



Essex County Cricket Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held in the Woodland Group Pavilion Marquee, at The Cloudfm County Ground on Tuesday 9 April 2019

Present

Mr D L Acfield (President), Mr J L Faragher (Chairman), Essex County Cricket Club General Committee and 70 Members of the Club.

The President welcomed all to the meeting and asked the Chief Executive to confirm any apologies for absence.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from; Lord Alan Haselhurst, Mr John Parke, Mrs Kate Walters, Mr Neil Fowler, Mr Rod Greig, Mr Peter Saunders, Mr John Goodman, Mr Wasim Haq and Mr Andrew Kennedy.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 April 2018

The President asked if the minutes, which had been previously circulated, could be taken as read. The Members in attendance were in favour and the minutes were duly signed as a true record of the meeting.

The Chairman was then asked to present Item 3.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by sharing his sincere apologies for the administrative error regarding the ballot that was quickly resolved and the ballot papers reissued. It was confirmed that learning was taken from the experience to help improve the process going forward.

The Chairman paid tribute to a great Essex stalwart, Ken Preston, who passed away in 2019. Ken was born on the 22 August 1925 and made his debut for Essex in 1948 at the age of 22. Ken bowled at a brisk medium pace and in a 17 year career that lasted until 1964 he took 11,060 First Class wickets. As well as being a superb bowler, Ken was also an entertaining tail-end batsman and an outstanding slip fielder taking 350 catches during his career. A great name in Essex Cricket.

The Chairman recalled in 2016 stating that our plans as a Club were to win Division Two that year and having the dream of becoming County Champions the following season. The dream came true. Not only was the Championship won in style, we proved again in 2018 that by finishing third place and reaching the Royal London quarter finals, we thoroughly deserve our place in Division One. The final game of last season against Surrey at the Oval demonstrated the strength and entertainment value of good cricket and long may it continue.

In March, under the leadership of the new Head Coach, Anthony McGrath, we had a successful preseason trip to Barbados. This again provided the ideal opportunity for the players to come together after a winter where the vast majority had been playing in various locations around the world. We played good cricket against some strong sides in Barbados and although we lost the Champions match against a strong MCC side, the squad returned home energised and ready for the start of the season. It was evident from the outset that Anthony McGrath was the right man for the position of Head Coach. He brought a new dimension and energy into the game. Essex Cricket was in good hands. Under his outstanding leadership, along with Ryan ten Doeschate, the players and coaching staff have shown a passion and determination to win by believing and supporting each other they have pushed back the boundaries in our achievements.

The 2018 season saw some notable performances. We had centuries from Ryan ten Doeschate, Ravi Bopara, Dan Lawrence, Tom Westley and a maiden century from Simon Harmer, and Varun Chopra scoring one thousand runs in white ball cricket. Who could forget the impact that Murali Vijay had on the side, 323 runs from five innings at an average of 64. On the bowling front, Simon Harmer and Jamie Porter again led the way with great support from Peter Siddie during his seven games with us. During the season, caps were awarded to Varun Chopra and Simon Harmer. The Chairman reported that Simon Harmer, Ravi Bopara and Ryan ten Doeschate had signed extended contracts. Peter Siddie returned as our overseas player for the whole 2019 season and we welcome back Mohammad Amir and Adam Zampa for the T20 Blast competition. Also joining us for the first time is Cameron Delpoit. Anyone following the Australian Big Bash will have seen what an exciting player Cameron is, and we are sure the Essex supporters will give him a warm welcome when he arrives in Chelmsford. Not forgetting our own cricketing knight, Sir Alastair Cook who has returned to Essex for the whole season following his retirement from Test cricket. This combined with the continued emergence of talented young players through the Essex Academy will ensure that we continue to be the Club to beat in all formats of the game.

There is much to look forward to in 2019. In addition, we should not forget the outstanding performances of the other sides representing Essex Cricket. The Second XI reached the Championship finals, only for glory to be scuppered by the weather.

They were also runners up in the T20 competition. Congratulations were shared with Rishi Patel for scoring five Championship centuries. The Women's XI were promoted to Division 2 in the T20 competition and maintained Division Two status in the 50 Over competition. Mady Villiers was selected for the Surrey Stars in the Kia Super League. Our Ability team did us proud, the national Super 9s Incrediball Champions, semi-finalists in the hard ball competition where the match was tied and we unfortunately lost on the bowl out.

One of the keys to our success on the field is the involvement of our Cricket Advisory Group, under the Chairmanship of Ronnie Irani and supported by our President, David Afield, as well as Graham Gooch and Keith Fletcher. This talented group has worked tirelessly with Dan Feist, our Head of Cricket Operations, Barry Hyam, our Academy Director and Anthony McGrath in providing the help to ensure that our cricket is on a path of continuous improvement. Along with the work undertaken by John Childs and his team of scouts, we again demonstrate that by working together we can and will continue to punch above our weight.

This season has seen the emergence of several young players, Michael Pepper, Rishi Patel, Shane Snater and Jack Plom who have now been rewarded with their first professional contracts.

This year we saw the departure of Callum Taylor, Ashar Zaidi and Matt Dixon. During their time with Essex Cricket they have been excellent ambassadors for the game of cricket and particularly supportive of the Club. When not giving one hundred percent on the field, they were more than willing to give one hundred percent in support of our off-field activities, we wish them well for the future. Also 2018 saw the retirement of James Foster, without doubt one of the best wicket-keeper batsmen to play the game. His record for Essex, 18,000 runs, 1,076 catches and 155 stumpings shows why he is a legend in Essex Cricket. Add to that the fact that he is a very genuine and sincere guy and you can understand why he will be sorely missed, not only in Chelmsford but on the whole cricketing circuit. The Chairman was certain that cricket had not seen or heard the last of James Foster and looked forward to welcoming him back to the Club whenever his schedule permits.

On the financial front you will see in the Accounts that the Club made an operating loss of £376,000 in 2018. At the same time, our commercial revenues continued to grow and all our major sponsors have now signed extended contracts for this year. The Board sincerely thanked those sponsors and our supporters for their continued belief in and support of the Club. This financial support in combination with the new money coming into the game in 2020 from the broadcast deal secured by the ECB will help deliver a sustainable business model for the Club over the next five years. The Club has very strong financial foundations and is the envy of the vast majority of other First Class counties. The Treasurer would share more detail in his report shortly.

The Club has now embarked on the planning for the long-awaited ground redevelopment project. The previous project was terminated in April 2018 when it became obvious that the developer could not deliver both physically and financially on a programme that was acceptable to the Club. The Chairman committed throughout the whole process that the future of the Club would never be jeopardized and as frustrating as it has been for all concerned, it was the right thing to do. There is some good news to report and the Chief Executive would shortly bring the group up to date with the revised plans.

Much has been written about the new Hundred competition and its impact on the game. Over the past three years the Chairman has attended many ECB meetings where money has been a concern. Many counties, county board and clubs have struggled to survive. A few, like us have kept their heads above water but most have struggled. Investing to grow the game has been a challenge. Until now there was no way to address it as a game. With the new media agreement, we can do something. It is vital that all parts of the game not only deploy the resources to achieve objectives of participation, engagement and performance but also put the game onto a strong sustainable footing. Together with the other seventeen First Class Chairmen, we have a responsibility to ensure that the ECB spends the money wisely, failure to do so would mean possibility losing an opportunity that may not come again. The ECB need to give opportunities to the First Class counties and county boards to pay down debts, build revenue streams and reduce costs through prudent investment. We know this will not be possible overnight, the ECB does not receive all of the money until 1 January 2020 but we must ensure that by 2024 our clubs, our businesses and our counties are stable and sustainable. We must make a success of the new competition, it is vital for our financial sustainability and for the future of the game. We must ensure that the ECB itself is efficiently run and financially sustainable so that it can manage, on our behalf, the game in England and Wales whatever problems may come up in the cricket world or problems thrown at us by the global economy.

The Club is very involved in a number of working groups established by the ECB to ensure that the new competition is a success. In parallel, the Chairman advised that he continues to urge our case for a strong County Championship which we must have if Test cricket is to remain the pinnacle of the game. The forum sessions held throughout the season would continue to be used to keep Members fully briefed.

One of the major factors in our success both on and off the field has been the leadership of our Chief Executive, Derek Bowden. Under his guidance the Commercial team has again excelled, seeing our revenue streams exceed the very demanding budgets that were set for 2018. This team of proactive, positive thinking people continually push the boundaries with ideas. The darts night, the boxing night and Gala dinner were again a great success and are excellent examples of the passion shown by this group.



We continue to invest further into our IT functions to enhance the customer experience at the ground, for example in the areas of Essex Cricket TV and digital access which are vital if we are to keep pace with the major changes facing businesses today. Our Membership continues to grow, something that the majority of other counties are unable to report and thirty-five new Life Members represents a great effort by the Membership team.

The Chairman recognised the outstanding contribution of our Financial Director, Bernard Elliott and his team who in particularly difficult times have ensured that we do not live and operate beyond of our means.

The Club recognises that grass roots cricket and recreational cricket are a key element in the development of cricket and continue to work closely with Essex Cricket in the Community as it works hard in helping to develop new and improved facilities in the region, particularly in East London. Dan Feist is again to be congratulated on the development of this side of our business. Thanks must also go to Graham Childs and Stuart Kerrison and their respective teams for the preparation and maintenance of both the playing arena and the ground in general, often in very challenging conditions. We all assume that the outfield and the ground will always be ready for the start of every game without realising just what is involved in making cricket happen. They are vital cogs in keeping the wheels of Essex Cricket turning.

Preparations for the whole season are well on their way, the squad has recently returned from their very successful preseason training camp in Abu Dhabi. This proved an ideal opportunity for the Head Coach to put firmly in place his plans for 2019. The homegrown strategy is something that the Club will continue to support, not only because it is working but also because we believe it is in the best interests of the game in this country. The preseason training camp was also the time for our new Assistant Head Coach and Bowling Coach, Andre Nel, to become actively involved with the squad. Andre needs no introduction to Essex Members, his record during his time with us speaks for itself. We welcome Andre to Essex and wish him every success.

Unfortunately, the Hampshire game this year was a major disappointment and with the injury suffered by Adam Wheater we will have to revisit our plans going forward. On a positive front, the performances from Ravi Bopara, Simon Harmer and Alastair Cook certainly provide reasons for us to remain optimistic. One bad result does not mean we have suddenly become a poor side, we will learn from this game and move on.

The Chairman thanked all Members for their continued support for the past year, membership is the foundation of Essex County Cricket Club and long may it continue. 2017 and 2018 were special seasons. The Club is looking forward to the 2019 with a sense of anticipation and excitement, Essex Cricket is in a great place both on and off the field and are serious contenders in all three competitions this year. When we all come together as Team Essex, we can achieve what some believe to be impossible. We know we can do it again.

Finally, many thanks were extended to all those members of the Committee who had supported the Chairman this year and who give their time free of charge in serving the Club. It is forty years since Essex won their first trophy and during those forty years, we have won seventeen trophies, which is more than any other county. The Chairman shared his hopes for a successful 2019.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer began by advising that he would discuss 2018 as well as addressing 2019-2024 for the financial outlook looking forward. The Chairman had commented on the backdrop of a £376,000 operating loss, we are still operating within our means. The audit was completed by RSM, who are a very good and diligent company who have audited the Club for a number of years. Our Finance Director would call them very thorough and they understand the Club extremely well. The Club are a single currency ledger, we do not have multiple companies, we have a single product; cricket. The Report and Accounts were shared and it is a clean report with no significant items and no repeat items.

A subjective conversation had been concluded with the auditors around capitalisation. Following the investment in phase one of the ground development, some of the costs that were incurred were capitalised. The problem was noted that the first phase of development did not finish but was only partially completed. At that time, there was £250,000 in the balance sheet. The decision was made to take an impairment charge against that of £150,000 which will be "written off" as a one-off charge as capital items. More would be known at the end of 2019 regarding phase two of development and the reuse of any previous planning surveys and information from the architects. The Treasurer asked if anyone would be willing to propose the Report & Accounts.

The Income Expense Account (Profit & Loss) was discussed in comparison to the previous three years. In 2018, the Club made a total loss including taxation of £331,000. This was compared to a loss in 2017 of £49,000 and a profit in 2016 of £74,000. Three items were highlighted in the total loss for 2018, operating loss £376,000, loss on investments £86,000 and a corporation tax credit of £104,000. It was confirmed that the investment portfolio is run by James Hambro & Partners on the Club's behalf, having a total value of approximately £1.4 million. These investments obviously move around with stock markets and there had been a loss (roughly 6% of their value) in 2018, although this was countered by gains in both 2016 and 2017. The operating loss pattern across the three years showed a steady increase, but the Treasurer explained the reality of the figures must be considered in comparison. In 2016 the figure included £300,000 given to the Club by the ECB at the end of the year. This pay out did not happen



in 2017/18. In 2017 the Club won the County Championship and prize money was received of £158,000, which then distorts the comparative figures across 2016 and 2018. It was noted that if these factors were stripped out, the operating loss for the Club in each year was around £370,000-£376,000. The default model for the majority of counties across the country is a higher spend than money earned. The Club have reserves of £3.2 million, which have been built up from ECB money over the years. The Club are debt free at this point in time.

The Treasurer advised that all revenue lines for 2018 had gone up, unfortunately the costs had also risen. Membership net revenue was £363,000 (7% up on the previous year) and commercial income, predominantly sponsorship, was up 3%. It was noted that matchday revenue was up by 11.5%, predominantly resulting from corporate hospitality. The Treasurer confirmed that the Cricket Operations net spend for 2018 was £1,149,000 in comparison to the previous year's spend of £926,000. The impression that expenses have increased by 24% is not correct, as in 2017 there was an inclusion of £158,000 prize money. If stripped out, the cost line has increased by 6% only. The Treasurer confirmed that the only way to return to break even would be to reduce costs, specifically head count. The Club had taken the decision to be competitive on the field with a successful professional squad, accepting the cost of doing so.

For 2019 onwards, a profit had been budgeted for the year and for the next five years, although there would likely be no change to the operating costs. Towards the end of the year, the Club would be due to receive over £1 million from the ECB, meaning a surplus in 2019 of roughly £500,00 - £600,000. In 2020-2024, the Hundred competition would be introduced. There would not be a net increase in income of £1.3 million due to expected associated costs. The money in reserves will continue to be a buffer for operating costs as well as future investment. The Club's intention is to grow the income out of the current position by building stadium capacity on matchdays and non-matchdays, rather than cutting costs.

The Treasurer asked if there were any questions relating to this Item from the floor.

Q: Mr Gavin Rouse asked if the £600,000 in escrow had been received by the Club.

A: It was confirmed that it had been received plus interest.

Q: Mr Piyush Somaiya referred to the impairment loss of £150,000 and asked if it was part of the operating expenditure.

A: The Finance Director advised that the impairment loss was addressed within the "buildings" cost, as the asset itself is a building. The amount released from deferred income includes the amount written off so the net effect on the P&L was nil.

Q: Mr Piyush Somaiya queried how the 2018 total loss compared to other clubs.

A: The Treasurer commented on the huge number of variables across the finances of other clubs although it was noted that many other counties had approached the ECB for financial support. Some of this support had been in the form of advances against the £1.3 million from the Hundred competition and it was made clear that Essex had not needed to do so.

Q: Mr David Williams commented on the share capital and asked if it was reflected that there were 88 new Members.

A: The Finance Director confirmed this. There were 476 Members who did not renew as well as 664 new Members. The Treasurer advised that the head count included in the report was not full-time equivalents but any member of staff on the payroll during the year.

Adoption of Annual Report and Statement of Accounts

With no further questions on this Item, the Club's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, year ending 31 December 2018 was proposed by Mr Brian Springall and seconded by Mr Gavin Rouse.

Appointment of Auditors

The Treasurer confirmed that the decision was taken to remain with the current Auditor, therefore it was recommended that RSM UK Audit Limited be appointed as Auditors of Essex County Cricket Club. This was proposed by Mr Nigel Hilliard and seconded by Mr Piyush Somaiya.

RSM UK Audit Limited were duly appointed as the Club's Auditors.

5. Result of General Committee Ballot

The Chief Executive confirmed that six nominations had been received for three available spaces on the General Committee. Following a ballot of the Club's Membership, those elected for a further three-year term were; Mr John Faragher, Mr Mike Smith and Mr Wasim Haq.

Those not elected were; Mrs Kate Walters, Mr Peter Edwards and Mr Andrew Kennedy.

The Chief Executive shared his personal thanks to Mr Andrew Kennedy for his work on the Committee over the recent years.



6. Recommendation of Honorary Life Vice Presidents

Two nominations had been received for Mr Mark Pettini and Mr James Foster. With no objections, Mark Pettini and Mr James Foster were duly elected for these positions.

7. Ground Development update

The Chief Executive confirmed that the development agreement with MCD was terminated in April 2018 and the Club had been working with a number of different parties since that date to get new plans in place. The money held in escrow had been released back to the Club. The Club would continue working very closely with the City Council as well as a number of developers and contractors with a view to putting together an affordable plan for the Club. Some of the base criteria of the redevelopment plans remain so that the Club would not go into debt and would ensure that ground is an operational cricket ground as much as possible throughout the development.

The Club were working with the ECB and with their architects in a small working group to become an exemplar ground for a Category C cricket club, meaning the development would be smaller than originally envisaged and affordable, although able to generate the kind of revenues to help alleviate some of the financial problems faced. A detailed plan was expected in the next two to three months to identify the scale and scope of the redevelopment. The plans would be taken to the ECB to fund part of the development. It had been planned to commence work on the Rivergate entrance in the autumn of 2019, following a delay from the Environment Agency and Highways Agency in 2018. The new floodlights would be installed in 2019 as the current floodlights were noted as no longer fit for purpose in line with ECB / ICC minimum standards for international cricket. It was expected, depending on the scale of the redevelopment, to start work across the whole ground in the winter of 2020 for a sustainable, state of the art and realistically sized cricket ground. The Chief Executive asked if there were any questions relating to this item.

Q: It was asked if the plan for the redevelopment was available to be shared.

A: The Chief Executive advised that the plan was not yet available but meetings with the developer, surveyors and a small team of Committee members had commenced. Drawings were expected in the coming weeks which would be costed to confirm the work would be within budget. A presentation to the ECB on 1 June 2019 was proposed for approval of their funding.

Q: Mr Jeremy Lucas asked if the draft plans would be made available for Members to view and share comments.

A: The Chief Executive advised that the Executive Board had not discussed sharing the draft plans but thought there would be no issue with doing so once broad approval from the ECB regarding affordability had been secured.

Q: Mr Tony Holland queried if the money from the ECB would be shared via loan or grant.

A: The Chief executive advised that a loan or grant were both possible.

Q: Mr Mark Wallis asked for further information on the Rivergate work and access out of the ground.

A: The Chief Executive confirmed that the work would improve the egress from the ground into the park. The path would be widened and ability access would be available. This would potentially help to increase the ground capacity to above 8,000 in future years.

Q: It was asked what main areas of improvement would be within the redevelopment.

A: The Chief Executive confirmed that the Pavilion and Premier Suite would be improved. There would be a possibility of creating a multistorey carpark, which would be reviewed with the City Council. The player facilities within the Pavilion would be improved as they require upgrading and could be extended. The staff offices could be moved out towards the Cricket Centre. The Members area of the Pavilion would be freshened up.

It was advised that the Premier Suite could potentially be demolished and rebuilt or refurbished. The plans were described as a modest expansion on the footprint that exists.

Q: It was asked if the changes would allow "low key" international matches to be hosted.

A: The Chief Executive advised that Chelmsford would not be likely to host due to the number of other grounds with the desired facilities for international matches. The Club would continue to host warm up games, England Women's cricket and the possibility of Women's Hundred competition matches.

Q: Mr Matthew Tokely asked if 11,000 – 12,000 were not a realistic number for T20 match capacity.

A: The Chief Executive shared his doubt for a much higher capacity than the tickets currently sold. It was felt that on a Friday night T20, 6,000 – 7,000 would be the maximum. The cost of redeveloping the ground to accommodate up to 15,000 seats would be huge.

With no further questions regarding this Item, the President thanked the Chief Executive for the update and moved on to Item 8.



8. Any Other Business

The Chairman announced that the recipient of the 2019 Bernard Stimpson Award was Aaron Beard, in recognition of his notable representation of Essex County Cricket Club throughout the year. Aaron Beard accepted his award and thanked the Committee and Membership.

The President then asked for any other questions from the floor.

Q: Mr Keith Plaister asked if any player selected in the Hundred competition would then have their salary honoured by the related franchise.

A: The Chairman confirmed that a compensation payment would be received by the Club and players drafted into the Hundred competition. It was clarified that compensation would also apply if the coach were selected.

Q: Mr Charles Sturton asked if the £1.3 million funding relating to the Hundred competition was guaranteed from the Broadcaster or if it would be dependent on crowds.

A: The Chairman advised that the funding was guaranteed to the Club across each year of the five year deal.

Q: Mr Mike Constable asked when the fixture spread for next year would be available what matches could potentially take place whilst the Hundred competition would be taking place.

A: The Chief Executive answered that the detailed fixtures would not be known for around six months but the shape of the schedule would mean that the 50 Over competition would likely run at the same time as the Hundred competition. It was noted that the T20 Blast competition could be divided into two, with the qualifying rounds being played prior to the Hundred competition, then the finals of the T20 Blast after. The Club would continue to advocate for the T20 Blast competition to be kept whole to avoid overcomplication.

The Chief Executive explained that within the Hundred competition draft programme, there would be a wild card draft so any players who had performed very well during the qualifying rounds of the T20 Blast would have the opportunity to play in one of the Hundred competition teams.

The Chief Executive advised that the £1.3 million figure was a gross number rather than net as the Club would expect to lose income from attendances and sponsorship deals on the basis that the game of cricket is not the same as it was when those arrangements were made.

The Chairman confirmed that Test cricket would be played at the same time as the Hundred competition.

Q: Mr Nigel Baylem asked if there was a possibility of the Hundred competition having an effect on the use of Castle Park out ground.

A: The Chief Executive noted that an opportunity, depending on how the season would be structured, for the 50 Over competition to be played at out grounds could be considered although it was not a necessity. He advised that those counties hosting the Hundred competition would likely have to play the 50 Over competition at out grounds. The use of out grounds would be considered within the basis of the strategy for the Club.

Q: Mr Mark Wallace asked if the 50 Over competition would be longer in structure (more games) to compensate for any matches played at out grounds rather than at The Cloudfm County Ground.

A: The Chief Executive advised that the structure would be considered, as potential use of out grounds would be good for the game but may not be good for the profitability of the Club. The impact could potentially be offset by any Women's Hundred competition matches played at the ground.

Q: It was asked if the Chairmen, Chief Executives and ECB agreed on uses for the £1.3 million funding coming into the clubs.

A: The Chairman advised that opinions were split as the ECB would need to distribute the broadcast funding to all counties over five years, whilst focusing on taking debt out of the game. The Chairman confirmed he would continue to press the ECB to evenly distribute the funds, without favouring the bigger venues as well as those counties tackling debt. The Club had put a case forward for improvement plans and would present on 1 June 2019 to the ECB.

It was confirmed that all aspects of the game would benefit from the broadcast money coming in. The next five year period would be critical to the game and the Club.

The Treasurer commented on the pitfall of expanding spending once the extra money coming into the game had been received. It should not be viewed as additional money that may not be repeated beyond 2024 and therefore only used for capital investment, generating additional income and sustainability.

Q: Mr Piyush Somaiya shared his disappointment that the Club would not be planning towards hosting ODI and Test cricket at the ground in the future.

A: The Chairman confirmed that the Club had discussed numerous times with the ECB and it was clear that there was no opportunity for international cricket due to the proximity to Lord's and the Oval. There was no demand for extra facilities in the



area and requirements for future international arenas were extensive. For the Club to build a comparable stadium would not be financially viable and the ECB would withdraw support if that route was followed. Essex have an ideal opportunity to make the facilities the best non-Test match ground in the country, with keen support and commitment from the ECB to become an exemplar Category C ground.

The Chief Executive advised that Women's international cricket would be held at the ground and was continuing to grow as a game.

Q: Mr Kevin Mansell asked if the Membership base long term strategy included focus on the potential support base in East London and developing schemes for any subsidised transport to the ground to encourage interaction with Championship cricket.

A: The Treasurer confirmed that the ECB's budget for the next five years included a substantial investment in the development of cricket at grass roots level and recreational level, outside of the £1.3 million funding due to be shared with counties. The ECB would expect counties like Essex to deliver activities and cricket in the community by utilising these specific additional funds.

The Chief Executive explained that the Club had been heavily involved in the redevelopment of the Leyton ground, as well as work within East London.

The Chairman of Essex Cricket in the Community, Mr Philip George, confirmed the appearance and penetration of the Club in East London as very positive. The redevelopment of the Leyton hub had been so productive, not just for cricket but for the whole local area, because it would now be a centre for the community.

Q: Mr Nigel Chapman asked if the posts of Colin Graves and Tom Harrison within the ECB were elected, if so when they would be up for renewal and if Essex would support them.

A: The Chairman clarified that Tom Harrison was employed by the ECB as Chief Executive. Colin Graves was elected and would be up for renewal next year, when he would choose to stand again or not. There would be a process through the Nominations Committee at the ECB for possible candidates for the position. The Club's support would be dependent on the candidates.

The Hundred competition was discussed and the Chairman reiterated that now the competition would be coming in, counties would need to support it. Essex Cricket would continue to improve cricket through the funding opportunities that the competition would provide.

Q: It was noted that the funding would not be as substantial as originally perceived due to impact on other revenues within the Club.

A: The Chairman confirmed that the impact on revenues was a concern but the full repercussions were not yet known. The Club would give the Hundred competition the best support in hopes of success for the good of the game. There being no further business, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and wished the Club an enjoyable season ahead.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Derek Bowden
Chief Executive
Essex Cricket






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