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

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

**Monday 21 November 2022**

The meeting started at 19:33.

*Item 1*: The Chairman welcomed the 31 members who were present. The Chair called for silence to commemorate the passing of previous player Andy Luckhurst and Honorary Vice-President Paul Clayden. He informed members that Paul’s funeral would be at All Saints, Old Buckenham, Church Lane, at 11:30 on Tuesday 6 December.

*Item 2*: Apologies were received from: Nobby Cobb, Ritchie Davies, Kevin Denmark (NCB), Andy King, Alan Lithins and Doug Young.

*Item 3*: The Minutes of the 2021 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:

“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 and we are in good standing with all the competition organisers. Membership is up from 101 to 129.

We had a good playing season. The o50s 1sts had their best season for several years. The o50s 2nds played in a competition and did reasonably well. 60s 1sts, 60s 2nds, the 60s/70s friendly side and 70s all did reasonably well. We also played a number of early and late season friendlies and again our sides acquitted themselves well.

A few years ago the Committee set out a plan for the club envisaging adding a 50s 2nds playing competitively and a 60s/70s friendly side. We now have those the challenge for the club and committee in the next few years will be how to make those sides stronger.

Finally, some thanks. 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 several matters.

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6.2 Treasurer’s report

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

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In 2021 we started with £2786 in the bank & finished with projected £3911 – it was not my intention to increase our funds so much but all my contingencies were not required.

* We estimated match fees 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
* This season with the introduction of the Club Lottery supported by 93 of our 129 members, we absorbed some of last years surplus (nearly £1000) to reduce Match Fees to £10. Even if we maintain the new 2023 Lottery over 12 months, **we will need to increase match fees to £12** as we know Ground Fees are planned to increase to £60 & the extra income will go some way to covering Insurance & Competition entries without support of club funds. Also seeing National Committee increase tea contributions for the Away team & if teas are mandatory we will need to raise Match Fees further.

**Norfolk Seniors Accounts – 2022 Season**

Balance @2021 = 4811.77

In Out

Match Fees 5970

Grounds 1270

Umpire/Scorers 4200

Balls 944

Travel subsidy 459

Teas 123

Lottery 843.5

6813.50 6996

Competition Subs/Entry 361

Insurance 75 490.33

75 851.33

Dinner 990 971

Polo shirts 1110 1025.68

Indoors 715 378

Club expenses

Caps 540

Defib Batteries 516.59

Trophies 298.67

National AGM 63

Internet 43.16

Scorebooks 42.5

Sponsors/donations 59 25

Postage 20

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59 1548.92

Current balance = £2800 approx

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Stock in hand – Balls = 21+, Caps = 30, Scorebook = 1

Indoor nets added £337 to club funds although I have asked for more nets next year & O50 / O60 / O70 split to give members better session time.

I am not sure that we can on these estimates for 2023 maintain subsidy for Travel to long away venues at the National competition stage.

Amongst our club expenses, the Defib batteries will not reoccur for a few years & Caps in stock should cover 2023 requirements but Trophy keepsakes are amongst the expenses we need to cover annual & need to set aside £250 each year.

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 stated that a decision on exactly what level to fix match fees at would be taken when further information was available.

6.3 Secretary’s report

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

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Norfolk Seniors had another successful season – for the most part with minimal travel to away games. Membership continued to grow; we are now up to 129 players, another record increase of 28 from last year. Mainly this was an increase in the O50s membership. However, we are aware of several registered players who did not get a game this year, even including friendlies, and we should be careful to encourage these to take part where possible. As always, the Club is indebted to Nobby Cobb for his keeping of the averages and for his work on PlayCricket liaising on registrations with the national championships. Teas during 2022 were not reinstated; most players seemed happy with this.

This year we saw centuries and four-wicket hauls. For the O50s 1st XI, Saffy Hetherage scored 101 not out versus Cambridgeshire, and took 4 for 42 versus Huntingdonshire. For the O50s 2nd XI, Richard Everitt’s century was against Cambridgeshire and Andy Myhill’s 4 for 23 was against the same county. For the O60s 1st XI, Robin Yates scored 122 not out versus Hertfordshire and Andy Gregory took 4 for 23 versus Buckinghamshire. Bryn Clarke also scored a century. For the O60s 2nd XI there were three centurions: Geoff Roper (as usual!), Neil Wynn and Robin Konieczny, while Carl Nicholls took 4 for 34 against Suffolk. For the O70s Randolph Lofthouse’s massive 170 not out versus Bedfordshire was a club record, while Ian Parkin took 4 for 24 against the same opposition.

Nationally, the O50s 2nd XI got through to the Plate but lost to Oxfordshire; the O60s 1st XI got through to the Vase, but lost to Hampshire; the O70s got to the quarter finals of the Vase, losing to Gloucestershire. Norfolk was pleased with the operation of The National Management Committee under its new Chair, Chris Swadkin. Several players were assessed at international trials, although none was selected. The National AGM is in early December; Norfolk will continue to vote for proposals that limit excessive travel.

There were four meetings of the Committee this year; all minutes are on the website.

The Club is indebted to Harold van Zanten for organising the Norfolk trip to the Malta Cricket Festival.

We were dismayed during this season to hear of the deaths of our former player Andy Luckhurst and our Honorary Life Vice-President Paul Clayden. Paul’s presence as spectator at our games will be sadly missed.

We held another enjoyable Club Dinner in October; our thanks to Chris and Sue Palmer for organising this. However, due to the low turnout, its continuance in this form will be reviewed by the incoming Committee.

Later in this AGM we shall be awarding trophies as follows: Saffy Hetherage (O50s 1st XI player of the season); Mark Spillett (O50s 2nd XI player of the season); Robin Yates (O60s 1st XI player of the season), Robin Konieczny (O60s 2nd XI player of the season), Randolph Lofthouse (O70s player of the season), Mervyn Mann (Clubman of the year).

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6.4 Andy King, the Fixture Secretary’s report follows.

“The leagues fixtures for all teams pretty much took care of themselves with captains organising their own grounds. Thank you to those captains who copied me into their team sheets as there were occasions when I was asked for information about a particular fixture by the opposition.

The bulk of my time this season was spent trying to organise fixtures for the 060s 3rd XI / Nomads. In the end 6 fixtures were organised but only 3 were played. Matches had to be organised when either the 1sts or 2nds had a free week. Matches were played against Bucks and Kent at home and Berkshire away and were enjoyed by those who took part. However, it was highlighted with the cancellation of the match away to Leicestershire, due to lack of numbers, that we cannot yet consider league cricket at 3rd XI level. Fixtures, in my view, will have to continue to be organised when other teams do not have a game, or towards the end of a season when league fixtures have finished. The latter would enable us to play more counties locally.

Finally thank you to all clubs who made their grounds available for fixtures this season.

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6.5 Alan Lithins, the Media Secretary’s, report follows.

“A very quiet year on the social media front with both facebook and twitter having

predominantly informative posts. Any and all controversies were swiftly handled and ECB

protocols have been very well adhered to. Most posts on both platforms were for the most part informative, reporting on games being played along with team selections and details pertaining to those games. The respective Captains posted all information along with some match reports that we could

follow. My recruitment responsibilities were minimal with the Captains recruiting within their

groups and directing new members straight to the Secretary. Long may this format

continue as I believe it leaves the final decision making with the Captains as to how and

where the new players may fit into their playing sides. Reporting in the printed press was minimal , if at all, as social media has been our primary platform for distributing information. This may change in the future as we need to be all inclusive with our information. Not everyone is on social media or even the internet. As I said, a very quiet year on the media front. I will be stepping away from this position this year and wish you the best for the future.

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*Item 7*

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

7.1 Neil Irons, for the Over 50s 1st XI, gave his report which follows:

“

Recruitment went really well with some notable players making themselves available for the season ahead. My first year as 50’s captain looked in good stead. Indoor nets were rammed, one count 30+ players showing off their cricket abilities and knee braces!

Norfolk 50’s should be very proud of there achievements this season, not finishing bottom like so many years is now a distant memory.

We did however have one big issue going into a double game day where unfortunately 19 players were unavailable plus suspensions which led to a 1st team game being cancelled. With the support of the committee and Roger we still made sure the second team game went ahead.

To make two teams work at 50’s level the matches should be either played on different days or every other week giving everyone a chance. Having playing restrictions was another issue for those who don’t know if you play 4 or more 1st team games you can’t play for the 2’s! Getting 22 players out could and will be very difficult what with the countries increasing day to day the cost of living. Being a small county of just 98 clubs our recruitment could be better but of course players must be of a standard to compete not just take a place.

Thank you to everyone for their support over the season to say the least it’s been very eventful at times. Congrats to Sapumal Herathge who was named POY by his fellow players for his outstanding efforts with bat and ball despite saying in his first seniors’ game, I quote “I never knew these olds dudes could hit the ball that far” as it sailed over his head on what would have been a tight boundary catch if he hadn’t crept in 15 yards!!!”

Neil then announced that Saffy Herathge was the O50s 1st XI Player of the Year and the President Mervyn Mann presented him with his trophy.

7.2 Roger Carpenter, for the Over 50s 2nd XI, gave his report. Roger then announced that Mark Spillett was the O50s 2nd XI Player of the Year and the President Mervyn Mann presented him with his trophy.

7.3 Mike Cusack, for the Over 60s 1st XI, gave his report which follows:

“This season saw the 60s first team finish in a very respectable 4th place in what is always a tough group. We enjoyed good wins away at Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and at Suffolk we also had two very tight games against Suffolk and Essex where we were narrowly beaten.

Finishing fourth gave us a home tie in the vase against Hampshire. Unfortunately we did not turn up on the day and were well beaten. Hampshire went on to be beaten in the final.

Yet again Robin Yates finished top run scorer scoring over 600 hundred runs with 3 fifties and 3 hundreds. Like a vintage wine Robin gets better every year. Special mention to Bryn Clarke who scored his maiden 100 this season.

In the bowling Andy Gregory finished on top with 14 wickets.

My thanks go to the following people. Andy King for sorting out the grounds. To NACO for supplying umpires to all games. Finally warmest thanks to Glen Cooke our scorer. Glen makes the job of captaining that much easier by not just scoring but putting all the teams and results onto play cricket. Thanks also to Julie Humphrey’s for scoring when Glen was unavailable. Thanks also to Merv who was always there to listen to my moaning.

I tried at the beginning of the season to get the 60s to become more of a one club rather than two separate sides. Those who performed well in the twos should be given the opportunity to play in the 1st team and also those out of form should be able to play in the twos to try and regain some form. I think this has started with a number of last seasons 2nd team playing in the first team and performing well. Also guys not in the best of form have played in the twos. I would hope that both captains next year try to keep this going.

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Mike then announced that Robin Yates was the O60s 1st XI Player of the Year and the President Mervyn Mann presented him with his trophy.

7.4 Chris Palmer, for the O60s 2nd XI, gave his report. Chris then announced that Robin Konieczny was the O60s 2nd XI Player of the Year and the President Mervyn Mann presented him with his trophy.

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

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This season, with the superb weather, promised so much, but ended up being a ‘so near yet so far’ season regarding the results.

2022 will be remembered for our batsman/wicket keeper Randolph Lofthouse in our game v Bedfordshire at Ampthill. Bedfordshire had set us a formidable score to get of 299 in 45 overs. Lofty batted for 40.2 overs scoring 170 and setting a new club record in a winning innings of 299. He was ably supported by Richie Davies with 72. Yes Lofty, you have set the bar for the coming seasons !

As a team we finished 9th in the league from 21 (Matrix League style). We played 10 ; total 124 points; won 5, lost 4, cancelled 1.

Finally can I say thank you to all my fellow players, umpires, scorers and supporters for your support over the past years. Yes, as you may gather I have decided to stand down as captain. A new person at the helm will give the team new ambitions and opportunities. (May I ask you to give him your 100% support). Winter well, my fellow cricketers!

“

Geoff then announced that Randolph Lofthouse was the O70s Player of the Year and the President Mervyn Mann presented him with his trophy.

Each of the Captains thanked their respective scorers and NACO for supplying the umpires.

*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:

John Lund, Martin Pearse and Richard Taylor. 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 Joe Perry Mike Banham

Vice-Chair Geoff Saunders Ian Parkin Joe Perry

Secretary Joe Perry Mike Banham Geoff Saunders

Treasurer Mike Banham Mervyn Mann Andy Gregory

Fixture Secretary Andy King Joe Perry Mike Banham

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

The Chair pointed out that the post of Media Secretary was unfilled and canvassed the members for any interest.

*Item 10. Suggested changes to the Club Constitution*

The Executive Committee proposed a number of changes to the Constitution of the Club, regarding the definition of the Executive Committee and the Full Committee. These proposals, and the reasons for them, had been given in full, in documents attached to the email of AGM information. The Secretary and Chair outlined briefly the motivation for the proposed amendments. The proposed changes were passed unanimously.

*Item 11. Captains for 2021*

The Executive Committee’s choice for Captains for 2023 were presented to the members:

Over 50s 1st XI N. Irons

Over 50s 2nd XI R. Carpenter

Over 60s 1st XI G. Taylor

Over 60s 2nd XI C. Palmer

Over 70s 1st XI I. Parkin

Over 60s/70s Friendly XI M. Banham

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

The Chair suggested that decisions on how Norfolk should vote regarding the proposals for changes to the National 60+/70+ County Cricket Championship Constitution, Competition Rules and Playing Regulations be left with the Executive Committee. There were no dissentions.

*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.)*

13.1100 Club. The Secretary read a report on activities of the 100 Club written by Alan Lithins. James Kay added comments on the running of the 100 Club and urged members to purchase tickets in 2023.

13.2 Friendly in honour of Paul Clayden.Ian Parkin and Mike Banham reported that a friendly match in honour of our late Honorary Vice-President, Paul Clayden, between the O70s and the Norfolk and Suffolk O75 Casuals, would take place on 25 April 2023 at Old Buckenham CC.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:38.

Signed as a true record of the proceedings by Andy Gregory, Chairman 2022, on …