



HORNCHURCH ATHLETIC CRICKET CLUB

Hylands Park, Osborne Road, Hornchurch, RM11 1EX



Hornchurch Athletic Cricket Club AGM

Friday 2nd December 2022

Minutes and actions

The meeting commenced at 19:31.

Attendees: 22 attendees - Chris Martin (Chair), John Hutchison, James Collier, John McGhee, Keith Turner, Andy Little, Spencer Duke, Louis Parr, Paul Humphries, Chris Humphries, Mike Owers, Stuart Presland, Neil Roe, Gareth Broad, Steve Hammond, Shaz Rehman, Omar Rehman, Cameron Little, Steve Hunt, Sushant Kapur, Saj Ahmed, Laurence Weeks.

Due to the Club Secretary role being vacant at the time of the meeting, the election of this position was carried out at the start of the meeting. James Collier was proposed by Andy little and seconded by Spencer Duke. **Vote passed.** James Collier undertook Club Secretary role with immediate effect.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Stuart Whitaker, Steve Richards, Neil Hutchison, Kai Hatton, Mark Taylor, Chris Jones.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

These were not available at the time of the meeting.

3. Chairman's report

Chris Martin shared his chairman's report. Main points to note were how the club continues to be a success, but it needs everyone to do their bit to help across all areas.

A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

4. Treasurer's report

Laurence Weeks noted that he would primarily be focussing on the cricket club accounts for the year ended 30th September 2022 but will reference the wider sports club accounts as necessary.

Ended the year with a surplus of £903, which was a good outcome. Summary of key points made by Laurence:

- Match day collections and annual subs totalled £14,193 versus £13,660 in 2021. This is despite payments for teas in most home 2nd, 3rd and 4th XI games. It was noted by Laurence, however, that subs collection for the first team was quite poor. Laurence reminded everyone that it is the captains responsibility to collect match day subs, rather than his.
- £930 paid in 1st XI teas
- Colts income was up significantly
- No income from Maylands Green
- We received a £1,000 ECB grant
- Donations remain important. A swell as regular monthly amounts we received £6,300 in memorial donations for John Crane and Ray Cooper. These have not been spent so are being deferred to future years
- We received £2,400 in sponsorship form Kingfisher in 2021 (is being spread over 3 years). We also received £460 from Amber Paving.
- We have £10,437 in our bank account at the year end
- Loans form members are now fully repaid

Action: Laurence to provide Chris Martin with the overdue subs list and amount.

Laurence’s recommendation for annual subscriptions, match-day subs, etc is as per the 2022 season, and as set out below. It was noted by Laurence that Season Tickets worked well during the 2022 season, but not as many people took up the option as Laurence thought or we would ideally like.

Match fees	
Adults	£10
Students/unwaged	£5
Under 16s in senior games	£5
Annual subscriptions	
Adults	£120
Students/unwaged	£60
Adult Saturday season ticket	£270
Adult both days season ticket	£295
Junior season ticket	£135
Under 16s	£50
Discount for father and son	Committee decision, if raised

Laurence then discussed the sports club financial position briefly, reminding everyone that the bar takings go through the sports club accounts.

- £117K bar takings over the year (big thanks to Steve Hammond and Gareth broad for all of their hard work and time)
- The sports club have spent money over the year on cricket club projects; umpires’ room, raphael park, covers, outfield/pitch upgrade. So, whilst we have generated a lot of income, we have also spent a lot over the year
- Bar takings from 1 October also look very strong.

Laurence noted that the 3-year deal with kingfisher ended this year. We’ve exceeded their bar sales target so feels like we are in a good position to negotiate a new deal with them.

Action: Sam Samarasekera to discuss potential new deal with Kingfisher.

There was a discussion around matchday subs collection solutions and whether this could be collected via alternative methods to cash, for example apps or handheld device, etc.

Action: Louis Parr to explore options for collection of matchday subs.

5. Colts & girls cricket report

Colts cricket

Stuart Whitaker provided his report on colts cricket.

- During 2022 colts participated in Havering Indoor League, Havering Summer League and Central District league
- Generally positive performance, with Havering League final placings:
 - Under 9s: 3rd out of 9
 - Under 11s: 4th out of 11
 - Under 13s: 7th out of 9
- Colts performance and attitude continues to enhance our reputation within Essex especially against Central District clubs such as Hutton, Brentwood, etc
- Coaching worked well in 2022 with more players helping and providing a better product
- Indoor programme was a success and is booked again for Campion starting in January/February
- All Stars continues to be a great success with 2022 numbers of over 60 exceeding 2021
- Thanks to all coaches throughout the season at training, All Stars and matches. Particular thanks to Paul Humphries.

Stuart then provided his goals for 2023:

- Capitalise on All Stars numbers by starting a Y2 team. Previously this approach has contributed to the success of the under 9 team in last 2 seasons. Parents have shown an interest in helping out with this already
- Continued success of All Stars
- More girls only games enhanced by girls only Dynamos and Frances Bardsley sessions
- Establish an under 15 team through existing members and some others, which may require some under 13s to step up
- More structure to under 9 sessions, still an element of a “creche” feel at times, with potential new members attending all of the time
- Help with coaching is always welcome. Coaches only pay half price match fees

Girls cricket

Paul Humphries provided his report on girls cricket during the 2022 season.

- Managed to paly some games and we now have a girls team
- Stronger age group is under 10s, a small number of under 8s and under 12/13s
- Getting more girls to join will really help, and we can then have a bit more structure with an under 9s, under 11s and under 13s team
- There is a danger of losing some of the girls at the younger and older end as not playing games

John Hutchison suggested a recruitment drive in this area, for example an open day for girls to attend.

Paul noted that dedicated girls training sessions will be on Saturday mornings again in 2023, and girls can attend Monday nights training too.

6. Captains report

1st XI – Sam Samarasekera/Billy Robinson

Positives

- Significant overall improvement from last year, having gone from finishing 14th last year to 11th this year, and even that doesn't reflect that Sam/Billy think we're actually one of the top 6/8 teams in that league
- Senior leaders (Billy, Sam, Paul, Ross) all supported each other and the team very well throughout the year (even when Sam was injured) and all made positive on field contributions and drove standards/culture
- Nurtured and developed more younger talent (e.g. Shafi, in particular, but also Luke Pontin and the Byfords among others)

Improvements

- While we should take huge confidence from our excellent start to the season, we should take hard but valuable learnings from our poor finish which ultimately cost us a top-half table position
- The season revealed that among a small minority within the club, there are some negative attitudes towards competitive cricket (which in my opinion is very mutually inclusive with enjoyment of the game); and the 1st XI (which I know Billy, Sam and others sincerely want others to enjoy and feel proud to be part of). Not only did this result in selection issues which meant fielding a weaker side, it also obliged some players to step in (for the good of the club) and play at a level beyond their ability, which in turn obliged captains to try and manage those disparities with appropriate sensitivity
- Aware it's difficult running a club with 5 teams where different players have different abilities and agendas, and also feel that these attitudes only relate to a small minority, but personally found this was the most negative part of the season as it distracted from what we love, which is cricket and our cricket club, and focussed too much on individual agendas or teams within HACC.

2nd XI – Stuart Whitaker

- First season playing in Division 3 after back to back promotions
- Team was very competitive finishing in 4th place and recording wins over some strong teams
- Highlights of the season included Ajit scoring over 650 league runs and Addison taking 23 wickets
- Slight concern that core of team is ageing and in order to support 1st team more we need more from the younger players in the side, who on the whole didn't make the most of opportunities

3rd XI – Shaz Rehman

- Very competitive season. Went out to win as many games and overall a very successful season.
- Balance of the side was good, some great new players and need to keep hold of these, as next season will be tougher
- Ambition to get the 3rd XI as close as possible to the 2nd XI
- Everyone contributed throughout the season

4th XI – Spencer Duke

- Spencer found it a pleasure to captain the side, very game was played in the right way
- Everyone made a contribution both on and off the pitch
- Good support from Andy Little as vice captain, new players settled in well (Stuart Presland, Andy Needham)

5th XI – James Collier

- Great first season playing league cricket
- Managed to get a team out every week apart from the last game of the season
- Played the game the right way, some great wins and also gave every team a good, competitive game of cricket
- Some great individual performances and pleasing to see some new players join, older players return and youngsters playing their first senior cricket games
- Big thanks to Kai Hatton as vice captain and he will be missed next season
- Already looking forward to next season and think we can finish a lot higher up the table.

Sunday 1st XI – Chris Humphries

- Got a side out most weeks, some good individual performances
- Played 16 matches throughout the season, the most we've played in about 15 years

John Hutchison noted the importance of Sunday cricket and that it still has a role to play as a learning experience for a lot of younger players.

7. Election of Officers

The following positions were taken en-bloc:

- Chair: Chris Martin
- Vice Chair: Steve Richards
- Club Secretary: James Collier voted in as above
- Treasurer & Fixtures Secretary: Laurence Weeks
- Colts, Girls lead & Club Welfare Officer: Stuart Whitaker and Paul Humphries
- Social lead: Steve Hammond, Paul Crane
- Ex Officio's: Kai Hatton, Chris Jones, Neil Hutchison, Mark Taylor, Ross Raftery, Keith Turner

This was proposed by Louis Parr and seconded by Andy Little. **Vote passed.**

Chris noted that the future committee proposes to include a) Parent Rep & b) Colts Rep as part of the future committee.

Post meeting update: Cameron Little has agreed to be colts rep.

8. Election of Captains

The following positions were proposed to be voted on en-bloc:

- 1st XI – Sam Samarasekera, Billy Robinson (vc)
- 2nd XI – Stu Whitaker, vacant (vc)
- 3rd XI – Shaz Rehman, Chris Jones (vc)
- 4th XI – Andy Little, Spencer Duke (vc)
- 5th XI – James Collier, John McGhee (vc)

- Sunday 1st XI – Chris Humphries

This was proposed by Steve Hammond and seconded by Stuart Presland. **Vote passed.**

9. Grounds Report

Gareth Broad provided a summary of ground related activities:

- Whilst bar takings were very high over the year, need more help with the bar work
- Growth is based on doing what we do well – opened every evening during the summer, and on most Sundays
- We have built a good relationship with the local residents and now have “eyes and ears” in the park. The greater presences we have, the more it prevents any anti-social behaviour aimed at the ground and clubhouse
- Bar takings have allowed us to do lots for the ground, pitch, etc and ensure we have a well-maintained clubhouse:
 - Drainage and ground improvements at both Hylands and Raphael
 - Both squares are looking good
 - Long-term investment in good quality ground equipment
 - Expanded partnership with Byron Red Star
- Gareth talked about potential funding from Essex Cricket, who are keen to help with the artificial pitch and net improvements (3 lane net)
 - Essex Cricket funding want a large renovation project and keen to help with the new 3-lane nets

James Collier asked what the plan was for the 5th XI ground next season. We are likely to keep using Emerson Park as that worked well for the 2022 season.

Action: Laurence to speak to Jeremy West (Hornchurch CC) about using Emerson Park again for the 2023 season.

10. Social events report

Steve Hammond provided an update:

- Success in terms of the bar
- Limited social events as lots of people regularly attending the clubhouse throughout the year
- A request from Steve for help from more members to make stuff happen as Paul Crane’s availability may be limited. The following people expressed an interest to help out: Steve Hunt, Andy Little, Louis Parr, Omar Rehman.
- Darts tournament being held in Friday 16th December 2022 in memory of John Crane.
- Proposal for more cricket-related social events (cricket week/festival) and some regular socials throughout the year
- Louis Parr agreed to look into making a 6s tournament work in 2023

11. AOB

Laurence noted that career averages had been updated and shared copies of these.

Teas for first team. It was raised that Gemma Byford won’t be doing this role again on the existing payment structure. It was agreed to pick this up at a future meeting and agree a new proposal.

Action: Discuss options for provision of teas for the first team for the 2023 season.

Meeting closed at 20:41.

Summary of actions

Area	Action	Owner(s)
Finances	Laurence to provide Chris Martin with a list of the overdue subs.	Laurence Weeks
Sponsorship	Sam to discuss potential new deal with Kingfisher.	Sam Samaresekera
Matchday subs	Louis to explore alternative options to cash for collection of matchday subs.	Louis Parr
5 th XI ground	Laurence to speak to Jeremy West (Hornchurch CC) about using Emerson Park again for the 2023 season.	Laurence Weeks
1 st XI teas	Discuss options for provision of teas for the first team for the 2023 season.	Chris Martin/Steve Hammond

Chairman's Report 2022

- Welcome to you all for this year's HACC AGM 2022
- The 2022 season marked another year of strong progress and success at the club and we are arguably as strong as we have ever been as a cricket club
- The 2022 season also began for the first time in many years without the presence John Crane at the club, who we lost this time last year. On a personal level I have missed John enormously over the past year, both as a club colleague and as a friend, and I'm sure that I speak for us all when I say that we all have missed his help and support throughout the year, his never ending commitment has much to do with the successful position we find ourselves in as a club, our progress and success has much to do with his tireless help and support, and these are themes that I intend to return to throughout my report

2022 continued...

- 2022 season has also been one of several new members to the club
- 2022 is the season that Shafi Zhadran chose to join HACC
- Many of you will be aware of Shafi's story and of the distress and fear that have no doubt accompanied his journey to HACC
- I am very aware of the support and help that the club has offered Shafi throughout the season, this has been in form of practical support to ensure that he can get to matches and play cricket, but also in the form of emotional support offered through growing friendships, as well as the odd food shop on the way home from away fixtures
- I am immensely proud of the way the club has 'looked after' Shafi in a range of ways, how he has chosen to play cricket for us and how we have offered him help and support that transcends sport itself. In the spirit of John Crane, the support and help and friendship that we have offered Shafi, when he needed it most, represents our club at it's very best

Progress and success....

- Turning to progress and success, several members of the committee this year have talked of the club 'being on the verge of something special' and this I think is illustrated through a number of our achievements both on and off the field
- Our colts section continues to thrive, we have one of the biggest colts programmes locally, which is receiving both local and county level recognition, resulting in a higher profile for the club and subsequent funding and improvement opportunities, more of which later in the meeting. As ever we are indebted to the work and commitment of Stu plus all those who assist him in supporting colts cricket throughout the summer...and winter too, as yet again we are participating in the Havering Indoor League for colts

Progress and success cont...

- We have also made progress in our pursuit of girls cricket at the club and this season we hosted our very first competitive HACC girls cricket match, history made.
- We continue to develop our partnership with our neighbours at FBA too and whilst this has taken longer than envisaged to get off the ground, we are optimistic as to what we can achieve together. Girls & women's cricket is the growth area of our sport and brings with it funding and improvement opportunities too. My thanks to Paul Humphries who has led this development and has ensured that girls cricket has at last arrived fully at the club

Progress and success cont...

- On the playing side, most weekends we fielded 6 teams every weekend. This was often supplemented by U19's games and T20 games at a range of competitive levels, across the week.
- This, for me, is a fantastic development. I have shared with many of you the fact that it doesn't seem that long ago, when I sat in this very room and we struggled to field 2 sides on a Saturday, let alone anything on a Sunday...and those 2 sides would have been of questionable quality at times. We are a long way from those struggles and this signifies significant success and progress, for me especially...but it illustrates progress that has been hard earned and isn't something we should take for granted in future

Progress and success...

- Our progress and success is also illustrated by our strong U19's section, and the wider cohort of colts players who also contribute to adults league cricket
- We have an exceptionally talented group of young players coming through the club, who have performed competitively as an U19's team and who have increasingly begun to make strong contributions to league cricket at all levels throughout the club. It is incredibly gratifying to see them grow and progress and perform so well on the field and for me, the future of the club lies with this cohort of young gifted players and our ability to nurture both them, and successive generations, through the colts system and on into league cricket
- We have ambitions for this group of young players, your committee has discussed how we could develop our own small scale 'academy' to optimise their development and perhaps attract new talent in the future, we intend to discuss our ideas with them in the new year
- My thanks as ever to Spencer, Mark and other club members in the room who have supported this group of players over the past few seasons

Progress and success...teams

- Turning to the teams specifically, as mentioned prior, for the first time this season we fielded 5 league playing teams, an additional 5th XI led by JC, after a 2021 season of friendlies. We fielded a side for all but one game, an achievement in itself, but the 5's also performed competitively throughout. Certainly my game at Danbury for the 5's was one of the most enjoyable of the season
- Captaining the 4th and 5th teams is always a challenge, the skippers are quite often at the mercy and vagaries of selection and availability further up the club, no 2 weeks are the same.
- So I am indebted to both Spencer and JC for skippering the 4's and 5's all season, for turning up to selection in person virtually every week and for leading sides in what at times were challenging circumstances, in terms of availability and strength. A tough season at times and I am grateful to you both for your commitment and determination to field as competitive sides as possible and for being responsible for real progress at the club
- Special mention also to Chris Humphries for skippering our Sunday XI, which is no less a challenge at times in terms fielding a competitive 11

Progress and success...teams

- Elsewhere the 3^d XI had great success in a competitive division, arguably losing first place to a team far too strong for the division. The season also saw some outstanding performances with both bat and ball as well as strong performances from a clutch of new players to the club, Waqar, Bilal, Asad etc
- It's a mark of real progress to me that we are able to attract such talented new players to our club. My congratulations to Shaz and his team for a successful season and we will need this talent and capability even more during the 2023 season as the team grapples with promotion
- The 2nd XI continued to progress under Stu's longstanding leadership finishing 4th in a competitive division, over half of which were 1st XI teams. We also saw strong contributions from younger players and the beginnings of a cohort of such younger 2^d XI players supporting the 1's when needed

Progress and success...teams

- The 1st XI missed a top 10 finish by the narrowest of margins possible, I know everyone in the team was hugely disappointed by this most frustrating of conclusions to the season.
- However, whilst undeniably disappointing, the season represented progress when compared to our first season in the Essex League, we won more games, we won games we may not have expected to win, we were competitive and here again, we saw regular strong performances from our young crop of players coming through, which all bodes well for the forthcoming season and for the longer term future

Progress and success...help and support

- So, many areas of progress and success both on and off the pitch, add to which we have great playing surfaces, a vibrant Sports Club membership who support the wider activities of the club and the cricket club especially, we are financially secure, we have a strong local reputation with the neighbourhoods surrounding both Hylands and Raphael's, etc etc, we could go on
- But I come 'round full circle, as with this greater progress and success comes the increased need for help and support across the club
- I have said many times before, sadly, we have no rich benefactor at present and anything we achieve, any improvements that we make, any success that we have, has to be as a consequence of our own labour, of our own collective efforts, the individual contributions of each and every one of us
- If we want the continued success that we are 'on the edge of' then that brings with it the need for a greater and wider contribution from all members. With success and ambition comes a greater need for help and support
- And we are at our best when we help and support each other, see the spirit of John Crane and our support of Shafi that I have referenced earlier

Progress and success...help and support

- This help and support can come in many forms...if you are asked to help with the bar rota it probably means someone like Steve needs your help and support
- If you are asked to assist with the colts it probably means someone like Stu needs your help and support
- If you are asked to help with the basic upkeep of the clubhouse it probably means someone like Garth needs your help
- If you're asked to play in a team you do not ordinarily represent it probably means that for that week, the skipper in question needs your help and support
- And for skippers, if one of your peers asks you to reconsider your selection choices, it may mean that they are seeking you help and support etc etc, I could go on...

Progress and support...conclusions and thanks

- As we grow and progress and achieve we will need to continue to support each other in order to sustain this progress, no one will come along and do it for us
- And it doesn't require a 'life changing' level of commitment. Many small acts of help and support can make a huge difference
- So, in conclusion, my thanks...to the committee for their support over the past season
- Garth – for the support of the sports club and endless hours at the club in pursuit of continuous improvement
- Steve Hammond – for the bar and general commitment to the club in a range of capacities
- Laurence – for his stewardship of both cricket club and sports club finances, which I know given our strong financial position brings with it an increased time commitment, as well as somehow finding fixtures for the club across the season
- Steve Hunt – for a being a clubman
- To all the skippers – taking to the field is the easy part, the previous 7 days are often arduous
- And to Stu and Paul and all those who assisted with the colts and girls cricket
- So good luck to you all in the coming season and I look forward to your contributions, support and assistance as we make further progress and celebrate new successes, together All the best