

Minutes of Thatcham Town Cricket Club AGM Friday 26th November 2021

To be Approved by Members at November 2022 AGM

ATTENDEES: Iain Cottingham, Ian Redmond, Simon Lewis, Nick Bishop, Paul Hemming, Perry Moore, Frank Bird, Rhys Williams, Dominic Melville, Jack Young, Colin Young, Eddie Wylie, Tim Mahoney, Nick Cornish, Andy Stephenson, Mick Stone

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Chris Bird, Ben Denton Powell, Jamie Young, Tom Mahoney

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM, held on Monday 7^{th} December 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

No matters arising

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Previously TTCC annual accounts have been prepared on a "cash" basis i.e., the income and expenses shown were simply what had been received and paid out during the year regardless of when income arose, or expenses were incurred. This year ending 31st October 2021 they have been prepared on an "accruals" basis i.e., income that arose during the year has been shown even if not actually cash has been received by the year end and expenses incurred have been included even though not paid during the year. The primary reason for the change is due to the successful Business Interruption Insurance claim, see note iii) below. These amounts are reflected in the Balance Sheet as Debtors & Prepayments and Creditors & Accruals respectively. In addition, accruals accounting more accurately reflect the matching commitments, activity and results for the year.
- As with last year, we find ourselves in a position where our bottom line (net profit) and retained earnings (amount we can spend) are far greater than they have been historically. This is despite the considerable impact of C-19 on our income, particularly on our principal revenue source, the bar. However, we should not and indeed cannot be complacent in the light of this.
- Our financial results are skewed because of the amounts we have received in C-19 business hospitality support grants (£18,808). In addition, we have, this year, received £13,043 in settlement of our C-19 Business Interruption Hiscox insurance claim.
- Without these two sums and payment holidays received from The Town Council (rent), Sky (TV) and West Berks Council (business rates) our financial position would, of course, be drastically different and we would not have the money in the bank we currently have!
 - IR confirmed that no payments are due following the various payment holidays received. An agreement was reached with The Town Council to repay approx. £590 upon receipt of the Business Interruption Insurance Claim.

- To that extent the grants and insurance settlement over the past two years have done what they were designed to do see us through what has been an extremely difficult period and leave us in a position to carry the club forward for the benefit of the community.
- These "one-off" payments will not arise again, and our challenge is to ensure that we do not drain our "relatively healthy" cash reserves too quickly thus placing the club in a perilous financial position.
- Since the 31st October the monies on hand have already reduced to £27,600 from the £40,049 shown in the balance sheet. This is partly because expenses have had to be met whilst income is extremely low but principally because we have just paid for the replacement roller (£9,114).
- The bar performed better this year than last, due to C-19 restrictions being eased during the year. However, the £15,341 taken is still very considerably less than the £39,000 turnover during 2018-19, the last full year pre C-19. This demonstrates the extent of the impact of the pandemic on our principal revenue source.
- Subscriptions and match fees are also up from last year but that will be because we have had a
 full season this year whereas last was only a half season. We continued with the system of
 paying match fees directly into the club bank account and generally this worked well. It avoids
 cash handling, reconciling, and banking and provides an audit trail to enable better monitoring
 and reconciliation in the event of disputes.
- Somewhat disappointingly there was over £1,000 of subscriptions and match fees outstanding 31st October, which had to be chased. That has since been reduced to £310 for match fees as reflected in the Prepayments and Debtors. I would ask that, where possible, match fees are transferred on the day of the game or the following day and that when making payment the date of the game and team is shown. This will help reconciling payments and avoid having to spend time chasing.
- Payment of subscriptions was generally good although there are still several outstanding that will be pursued. As with match fees it is only fair that everybody pays – and the club also needs the money!
- Historically we have very much lived from hand to mouth, fluctuating between small profits and
 the occasional small loss with limited monies in the bank. Somewhat perversely C-19 has put
 us in the position of having a sizeable amount of money in the bank. However, as already
 mentioned I don't believe that we can relax but rather we should take this opportunity to look
 at how we can build on the c-19 funds and not see these dissipate.
- It is difficult, at present, to see us returning next year to the level of bar income we enjoyed pre-covid but even if we did, I think that we would still struggle to break even. The gap between the cost of putting on cricket (ground, machinery, balls etc) and running the clubhouse (electricity, insurance, rent/rates etc) and the monies received from match fees and subscriptions is in the region of £20,000. That is the profit made on the bar for the last precovid year so even a return straightaway to that situation would only see us perhaps break even. That is assuming, of course, that we don't incur any unexpected costs, which is often the case.
- A more realistic scenario is that, without some action, we are unlikely to see our income from the bar return to pre-covid levels next year and there is a projected likelihood that we will incur a loss of £7k.
- A loss would, of course be funded from the bank. In order to prevent this, we need to look at both income and expenses.
- I'm not sure there is a great deal of scope to reduce expenses significantly and we need therefore to explore how we can increase our income. In addition to the bar and associated social events the areas open to us are subscriptions, match fees and sponsorship.
- I appreciate that I am not being as upbeat as might be expected given the comparatively healthy
 situation in which we currently find ourselves. However, I feel that we are at a crossroads where
 we can either take our collective feet off the pedal as we have money in the bank or use that
 situation as an incentive to build as we, hopefully, come fully out of covid and get back to some
 sort of normality.
- It has already become apparent how quickly the money is being spent simply merely to keep us where we are and unless we appreciate that and act on it the money will soon be gone.
- The cost of running the club, both on and off the field, is high and we need to work to ensure our retained income is sufficient to meet these and maintain adequate reserves in the bank.

THAT CHAM TOWN CINIONET	CLUB - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS			-
INCOME	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Budge 2021-22
Bar				
Bar Takings - Cash	20.050	5,188	822	
Bar Takings - Casti	30,059 8,937	6,109	14,519	21,300
Dai Takings - Izettie (INLT)	0,937	0,109	14,519	21,300
Clubhouse/Utilities			_	
Clubhouse/Ground Hire	605	620	560	_
Social Events	3,218	1,872	-	1,000
BBQ	1,194	-	-	1,100
Awards Night	610	-	-	-
Playing				
Subscriptions & Match Fees	11,674	7,735	11,934	12,000
Gift Aid repayments - HMRC	810	839	1,392	70
Teas	45	-	117	-
Winter Net Fees	430	400	-	-
Thames Valley League refund	100	75	-	-
All Stars	-	-	338	30
Other			_	
Bank Account Interest	6		2	_
Bank Account interest	6	8		_
TOTAL TURNOVER	57,687	22,845	29,685	36,40
			_	
Fund Raising	- 4 400	4 745	45 400	_
The Good Exchange - Fund Raising	4,196	4,745	15,400	
C-19 Business Support Grant		10,000	18,808	-
Sport England C-19 Grant		4,300	13,043	-
Hiscox Business Interruption Claim	1 450	-	250	2 00
Sponsorship Donation	1,450 500	500	250 279	3,00
Other Fund-raising	34	173		
Other Fullu-Laising	34	1/3	19	_
TOTAL FUNDRAISING & GRANTS	6,180	19,718	47,858	3,000
TOTAL INCOME	63,867	42,563	77,543	39,40

THATCHAM TOWN CRICKET CLUB - ANNUAL ACCOUNTS							
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Budget			
EXPENDITURE COSTS				2021-22			
Bar							
Beer Purchases (QLP)	10,475	4,514	4,988	5,325			
Other bar Stock	7,522	-	3,966	5,325			
Izettle card fees	199	84	8	-			
Clubhouse/Utilities	-						
Bar Running Cost incl EPOS purchase	176	1,640	328	583			
Bar Staff Wage			1,090	1,000			
BBQ	898	-	-	825			
Social Events	1,100	531	15	500			
Awards Night Food	600	-	56	-			
Electricity & phone	3,065	2,165	1,492	2,125			
Insurance	3,559	3,763	4,102	4,491			
Rent, Rates & Water	3,960	3,315	3,708	4,364			
TV Licence	154	157	159	160			
Sky	2,467	1,265	1,195	2,520			
Biffa	1,571	1,257	1,493	1,800			
Cleaning Supplies	219	217	-	240			
Clubhouse Maintenance	73	1,623	858	900			
Kitchen Supplies	72	3	-	120			
Bar Licence	180	191	180	200			
New appliances & alarm	447	-	1,361	480			
Fire extinguishers	124	-	-	-			
Playing	-						
League Entry Fees, Balls & Fines	1,740	1,030	1,247	1,500			
Pitch Hire	911	415	687	960			
Winter Nets- seniors	720	720	-	-			
Teas Fun Day	110	-	105	105			
Coaching (2019 cost funded by TGE)	2,575	450	47	-			
Umpires	810	360	850	900			
Equipment (First Aid Kits & scorebooks)	154	-	115	100			
Trophies & Medals	221	393	195	-			
Club Cricket Conference	99	99	87	87			
Training and Warm-Up Equipment			1,702	-			
First Aid			859	200			

Ground	-			
Machinery Maintenance & Repair	3,165	1,288	1,618	2,135
Pitch & Ground Maintenance	6,840	5,939	7,350	8,000
General Maintenance	2,594	2,541	4,097	1,255
New net mats & Refurbishment	3,360	-	-	-
New LED Electronic Scoreboard & Shutte -		-	9,462	-
Replacement Roller			9,500	-
New benches	1,000	-	-	-
Other	-			
Website support & broadband	161	125	125	125
Membership Cards		124	11	-
Roof repairs	-	-	-	-
Good Exchange Service Fees		-	745	-
Good Exchange - paid in		-	2,118	-
Zoom Fees		-	138	69
Accountancy Fee - Hiscox Bl Claim			250	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	61,320	34,209	66,305	46,393
	-			
NET PROFIT/LOSS	2,548	8,354	11,238	(6,993)
RETAINED EARNINGS	9,128	17,482	28,720	21,726

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Review of 2021

- The club now includes over 150 paid and life members plus sponsors, a move in the right direction but still an opportunity to expand, especially regarding sponsorship numbers and income.
- The ongoing C-19 lockdown restrictions continue to impact bar revenue and it's uncertain
 whether the bar will ever return to the revenues seen pre-lockdown. Without grants and funding
 we would have been in a dire financial positions so we must continue to look at all possible
 revenue streams.
- It was great to get back to a full season of cricket with the new sponsored kit proving a huge hit. Thanks to Simon Lewis and Nick Bishop for their efforts in pushing this project through.
- The return of girls' cricket (thanks to Kelvin Prescott) is a great bonus for the club and numbers continue to grow.
- Investment in club infrastructure and equipment purchases (water hog, alarm system, scoreboard / shutters etc.) were made, continuing the ongoing improvement of facilities.
- A huge thank you to the Wednesday club for the considerable time and effort put in over the year. This is invaluable in allowing the club to operate and provides considerable financial savings. It is important that the membership recognise the work being done and vital that a succession plan is put in place to ensure this crucial work continues.
- Thanks to the fellow committee members, the President and all those who've helped over the year. Thanks to Simon Lewis for his work with the colts.

Moving Forward

- The number one priority is the financial well-being of the club and plans to increase revenue and reduce costs must be put in place. The club currently has just 3 external sponsors and a new officer is required to approach local businesses and attract more corporate engagement.
- Increase bar revenue through social events, a new officer is again required to take pressure off the committee to organise these activities.
- Re-launch the Friday colts' nights to maximise income (bar, bbq).
- Reduce costs, for example, the monthly Sky subscription (around £215 / month).

Long Term

Project Rainbow

- Stage 5 of the Thatcham Flood Alleviation Plan is considering the feasibility of a flood basin on the Memorial playing field, including a gulley running across the top of Brownsfield. The Memorial Hall trust are keen to return the field to its original use providing sport for the community.
- The current proposal is to take this opportunity to redevelop the Memorial playing fields into a multi-purpose community hub for sport, leisure and recreation including cricket pitch, junior football pitches, tennis and athletics facilities.
- The proposal includes new multi-purpose changing facilities with further opportunities (new pavilion? Indoor nets?) open for discussion. With many parties involved, the club needs to ensure it is central to all discussions and ongoing governance.
- The project needs to be sustainable and self-funding but offers a huge opportunity for the club to secure its long-term future.

CRICKET MANAGERS REPORT

We continued to feel the effects of the COVID pandemic in 2021 with winter nets not allowed but at least the season started on time, even if it was without teas. We continued with net booking and attendance at practice continued to be well supported and there was a continued feeling of enthusiasm around the club. The return of promotion and relegation brought mixed emotions on the last Saturday of the season where all 3 sides had something to play for.

Brownsfield enjoyed the new addition of the electronic scoreboard which was in place for the start of our pre-season fixtures and was literally brilliant! All sides enjoyed decent weather for our pre-season fixtures although this did change for the start of the league season with the first weekend being a washout.

The club also hosted Berkshire 1st XI in their Marlborough Cup match against Wiltshire – Berkshire won a rain-affected match on DLS – so it was good that we had the new scoreboard.

It was particularly pleasing to see the continued progression of the club's younger players into senior cricket with representation and important contributions coming from the juniors across all 3 teams. We also saw a return of Sunday cricket with friendly development fixtures against Falkland and East Woodhay. These proved to be a great success giving some of our younger players an opportunity to play with some more experienced cricketers on decent pitches and we have plans for a fuller fixture list in 2021.

Friday night Junior training did operate as normally as possible within the COVID restrictions, but it is fair to say that the impact of not being able to run an indoor bar or a BBQ has been a set-back with many new parents not having experienced what a "normal" Friday looks like.

The Family Fun Day was also a great success with overseas winners for the first time. Well done to Gilly and his team for a well-deserved success on the day.

1St XI Highlights

A disappointing end to the season saw the 1st XI relegated after finishing 8th in Division 2b. With 5 weeks to go, we were sitting relatively comfortably in 5th place and on course for a top half finish. Then in week 14, we were bowled out for 35 away to Wokingham and despite nearly winning that match having Wokingham 6-6, the defeat was the first of a run of 5 consecutive defeats in the last 5 matches. In most other years, finishing 8th would mean safety but not this year. Losing twice to Fleet (who finished in 7th), once to Kidmore End and seeing Hurst block out for a draw were perhaps the key results.

Ryan Gilmour topped the batting averages – scoring 432 runs at an average of 43.2 – passing 50 3 times with a high score of 91. It was also the way in which he scored those runs – his 72 not out at Bagshot will live long in the memory. Jack Young was the leading run score with 443 runs including a high score of 124. Peter Spriggs had a good year with 336 runs at an average of 37.3 and a high score of 98 not out. Tom Mahoney and Steve Bartholomew chipped in with useful contributions although their availability was limited during the season by injury. Rhys Williams would surely have registered a first league ton had he not been run out like a dog on 90 by the skipper at Binfield.

Chris Bird once again was the leading bowler – with 45 wickets at an average of 12.3 – including 3 5-wicket hauls. Chris was ably supported by Nick Bishop who took 30 wickets at 18.4. including a best of 5-53. Ryan Gilmore was always threatening and deserved more than his 19 wickets while Odhinn Moore impressed greatly in his debut season in the 1sts leading the attack with skill and a maturity beyond his years.

Although two of the senior players led the way with the ball, it was hugely encouraging to see 5 under 18s feature in the 1st XI this season – Odhinn, Harvey MacKay, Ed Horsfield, Ollie Thorne and Harley Sheridan-Hawkins which shows the development in our colts is paying dividends. We will be looking for these players to make an impact next year as we look to bounce straight back into Division 2.

2nd XI Highlights

A great season resulting in promotion, the 2nds rose to 2nd in week 9 and thereafter were never out of the promotion spots including 4 weeks at the top of the table until the penultimate week of the season when we narrowly lost a thrilling title-decider away to Henley despite great performances from Alex Wood and Jona Spriggs.

Paul Hemming and Eddie Wylie formed an experienced middle-order and performed consistently throughout the year. Eddie was the leading run scorer with 320 runs at an average of 26.7 including 2 half-centuries. The star performer with the bat was Gregor Wells who scored 229 runs in 5 matches at an average of 57.25 – passing 50 3 times – I'm told it was beautiful to watch. Perhaps the highlight of the season was Matt Taylor's unbeaten 107 on the final league afternoon to celebrate promotion in style.

Mike Green topped the bowling averages with 20 wickets at a miserly average of 7.05. Paul Hemming was leading wicket-taker with 23 wickets while Olly Thorne had an impressive season taking 19 wickets. There were also 5-wicket hauls for Ben Denton-Powell and Harley Sheridan-Hawkins.

Olly Thorne continued his development into a really consistent seamer, and it was also great to see Harley Sheridan-Hawkins break into the 2nds and perform with both bat and ball.

3rd XI Highlights

The 3rd XI finished 5th in Division 8a and secured safety with a final Saturday win over Bracknell, in a year that saw 5 teams relegated. Credit goes to Perry Moore and the entire squad for the fight and spirit which saw them rise from 9th to 5th over the final 6 league games.

Satheesh Krishnan was the leading run scorer with 305 runs at an average of 21.8 – passing 50 twice. Joe Harwood was not far behind with 294 runs including 3 half-centuries. Will Sharp contributed strongly (when he wasn't called up to the 2s) with 2 half-centuries and an average of 43.50. There was also a half-century for Jamie Elliot and a final day 140 by me.

There were some great bowling contributions – particularly by the youngsters with Joseph Foley being the leading wicket-taker with 12 wickets at an average of 17.2. Sam Dillaway broke into the 3rds this year too and took 10 wickets at an average of 20.8, include a best of 5-29. The young lads were backed up by Jack Steadman and Elliot Denton-Powell chipping in with 10 wickets each. Overall, the season represented a great team effort, well led by Perry with a great blend of youth and experience. It was good to see the break-through performances of Sam and Joseph but also Nick MacKay and Benedict Robinson showing promise as all-rounders. On the experienced front Satheesh and the Harwood brothers were well backed up by the return of Ravi Mirchandani and Nathan Redmond. It was a great feat to avoid relegation and the squad is well placed to build next year.

Wednesday & Sunday Cricket

The Wednesday Midweek League team had another good year under new leadership of Ben Denton-Powell, finishing 3rd in a strong Division 1 of the Downs League.

Sunday cricket saw a welcome return this summer with more Development matches which gave an opportunity for some of the younger players to perform in a non-competitive format, to take leading roles and learn from different situations and experienced players.

We will look to continue this in 2021 as well as joining a newly-formed Berkshire Sunday Development League – the Berkshire Blast – which will be played in coloured kit and should be great fun.

Junior Cricket

At the younger ages, numbers were excellent with the Under 9s and Under 11s full to capacity and enjoying reasonable results in a full league season programme. At Under 13s, numbers were a bit thinner and with patchy availability due to school commitments and COVID isolation, it became necessary to withdraw from the league and instead a number of friendly fixtures were organised. With only 5 players in the Under 15 age group we did not run a team this year but instead ran an under 17 team for the first time for a number of years. This proved quite successful with some great performances and results and a lot of fun. Overall, all age groups enjoyed playing in the new coloured kit.

The girls teams began to get off the ground with increased numbers and teams entered the softball leagues at Under 11 and Under 15. We also hosted our first girls festival at Brownsfield this summer where the Under 11s put on a great performance to finish second.

We also ran an All Stars programme for the first time. This is an ECB initiative aimed at beginners aged 5-8 to be introduced to the game. We had a group of 17 boys and girls, coached by Eddie and Rhodri – this gives us another recruitment tool plus a chance to identify talent early for our under 9s.

Thank You

- All our Sponsors in particular to Q-Associates for their generous support which helped to launch the new kit.
- Coaches Eddie, Liam and Barty for another amazing U9 year. Also, to Matt Taylor and Ben Denton-Powell for their great work with the U13s and to Chris Rochfort for his help with the Under 17 / Under 19 nets the lads really enjoyed the challenge of bowling at him especially the financial incentive on offer if they got him out. Russell Davidson and Andy Robinson for their help with the Under 11s along with Rhodri for his help with the Under 11s and supporting Eddie with All Stars. Finally, but by no means least to Kelvin Prescott and his helpers for the brilliant work with the growing girls squad.
- Nick Bishop for continuing to manage the net booking system.
- Grounds Team brilliantly led by Andy Stephenson, continuing to provide good match and practice facilities for the seniors and juniors and to Hoggie for keeping the outfield nice and short.
- Chris Bird for getting the outdoor bar up and running again to help keep the social side of the game going in a COVID-secure environment.
- Parents for ferrying their children to and from cricket matches and practice and especially to those who volunteered to help with scoring etc.

SUBSCRIPTIONS & MATCH FEES

- Subscriptions currently set at:
 - Seniors: £15 + £80 voluntary donation
 - Juniors / concessions: £15 + £30 voluntary donation (Juniors reduced for additional siblings)
 - Social: £10 + £5 voluntary donation
- Match fees currently set at:
 - Seniors: £8 (Sat reduced from £12 during lockdown due to cancellation of teas) £5 (Weds / Sun) – reduced from £12 due to no teas during lockdown.
 - Juniors / concessions: £5 for all senior cricket

- The provision of teas is no longer required in TVCL matches and unlikely to return in any TTCC matches.
- The Chairman noted the relatively low cost to players considering the actual cost to provide cricket for the members with the last subs increase implemented three years previously.
- Proposal (1) from D. Melville (seconded M Stone)
- Seniors: £20 + £80 voluntary donation
- Juniors: £20 + £30 voluntary donation (reduced for additional siblings)
- Social: £10 + £5 voluntary donation

NOT CARRIED

- Proposal (2) from N. Bishop (seconded P Moore)
- Seniors: £20 + £80 voluntary donation
- Juniors: £20 + £30 voluntary donation (reduced for additional siblings)
- Social: £15 + £5 voluntary donation

PASSED

 Proposal from R Williams (seconded P Hemming) to increase to match fees to £10 for Saturday, with all other fees remaining at current levels.

PASSED

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Chairman Iain Cottingham (nominated I Redmond, seconded E Wylie). Re-elected.
- Vice Chairman Jamie Young (nominated I Cottingham, seconded E Wylie) Re-elected.
- Treasurer Ian Redmond (nominated I Cottingham, seconded S Lewis). Re-elected.
- Secretary Chris Bird (nominated I Cottingham, seconded P Moore). Re-elected
- 1st XI Captain Jack Young (nominated E Wylie, seconded P Hemming). Re-elected
- 2nd XI Captain Paul Hemming (nominated I Cottingham, seconded E Wylie). Re-elected
- 3rd XI Captain Perry Moore (nominated D Melville, seconded P Hemming). Re-elected
- Sunday XI Olly Thorne (nominated N Bishop, seconded D Melville). Elected
- Weds XI Rhys Williams (nominated S Lewis, seconded E Wylie). Elected

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Iain Cottingham the Trustees have requested that a reserve fund be established and ringfenced to protect the club from any potential financial emergencies and that this provision is included within the club constitution.
- Iain Cottingham proposal that players who have paid their subscription have preference in selection over those that haven't and that this provision is included within the club constitution.
- Iain Cottingham proposal that the club will refuse to 'sign off' the transfer of any player owing subscriptions or match fees and that this provision is included within the club constitution.
- Once finalised by the Management Committee, an EGM will be called to vote on the proposed constitutional changes.
 - Discussion from the floor over whether these should be constitutional matters or simply club policy and whether selection criteria was previously included within the constitution. Management Committee to discuss further and ensure members are fully informed prior to vote.
- Dominic Melville could a formal announcement be made congratulating the winners, particularly of the main Club awards, from the recent Club Presentation evening. Iain Cottingham confirmed that the social media manager would be contacted.
- Nick Cornish has anything been planned for a commemorative plaque for Graham Tillen to be placed on the scorebox? Confirmed that this had not happened, Nick agreed to take on the project.

- Frank Bird asked if Simon Lewis could clarify his position regarding the management of the colts' section for 2022. Simon confirmed that he will be unable to commit as much time as previously and will work with the committee to create a structure that best suits all parties.
- Mick Stone happy to take on the BBQ for Friday night colts' sessions. Looking for any support / suggestions to make this a success.

Meeting started: 7:00pm Meeting closed: 9:37pm