our O50s side. This year, since Covid-19 stopped the possibility of the usual Championship cricket, and since the National Committee took no action to arrange any alternatives, the Club arranged league matches with neighbouring counties, where possible.

Many thanks are due once again to Nobby Cobb for the extensive work he puts in, on a voluntary basis, to compile playing statistics and to collate members’ appearances.”

6.4 Fixture Secretary’s report

Not given

6.5 Media Secretary’s report

Not given

*Item 7*

The Captains’ reports for the four teams were as follows:

Alan Lithins for the Over 50s gave his report which follows:

“

A great year achieved by the group! I’m a proud Captain to say the least. We set out with a few objectives in mind and formulated a medium to long term plan with 2021 Championship in mind - All things being equal of course. Amidst Covid and its associated issues, we managed to achieve our main

objectives with time to spare.

1. Our playing numbers increased from approximately 17 to 36, who had either played before, new members or members who made themselves available this year. We had 9 regular members who did not make themselves available this year.

2. For the first time in many a year we did not have to ask a single member from the over 60 or over 70's group to fill in because of late call offs or lack of numbers - this was applicable for every single game this past season. We were oversubscribed for availability for every game. A testament to the commitment of

players in our age group who wanted to play.

3. Through the increase in players, the standard increased immeasurably .

4. We achieved winning success and could easily have finished runner up in our mini league had we managed to get over the line in 2 other matches. The pain still lives on but the desire is there.

5. We played 23 different combinations of members across the games we played, giving as many new members a taste and opportunity of what to look forward to in the future.

Although the cricket has finished, the work goes on behind the scenes to ensure we remain a focussed unit and one that wants to progress to better levels. The results of playing numbers and the enthusiasm of the group have resulted in us looking at ways of creating a second representative team going forward. We really do need to keep the interest at a high and not lose any players to the dreaded “I won’t get a game so I’m going to give up” scenario.

A personal note of thanks to Pat D, Chris B and Roger C for their support and guidance through this season. We’ve had many more ups than downs this season, which only augurs well for the future.

Watch this space!

”

Andy King for the O60s 1st XI gave his report, which follows:

“

At least we played some cricket and hopefully all those who participated enjoyed what cricket we did have. Thanks to local organisation we played in a mini-league against Essex, Suffolk and Cambs/Hunts giving us a minimum of 6 matches, with the offer of play-off games at the end of the season. Players from the previous year were canvassed as to their availability and with a number choosing not to take part this year, coupled with others who requested a minimal amount of travel, I decided to incorporate a number of O70s players into the group to ensure we fulfilled all our fixtures. Teams were chosen well in advance and geographically with the aim to give everyone at least 2 home and 2 away games at venues that did not involve too many hours in the car. Of the 6 scheduled fixtures, 2 were cancelled or abandoned and we had 2 very close games against Suffolk winning one and losing one. Both Essex and Cambs/Hunts were far too strong for us, electing to field their strongest possible teams, rather than my personal philosophy of giving everybody some cricket. This meant we finished 4th behind Suffolk by just one point and elected not to travel to Buckinghamshire which ended our season prematurely.

It was pleasing to see players like Doug Young, Ben Collinson and Mick Annear turn out for us and I feel sure they will be turning out for us again next season. Thanks to all the players and officials who were part of our group this year including Glen Cooke who filled in as our scorer due to Ted Searle’s unavailability. Thanks also to all at Old Buckenham and North Runcton who allowed us to use their lovely grounds.

“

Chris Palmer for the ‘Rebels’, the O60s 2nd XI, gave his report in advance, which follows:

“

Good evening all, it still hasn’t sunk in yet, that this will be the last time I do this, anyhow here goes.

If we are all honest I don’t think anyone thought we would get any cricket in 2020. Indeed, my playing and umpiring bags had been put back in hibernation. So when in June the government said we could recommence cricket with restrictions, I had visions of 8-a-side games with 20 overs per side. To read that full cricket would be played was a shock and I must thank Hertfordshire for putting an East of England competition together at short notice. Fixtures were sent out and grounds needed to be found for three home fixtures. With Old Buckenham being available for one, I was helped by “new boy” Nick Asker who managed to get us Garboldisham for the other two.

So cricket commenced in early August with a trip to Suffolk. Winning the toss, I decided to bat and another “newby” David Steele (43) opened with Geoff Roper putting on 56 in 12 overs before wickets started to fall and the run rate dropped, however we finished the innings with 162 in 40 overs, on a pitch where it wasn’t easy to score as the ball got softer. Suffolk started slowly and at the halfway point were 59 needing 103 from 20 overs. From this point of being in total control of the game we managed to lose by 8 wickets to the old enemy. Essex at Garboldisham were in a different class and won easily by 9 wkts with overs to spare. My knee was not helping and I handed over the reigns to Niel for the home game with Cambs/Hunts. Maybe I should have retired then as “Wynnie” oversaw a win by 50 runs. Essex away was washed out and Suffolk at Garboldisham did the double with “Ropes” batting through scoring 98, this was not helped by the skipper not being able to run so I apologise for Geoff not getting a ton. Needing to beat Cambs/Hunts away I thought it would be best for me to leave it to Niel, but despite some tight bowling defending 164, it was not to be and we lost by 9 wickets.

Coming last in the group meant an away fixture in the play offs and being drawn to go to Buckinghamshire, the decision was taken to concede and call an end to the season.

The batting was dominated yet again by Geoff Roper with 233 runs in five innings, and I was pleased with the efforts of David Steele, 96 in three innings, and Nick Asker with 108 in five innings. I hope they enjoyed their introduction to “Rebels” cricket. The bowlers all tried their best by we lacked any penetration. Dave LeMoir, Niel Wynn, and Carl Nicholls all took 4 wickets each and yet again “H” bowled with no luck whatsoever.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support over the last four seasons of my captaincy, and for all the nice words that I have received after announcing my FINAL retirement. Maybe you are just glad to get rid of me, however that will not be the case as I still intend to carry on my officiating duties. I believe that Martin has already contacted Nigel in respect to me officiating all Over 70’s matches for 2021?!

I wish my successor the best of luck, and hope you will all back him as you did me.

Thank you and goodbye.

Stay safe and healthy.

“

Geoff Saunders for the O70s gave his report, which follows:

“

To start with I would like to say a big thank you to: Paul Clayden for sponsoring us as well as attending some matches along with the Barmy Army; to Sue & Jasper for scoring; to the umpires who stood for our games; and a special mention to Mike (Mr Payne) who came along to most of our games home & away. Many thanks to Andy Broughton, my vice-captain. And to you, the players, thank you for supporting me at all times. There follows a brief report on each game played.

Game 1

v Hertfordshire at Mundford (LOST). The away side batted first. Their Skipper, Eric Riddle, batted well to reach a score of 93 before being lbw to Richie Davies. Norfolk were set a target of 229. Keith Daykin, guesting for the team, made 82 from 90 balls but was unable to find a partner so the innings finished on 175 for 9 wkts.

Game 2 v Bedfordshire at Mundford (POSTPONED) was a non-starter due to rain.

Game 3 v Leicestershire at Oakham (WON). Rain delayed the start so 35 overs was agreed per innings. Leicestershire batted first and made 99 for 8 wkts, David Lemoir taking 2 wkts for 8 runs. Norfolk won by 1 wkt scoring 100; Richard Taylor 16, Richie Davies 27 and Colin Jackson 21. Keith Daykin unfortunately received damage to his car in the car park with a cricket ball landing on his bonnet from Oakham net practice that began at the conclusion of our game The incident has been reported and is ongoing with both Oakham & Leicestershire 70s.

Game 4 v Lincs/Ridings at Ketton 40 over game (WON). Lincs batted first and got 157 for 5; J Mountain was not out 49. Norfolk won by 5 wkts scoring 159 in 36.4 overs; Martin Pearse 35, Richie Davies 77 not out and Johnathan Newell (playing his 1st 70’s game for Norfolk) 18.

Game 5 v Leiecestershire at Mundford 40 over game (LOST) Norfolk were diabolical to say the least, having 4 run outs in a total of 100. Skipper Saunders 27 & Richie Davies 26 were the only highlights of this match. Leicestershire won by 6 wkts in 35.1 overs The wicket was very indifferent to say the least.

Game 6 v Bedfordshire at Potton 40 over game (WON). Bedfordshire made 164 for 8 with Brian Ingram scoring 77; Richie Davies 4 wkts for 26 was the pick of the bowlers. Norfolk won by 9 wkts. Norfolk 165 for 1 in 36.2 overs It was good to see the top order batsmen put on a good show; Martin Pearse 62 not out, Colin Jackson 41 & Richie Davies 50 not out.

Game 7 v Hertfordshire at Hertford (POSTPONED). The match was called off on the day before it was due to be played after heavy rain had made the ground unplayable.

Summary of season: Played 5, Won 3, Lost 2.

Skippers Comments

It was good to get some cricket played in a difficult situation caused by Covid 19. I would like to thank all players who put playing cricket at the front and for playing all games in a sportsman-like manner (not forgetting the umpires & scorers who played their part in getting the matches played). A special thanks to Mundford CC (Robin & his staff) for use of their ground. Let’s now winter well and look forward to net practice (Taverham Hall booked for 2021 and Feb/March will soon be here), but above all Stay Safe and keep in touch.

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*Item 8. Election of Officers*

The only nominations to be received were as follows:

*Post Nomination Proposer Seconder*

President Peter Thomas Joe Perry Andy Gregory

Chair Andy Gregory Andy Broughton Mike Banham

Vice-Chair Geoff Saunders Joe Perry Andy Gregory

Secretary Joe Perry Andy Gregory Mike Banham

Treasurer Mike Banham Andy Gregory Andy Broughton

Media Secretary Andy Broughton Andy Gregory Mike Banham

Fixture Secretary Carl Yallop Andy Gregory Mike Banham

The 27 members present assented to those nominated being elected *en bloc*.

*Item 9. Suggested changes to the Club Constitution*

The Executive Committee proposed a number of changes to the Constitution of the Club, regarding: (i) general tidying of wording to promote coherence and deal with minor issues raised previously; (ii) small changes to the wording regarding Membership in rule 3; (iii) some changes to the ways in which Members pay for their membership of the club in rule 4. These proposals, and the reasons for them, were outlined in a document attached to an email of information circulated prior to the AGM.

For the purposes of rule 4(c), regarding games for the Club, it was clarified at the AGM that the trials game(s) usually held in April should be regarded as representative game(s) for the club. Each vote for the proposed changews in (i), (ii) and (iii) was passed unanimously.

*Item 10. Election of Honorary Life Members and Honorary Life Vice-Presidents*

The Executive Committee proposed both Chris Palmer and Sue Palmer for Honorary Life Membership and Paul Clayden for Honorary Life Vice-President. The reasons for these nominations were set out in a document attached to an email of AGM information. At the AGM all three proposals were pssed unanimously. The Chairman congratulated Chris, Sue and Paul on their well-deserved honours.

*Item 11. Captains for 2021*

The Executive Committee presented Members with their choice for Captains for 2020, three of whom continue unchanged from 2020:

Over 50s A. Lithins

Over 60s 1st XI A. King

Over 60s 2nd XI G. Roper

Over 70s G. Saunders

*12. Mandate for votes at the National 60+ County Cricket Championship Annual General Meeting, 25 November 2020*

Proposals for changes to the Championship Structure; Nominations for Officers and Committee of the National 60+ Championship; and proposals for changes Constitution, Competition Rules and Playing Regulations are given in documents attached to the email of AGM information, together with a spreadsheet listing the suggestions from the Executive Committee on how Norfolk should vote. The proposed suggestions mandating the Secretary on how hew should vote at the forthcoming National AGM were all carried unanimously.

*13. Other Business* *(To deal with any special matter which the Executive Committee desire to bring before the members & to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Executive Committee, but which shall not be the subject of discussion at the Annual General Meeting.)*

13.1 Proposed 100 Club draw

It was agreed that Geoff Saunders would go ahead with proposed plans under supervision of the Executive Committee. Geoff agreed to canvass members by email and then go ahead when appropriate.

13.2 Proposed Club Dinner 2021

This is booked for 22 October 2021 at Wensum Lodge; with thanks to Chris and Sue Palmer for organizing.

13.3 Alan Lithins brought up the issue of whether the proposed O50s 2nd XI would they get their own defibrilator. Currently we have three Club defibrilators, between the four teams: O70s, O60s 1st and O60s 2nd, and O50s. The Treasurer advised that funds were available to buy extra defibrillators. The need for training in the use of and checking the condition of defibrillators was stressed bu several members.

13.4 Colin Jackson felt it would be prudent to carry a record of medication to every match. In a sealed envelope. The Secretary agreed to draft a form and circulate it for players to fill in if they wished, which could then be placed in a sealed envelope and given to the Captain. It was noted that the Norfolk Cricket Board consider such medical issues for adults as important.

13.5 It was stressed that there are currently no plans for the ECB to take over O60s and O70s seniors cricket.

13.6 Those attending agreed that the Zoom format for the AGM, whilst less desirable than a physical meeting, had worked very well, that the procedure for voting had been successful, and thanks were due to the Chairman for hosting it so efficiently.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:03.

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Andy Gregory, Chairman 2020 ……………………………………………………... Date: ………………………………