

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held at the County Ground 23rd March 2018

1. The Club Chaplain, David Chawner, reported that he had travelled with the team to Barbados and was pleased to report how complimentary the hotel staff had been about the team's behaviour. He then led a minutes silence to remember those supporters, past players & staff who have passed away in the last year.
2. Apologies for absence – apologies were received from Godfrey Hammon, Dr. Barry Monk, Alan Robinson, Linda Fisher, Alex Tebbit, Richard Chalcraft, Richard Ledger, John Whiting, Alex Johnson, David Johnson, Matthew Engel, Peter Wilson and Christine Wilson.
3. The minutes of the AGM 30th March 2017 were agreed & signed as a true record.
4. The Chairman, Gavin Warren, thanked all those for attending and showed a slide showing the club's management structure and detailing the composition of the various sub-committees that advise the Board, he introduced the Board Members to the audience. He then introduced Andrew Radd, the Club Archivist to detail his work on heritage. Andrew Radd stated he was pleased to announce he was working to involve the club in the County Cricket Heritage Forum – this is an informal body whose objective is to protect cricket heritage – primarily County Cricket heritage. Andrew was also pleased to announce that the club had agreed to initiate a "Hall of Fame" in order to honour past players and past non-players who had provided distinguished service to the club. He announced that the first 12 members have been selected and this will be announced on the first day's play of the Warwickshire fixture (April 20th). Supporters can then select a further 3 members to be announced at the End of Season dinner. Thereafter members will be added as appropriate. Gavin Warren then reviewed the club's current position. The club had recorded a significant profit last year and was in a much stronger financial situation. In 3 years there had been a significant turnaround in the club's finances and this had enabled the club to invest in the facilities, the re-laid outfield for instance, and to invest in the playing and coaching staff. He stated that this was only a platform from which the club needed to continue to develop future projects to keep the club moving forward. Gavin then introduced Ray Payne, the club CEO and thanked him for his contribution.
5. Ray Payne thanked the supporters for their support; attendances were up, Season Ticket sales were up and hospitality was sold out. He announced that he had complimentary tickets available for the Middlesex CC fixture at Lords; supporters could apply for these at the end of the evening. He emphasised that it was only through achieving a good financial performance that the club could invest in the playing & coaching staff. He confirmed the new catering arrangements with Tom Hower Catering and stated that, although it was at a very early stage, the initial signs were promising.
6. Tim Robinson then summarised the previous year's financial results in more detail. He produced slides showing the historic movement in figures highlighting the change in emphasis in the ECB MOU towards capital investment. Last year's result had been slightly better than budgeted and the main contributing factors were an increase in sponsorship and a successful concert supported by tight control of overheads and playing costs. He then provided an overview of the clubs funding position. He emphasised that no assets had been sold, half the County Council loan had been repaid and the Borough Council loan had not

been utilised. The share issue by the Holding company had raised £1.2m – £925k had been lent interest free to the club which had enabled it to repay the loan secured on the pub and the additional benefactor loans.

A further £1m was expected from the ECB which would enable the club to repay the remaining council loan.

He then went on to review the prospects for the coming year – a small profit was budgeted as the club had decided to invest more in the playing & coaching budgets to ensure the club remained competitive on the pitch. At the end of February the club were slightly ahead of budget in terms of profitability & cash flow.

In response to questions from the floor Tim confirmed there was still no confirmation of the new ECB MOU and that only one of the sky boxes was now being utilised – these had been constructed at the ECB's insistence.

7. David Ripley, Head Coach, then reviewed the playing staff situation.
He thanked everybody for their support – supporters, the board and the captain.
He noted that last season's failure to gain promotion was particularly galling but that was in the past and everybody was now focused on the coming season.
He noted that David Sales introduction as coach was having a positive impact and that there had been a reorganisation of the coaching staff – Kevin Innes had become Academy Director which had enabled Phil Rowe to concentrate on assisting with the first team, bowling coaching and the 2nd eleven. Emphasis was on identifying a path into the academy and then upwards from there.
David reported that Luke Procter and Brett Hutton were settling in well and would provide competition for places. Ricardo Vasconcelos was a gamble worth taking in view of the recommendations received. Doug Bracewell would fill the overseas position for the start of the season with Rory Kleinveldt returning for white ball and Seekkuge Prasanna joining for the T20. Work was being done to identify a "death" bowler to replace Azharullah.
David felt the players were very fit and the Barbados trip had been very beneficial; the coaching was now concentrating on preparing for English conditions.
In response to questions from the audience David confirmed that Tom Sole was still on the playing staff, Graham White was making slow progress following shoulder surgery, Ricardo was a Kolpak player, Richard Levi was returning and that Ben Duckett was training well and was expected fit for early May.
8. Ray Payne proceeded to outline the process for the election of a board member to NCCC Holdings to represent the season ticket holders and life members.
Nominations need to be submitted by 20th April, these needed to be seconded and there would be an email vote in May. Keith Riddle has offered to assist in the administer this.
Gavin Warren emphasised that the person elected needed to be totally independent from the cricket club board.
9. In closing the meeting, Lord Naseby stated he was proud to represent the club.
He thanked Gavin Warren for his contribution, not only to the club, but for his heavy involvement with the ECB. He thanked Ray Payne for the club being operated so well. He thanked David Ripley for the growth in stature of the playing staff. He thanked Alex Wakely for his contribution to all levels of cricket at the club. He thanked Nigel Felton for his assistance with the new outfield. Finally he stated he was looking forward to the first game and was looking forward to seeing everybody there, restating his gratitude to the supporters for their continued support.