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

**Held at Sprowston Cricket Club, Barkers Lane, Norwich NR7 8QZ**

**Monday 22 November 2021 commencing at 19:30**

The meeting started at 19:30.

*Item 1*: The Chairman welcomed the members who were present.

*Item 2*: Apologies were received from: Colin Atkinson, Chris Baines, Mark Campbell, Bryn Clarke, Ben Collinson, Nobby Cobb BEM, Ritchie Davies, Pat Dewing, Andy King, John Lund, Martin Pearse, Kevin Springall, Doug Young and Robin Yates.

*Item 3*: The Minutes of the 2020 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*: There 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:

“

It was great to play a full season of cricket again with fewer Covid restrictions! I am delighted to say that club membership has expanded from 72 to 101 this season. We were concerned that participation would drop after Covid, but we have flourished, particularly the o50s. In short, the club is in very good order with some interesting expansion projects for 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. Links to the NCB are strong.

We had a good playing season. The o50s 1sts had their best season for several years. We ran an o50s 2nd team which was competitive in all its fixtures. 60s 1sts, 60s 2nds and 70s all did reasonably well. I will come back to how we intend to strengthen the sides in moment. We also played a number of early and late season friendlies and again our sides acquitted themselves well.

Looking to next season, firstly the o50s second team will be entering the Southern Counties o50s 2nds competition. We will be putting out an o60s third team, with a similar ambition to the o50s 2nds last year. If it goes well, we will be looking for them to enter the national o60s 3rds competition in 2023.

 East Anglia Veteran Ladies are affiliating to us and will play as our o70s 2nd team in the national competition. The National Management Committee would not let them play as EAVL, insisting it was a County competition, so they have come to us. I am delighted we are able to welcome them and facilitate the development of the women’s game. If all goes well, one ambition is to have a 60s 4th team as an EAVL side.

We hope to have a President’s day game, where we will invite some players in their late 40s. We need to get to these players earlier and convince them of the joys of o50s cricket, before they wind their careers down and start committing to golf! We are re-arranging some of the committee jobs so we know have a media and recruitment secretary, though I would stress that recruitment is a collective responsibility.

We are aware that there are a significant number of players graduating from the 50s to the 60s next season and a significant number of players graduating from the 60s to the 70s. There is a need to manage that, to ensure there is a proper flow of players through the 3 60s sides and to ensure everyone gets some cricket. To that end, after the AGM there will be a captain’s meeting to discuss who plays where. I expect all our 60s and 70s sides to be stronger next year.

Finally, some thanks. Thanks to Carl Yallop and Andy Broughton, who are both stepping down from their committee posts this year after many years of service, and to Peter Thomas who is stepping down after three years as President. To Nigel Crickmore and his band of umpires, to our regular scorers, Ted, Sue and Glen, to Chris and Sue Palmer for organising the annual dinner, Nobby Cobb who enters the scorecards on play cricket, to the clubs who hire out their grounds to us and to the NCB who provided us with invaluable advice about Covid-19 protocols and other matters.

”

6.2 Treasurer’s report

The Treasurer, Mike Banham, gave his report, which follows:

“

We started with £2786 in the bank & finished with projected £3911. It was not my intention to increase our funds by as much but none of my contingencies were required.

• Estimated match fee around £13.70 but agreed with committee to set at £15 to make it easier for Captains to collect

• The match fees were split between fixed costs like Competition Entry, Insurance & Affiliation & match costs like Ball, Umpire, Scorer & Ground. These were estimated for collection over less games than we actually played, so we collected more fixed costs than expected.

• I allowed for a season truncated by another Lockdown

Currently I would plan to keep Match Fee around £15 & only finalise this when we have all items for 2022 taking account of the following:

• Possible increase in Fixed Costs

• Possible increase in cost of balls, especially if we get better balls than the current offering

• Possible, but unlikely increase in Umpire/Scorers expense’s

• Possible return of teas

The funds we currently have will be available to the committee for any projects

• Extra trophies for extra teams

• Extra Defibs for extra teams

• Etc

I made no comparison with 2020 as it was severely affected by lockdown.

Lastly, I would like a more positive response at End of May, Mid July & End September when I issue invoices for Match Fees. There are 6/7 serial offenders, who require serious chasing & I am thinking about an Asst Treasurer (Enforcer) to help me collect.

“

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 unanimously.

6.3 Secretary’s report

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

“

Despite Covid, Norfolk Seniors had a very successful season with as many matches played as in a typical non-covid season.

In the O50s 1st XI, the best bowling figures were:

Bowler Overs Mdn Wkt Run Ave Ecn Best Opponents

G.Taylor 33.0 5 7 140 20.00 4.24 9-2-4-37 Bedfordshire

R.Thaxter 51.5 5 7 253 36.14 4.88 6-2-2-14 Bedfordshire

and the best batting figures were:

Player Pld Inns N.O H.S Opponents Runs Ave 100 50 Dks

N.Irons 6 6 1 \*135 Cambridgeshire 291 58.20 1 1 1

In the O60s 1st XI, the best bowling figures were:

Bowler Overs Mdns Wkt Run Ave Econ Best Opponents

Shales 35.0 2 5 156 31.20 4.46 8-1-4-24 Essex

Spaxman 45.0 5 6 192 32.00 4.27 9-0-4-57 Bedfordshire

and the best batting figures were:

Player Pld Inn N.O H.S Opponents Runs Ave 100 50 Dks

Yates 11 11 3 \*102 Buckinhamshire 461 57.63 2 2

Lofthouse 12 10 4 \*57 Cambridgeshire 299 49.83 1

As always the Club is indebted to Nobby Cobb for his keepings of the averages and for his work on PlayCricket liaising on registrations with the national championships. We currently have 101 playing members registered. This is the most we have ever had, and much credit must go to Alan Lithins who has sought to expand the O50s membership greatly. We have 44 players between 49 and 59; 34 between 60 and 68; we have 23 who are 69 or over. For this reason, the Committee have decided that for the 2022 season we will put an O50s 2nd XI side into the Southern Counties Seniors Championship. In addition, the Committee believe we have enough players to run a combined O60s/O70s side to play friendlies. Details of a proposed O70s 2nd XI are given below.

Due to Covid, the 2020 National AGM could not be held in person. Rather than using Zoom it was was conducted by email, which was not optimal for transparency. However, again due to Covid, small groups were chosen for league fixtures, on a geographical basis, and Norfolk were happy with the groups into which our four teams were put, because these involved minimal travel, involving against other counties in East Anglia. The ECB stated that teas would not be reinstated. Most players seemed happy to continue bringing their own refreshments; David Lemoir has reminded me that personalised nutritional plans are most important to elite athletes such as those in the Norfolk seniors.

At the National 2020 AGM, Norfolk voted for Andrew Gallant for Chair and for Committee. There was a narrow win by 17 to 16 votes for the existing Chair, Clive Ricks, but Gallant was voted onto Committee. However, Ricks and the rest of the Committee immediately made it very difficult for Gallant to play a meaningful role on the Committee, and that situation has persisted all year, including a suspension for a minor offence outside the Constitution, which has still not been revoked. The northern counties once again rumbled with discontent, and threatened all sorts of action, but were conspicuous by their inaction. Norfolk’s stance was to consider supporting counties that requested support if the case was deemed good enough by our Committee but not to initiate any controversial actions ourselves. Colin Croucher (Herts) stood down as Eastern Group Chair and was replaced by Ken Jones (Suffolk). Norfolk have this year proposed Gallant for Secretary to replace Barry Briscoe who is standing down, and for the Committee. Chris Swadkin, current Vice-Chair has been proposed for Chair to replace Clive Ricks who is standing down. On the basis of some limited interactions, the Committee feel that he should be given the chance to draw a line under previous mismanagement, so have recommended that Norfolk vote for his proposal.

Our website now includes a data privacy policy. There have been five meeting of the Norfolk Seniors Committee this year; all minutes are on the website.

There was no seniors tournament in Malta during 2021 due to Covid, but Norfolk Seniors intend to send a team in 2022. The Club is indebted to Harold van Zanten for organising this.

Despite overtures from Norfolk Seniors, the Norfolk members of the Norfolk-Suffolk Over 75 Casuals organised by Mike Smith have decided that for the moment they do not wish to come under our aegis.

In May, Norfolk recommended the following players for International 60+ and 70+ squads:

Andy Gregory, Robin Yates, Peter Coote, Geoff Roper, John Lund , Randolph Lofthouse, Martin Pearse, Geoff Saunders.

We were saddened during this season to hear of the deaths of our former players Tony Reedman, Dave Etheridge and Evan Tuck. Also, of the passing of Nigel Ling of Yorkshire.

We held a most successful Club Dinner in October; our thanks to Chris and Sue Palmer for organising this. At the dinner, trophies were awarded as follows: Neil Irons (O50s player of the season), Robin Yates (O60s 1st XI player of the season), Bryn Clarke (O60s 2nd XI player of the season), Ritchie Davies (O70s player of the season), Alan Lithins (Clubman of the year).

In October we received a letter from Karen Elliott of the East Anglian Veteran Ladies CC, who are registered in Norfolk and play under the jurisdiction of the NCB. Some of the 200 EAVL players would like to play O70s cricket next year in the National Championship (ladies are allowed to play O70s from the age of 60). The proposal is that they would play as members of Norfolk Seniors CC as our O70s 2nd XI side, composed, where possible, entirely of lady members of our Club. This is fully in line with our commitment to support the ECB and NCB policies on equality, diversity and inclusion. The Norfolk Committee spent some time liaising with the National Management Committee over this and there is a need to change the National rules to allow this to happen, as there are onerous restrictions regarding players eligibility with regard to counties in their definition of a valid side. Chris Swadkin has agreed to look at this favourably and we await an official decision. In the meantime, the Committee recommends that the Club to go ahead with this planned initiative, and I am delighted that Karen is here to answer any questions you may have.

”

6.4 The Fixture Secretary’s report was unavailable.

6.5 The Media Secretary’s report was unavailable.

*Item 7*

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

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

“

Colleagues…

It is with absolute pleasure and pride that I submit my Captains report for the Over 50’s group for

the 2021 season

All goals and ideals were achieved…. and beyond.

The stats for all matches and players are available to see on play-cricket and in most instances do

not tell the full story of how far we have advanced or even how far we could have gone this past

season. I shall briefly enlighten you…

The Championship side

1. We improved our win rate from previous years and finished mid table. We are no longer the

“whipping boys” of the Championship.

2. 5 balls, 14 runs and 1 wicket stood in our way of 3 further wins which would have resulted

in the team qualifying for the knockout stages

3. Every County made a point of congratulating us on our improvement.

4. 16 players represented the Championship side this season - We, once again, were over

subscribed for availability for every game. Testimony to the enthusiasm and “want” by

most members. Every one of them contributed positively at some point and were worthy of

their selection

5. Noted exceptional performances include

- Neil irons maiden century against Cambs - 135\*

- Paul Reeve getting us over the line at Lincs with 96\*. We were dead and buried in

that game - or so LINCS thought anyway

- My oscar performance of “man being shot by sniper” against Leicestershire at

Matishall…

6. Many others I could mention but ultimately - Team game played by committed team

members.

The Friendly/2nd Xl side

1. The primary aim of this side was to establish enough interest to possibly enter a side in a

2nd XI championship for 2022

2. Objective achieved - with resounding success

3. Played 9 Won 6 Tied 1 (with a 6 off the last ball to tie - sorry Bish) and lost 2

4. Plenty of notable performances

Thaxter 6-15

Brown 5-59

J. Dismore 104\*

P. Free 95

R. Everitt 94

Lithins defecting to Lincs (and winning)

We help where we can …..

The good always comes with a tinge of bad and it was with saddened hearts that we lost Tony

Reedman this year. He was a long-standing team member who gave his all to the cause. Those

who knew him, will still miss him. A wakeup call to the frailties of life that can strike at any time.

The Future

The 1st XI Championship side with new leadership can only get better and better. Competition for

places suddenly becomes a new concept that we have not experienced in a while.

”

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

“

The season began promisingly and finished encouragingly but what went on in between was desperately disappointing.

After a narrow victory in our first game against Bedfordshire, we finished 14 short in a tight game against Essex, a game we looked like winning until the fall of late wickets.

Thereafter unavailability mainly through injury meant that we struggled to compete in most of the games and finished bottom of our group, illustrated by the fact that we fielded a team of 9 away to Hertfordshire.

We were indebted to Robin Yates, who contributed runs on a regular basis including a fine 98 at home to Essex as well as Mike Cusack, Mike Tooke and Randolph Lofthouse who all made runs throughout the group games.

Andy Gregory performed consistently well, week in and week out with the ball and there were good individual performances from John Spaxman and Trevor Shales who both took 4 wickets in one game.

But we just couldn’t compete in most games, which, given the fact that we topped the group 2 years earlier was most frustrating.

So we ended up in the playoffs away to Buckinghamshire, fielded a much stronger team, recovered from 9 for 3, with both Robin and Mike Cusack making hundreds, Clive Bennett took 4 wickets and we won comfortably.

Away to Hampshire proved a much stiffer test. Again we fielded a much stronger team, again Robin got 100 with Mike Cusack and Lofty also making runs, but we ended up 40 short despite a good performance.

After a number of years in the post, I have decided to stand down.

Many thanks to all the people who have supported me on and off the field over the years and it has been a privilege to have captained the team. There have been many highs as well some low points but the spirit in the team has always been good. But it is time to stand aside and let someone else oversee the bringing in of some younger players which needs to be encouraged.

“

Geoff Roper, for the O60s 2nd XI, gave his report, which follows:

“

Season 2021 was enjoyable. Thanks go to Neil Wynn as vice-captain and to Nick Asker as wicket keeper and for his liaison with Garboldisham for home matches. We won 5 and lost 4. We lost narrowly in the Vase. Especial thanks and congratulations to the fielders, much improved this season, and to Harold for his tireless bowling. What let us down was that too many batsmen got starts but did not finish. Thanks are due to Old Buckenham and Garboldisham ground officials. And to Chris Palmer for help in administration and with smoothing the transition to my captaincy.

“

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

“

Gentlemen, writing this report makes me realise that we all have been through a very difficult period, not only playing, but going through a period in history that has affected us all. We started off the season in such a way that I thought “it is going to be our season”, only to find, putting it mildly, that we lost our way .

Not that we stopped trying; just that we forgot our basics and failed to be a winning machine. Yes, myself included; I failed in my bowling/batting. However hard we all tried we could not get back to winning ways. Anyone who really knows me knew that I, like others, felt we were just going through the motions. Next season, if selected as your captain, I promise that it will not happen again. You all, like me, must regain our old ways and set standards that will bring the right results. Don’t take this personally; it’s just that as a unit we have to get back on track and show the opposition we mean business. I know we can all do it.

I must just mention that not everything is doom and gloom. On the playing side, Richie Davies was chosen as our O70s cricketer of the year (congratulations Richie you deserved this trophy). So Gents, will you be next season’s WINNER?

“

*Item 8. Honorary Life Membership*

Under item 3 of the Constitution, proposals for Honorary Life Membership must be voted on by the members at the AGM. The following three members were proposed by the Executive Committee: Nobby Cobb BEM, Andy Broughton and Carl Yallop. All three were elected to Honorary Life Membership unanimously.

*Item 9. Election of Officers*

The only nominations to be received were as follows:

*Post Nomination Proposer Seconder*

President Mervyn Mann Geoff Saunders Joe Perry

Chair Andy Gregory Alan Lithins Carl Yallop

Vice-Chair Ian Parkin Andy Broughton Carl Yallop

Secretary Joe Perry Andy Broughton Geoff Saunders

Treasurer Mike Banham Andy Gregory Carl Yallop

Media Secretary Alan Lithins Andy Broughton Carl Yallop

Fixture Secretary Andy King Andy Gregory Mike Banham

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

*Item 10. Suggested changes to the Club Constitution*

The Executive Committee proposed a number of changes to the Constitution of the Club, regarding: (1) President’s terms of reference; (2) Vice-Chair’s terms of reference; (3) Captains’ terms of reference and Selection Policy; (4) Media Secretary’s terms of reference; (5) Replacement of word ‘Chairman’, by ‘Chair’, throughout.

All proposals except one concerning selection policy were assented to *en bloc.* The proposed change regarding selection policy was “*that no age-eligible member should be selected in championship matches in any one week for more than one age group*”. It was discussed at length. David Lemoir, Alan Lithins and John Spaxman spoke strongly from the floor against the proposal. Mike Banham had sympathy with the aims of the proposal but could not recommend it to members. The proposal was defeated unanimously.

*Item 11. Captains for 2021*

11. Presentation of Captains for 2022 by the Executive Committee

Over 50s 1st XI N. Irons

Over 50s 2nd XI R. Carpenter

Over 60s 1st XI M. Cusack

Over 60s 2nd XI G. Roper

Over 70s 1st XI G. Saunders

Over 60s/70s Friendly XI M. Banham

Over 70s 2nd XI K. Elliott

It was noted that: (1) The large increase in the number of O50 players had necessitated the formation of an O50s 2nd XI which will play in the newly formed 50+ 2nd XI County Championship (not managed by ECB).

(2) The increase in the number of O60 and O70 players required another friendly side, in line with item 2(c) of the Constitution, “to facilitate as many people playing cricket over the age of 50 as possible.“ For this reason a new team had been formed the Over 60s/70s Friendly XI, to be known also as The Nomads.

(3) The Executive Committee had been in discussion with Karen Elliott, of the East Anglian Veteran Ladies CC, with a view to helping them join the O70s 2nd XI Championship. The Executive Committee proposed to form an O70s 2nd XI captained by Karen Elliott of EAVL. In time it was hoped that ladies’ cricket will expand within the Championship and that EAVL will more towards playing independently.

*Item 12. Mandate for votes at the National 60+ County Cricket Championship Annual General Meeting, Thursday 9 December 2021*

The proposals from counties for changes to the Championship Structure; for nominations for Officers and Committee of the National 60+ Championship; and for proposals for changes in the National Constitution, Competition Rules and Playing Regulations were discussed. Chris Palmer criticized strongly the proposal to change the rule on leg-side wides; the meeting agreed to mandate the Norfolk representative to oppose that. Andy Gregory, the Chair, disagreed strongly with the proposal to change the regulations regarding age to more proscriptive categories; the meeting agreed to mandate the Norfolk representative to oppose that.

*Item 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 The date and venue for the 2022 Annual Club Dinner were noted.

13.2 Initiatives for sponsorship suggested by Neil Irons and an advertising booklet would be discussed further by the Executive Committee.

13.3 The future of cricket teas would be discussed further by the Executive Committee.

13.4 The Secretary agreed to distribute the membership database to captains.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:15.

Signed as a true record of the proceedings:

Andy Gregory, Chairman 2022 ……………………………………………………... Date: ………………………………