



West Chiltington and Thakeham CC

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at the West Chiltington Pavilion

On 8th November 2024

Present: Stephen Hodgson, Jean Farnes, Annie Tatchell, Neil North, Peter Harding, Mark Foss, Mark Jeffries, Matt Hennings, Dan Barnes, Raylene Barnes, Mike Charman, Terry Beeks, Glyn Lucas, Jason Davies, Mandy Davies, Jon Denton, Jim Gee, Hugh Warmisham, Jo Alcott, Ben Alcott, Peter Jones, George Bryans, Angus Alcott

Apologies: Jon Flatley, Simon Capel, Sarah Osborne, Alan Newman

1. Approval of the 2023 AGM minutes

Outstanding items

- a. Sarah Osborne said she needed more help with Welfare duties. Niki Stedman stepped up to help her.
- b. A new square mower has been purchased for the Thakeham ground

Approved – Jim Gee

Seconded – Mike Charman

2. Treasurer's Report

The club's finances are in a healthy position

Special thanks go to our sponsors, Thakeham, Hennings Wine and NISA.

Membership revenue remained about the same as 2023 at approx.. £18.5K

Match fee revenue was up on 2023

A significant area of expenditure was the new playing kit which was purchased for all junior members

Our Bank Holiday Monday 6-a -side generated a profit of £800 which was donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust

Additional expenditure for 2025 will be on a new roller for West Chilt and a professional overseas player/coach

Jean Farnes is stepping down as Treasurer and Annie Tatchell will be taking on the role. Jim Gee proposed a vote of thanks to Jean for her hard work and commitment

3. Chairman's Report

Cricket

The 1st XI had another good season in the SCL Division 2 and finished 4th. The team was very competitive, and several players stepped up and did very well. Our overseas player, Dan Williams, was a great asset to the team and gave his all with both bat and ball. At the league awards dinner Adam Trees was awarded with Young Player of the Year in the Prem and Div 2 and Ben van Noort came second. Well done to them.

The 2nd XI was again led by Alfie Reeves, who created a great team spirit amongst his players and led from the front with this batting. In the first part of the season availability was patchy but by the end of the season the team was vying for promotion and finished mid table. Special mention for George Bryans who won the Best Bowler award for Div 5W for the 3rd year running.

The 3rd XI was captained by Hugh Warmisham and Matt Luckhurst. Availability was tricky and the team struggled throughout the season. However, a few wins at the end of the season saved us and the team stays in Div 8 for 2025.

In 4th XI Sam Collyer stepped up to be captain and we are very grateful to him. This young team had a hard time but they kept at it and enjoyed quite a few individual successes. The 4s have been relegated to Div 12 for 2025.

Thanks go to Sunday captain Terry Beeks for his patience and persistence in bringing through several young players during these friendly matches.

In the Slam T20 competition we dropped down a division to make the matches more accessible to 3s and 4s players. We won 2 games and got through to the knockout stages. Thanks go to George Bryans for, once again, taking the helm for these matches.

Other senior cricket highlights included Cricket Week and the MCC match/President's Day celebrations, which were a great success in spite of the wet weather. The MCC will hopefully be returning again in 2026.

Mark Jeffries reported that the West Chilt pitches came 5th out of the top 40 teams in the league and the outfield came 12th out of 40. This is a fantastic achievement and our volunteer groundsmen were thanked for their skill and dedication.

Club

The club is financially sound with more members than ever. The club relies almost entirely on volunteers and there is always great enthusiasm when it comes to improving the club and developing further. However, in terms of playing facilities and pitches, this enthusiasm and growth has become out of kilter with the number of grounds and pitches that the club currently has access to and this is presenting real challenges for our groundsmen.

130 matches were played during the 2024 season, 90 of these were played on grass. We have 10 grass strips at West Chilt and 7 strips at Thakeham. Of the top 20 teams in the county, we have the lowest number of grass pitches available. For comparison Littlehampton have 39 strips, Worthing -30, Horsham -30, Brighton – 28, Pagham – 28.

For 2025 we will be laying 2 new grass pitches at Thakeham. But we still need greater capacity so we are looking to hire additional pitches from local clubs/schools. We will also be looking at other alternatives and these may include playing 2 junior matches at the same time on the outfield at Thakeham, laying a hybrid pitch which will be able to take more usage than a standard grass pitch.

Stephen made a point of saying a big thank you to all of our volunteers in all areas of the club.

4. Junior Section Report – from Simon Capel

When we look back at 2024, I believe it's been another great year for the junior section in both participation numbers and team success, across all the boys' and girls' teams. Overall, we've had around 250 juniors take part in cricket. We've entered teams in every league age from 9 to 16 in the mixed groups and the girls have had u11, 13 and 15s teams. All squads have been competitive, had successes and most importantly, had fun! Our youngest league team the new 9s in their first ever season won around 70% of their games which looks very bright for the future. In the post league season, our teams all had a good show in the SJCF festival weeks, no finalists in the boys' sides this year, but our 15 girls did make their final.

Last year's off-season Winter Training Program at Arundel definitely helped the development of many of our players and having this run externally by Mavrix cricket certainly helped ease my personal admin burden during this period. We will also be continuing the SPP program to enhance our most promising young talent with some additional subsidised professional

coaching. That said, there may be some changes to the structure offered to improve roll out in conjunction with our academy teams.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge thanks all of our junior players for their efforts and also to all the Parent helpers and coaches we have who've given up their time to make junior cricket happen here at West Chilt. Without the input of all these volunteers on the frontline and behind the scenes none of this would be possible. A special thanks to Mandy Davies, Ross Holliday, Patrick Macdonald and Sarah Osborne for all they do across the junior section.

5. Girls'/Women's Section Report – from Sarah Osborne

For 2025, numbers look buoyant from U6 - U11 and at U15. We have low numbers U12-U14. We've seen a steady increase in numbers of adult female hardball players (both those returning to the game and those moving from softball to hardball). What we did not see was any increase in softball players; in fact several stopped playing, mostly due to injury or change in job. Increasing softball numbers is one area of focus for 2025.

A major area of activity though is exploring options for regular Sunday Womens hardball league cricket matches alongside the more ad hoc softball & slam competitions.

We will also continue to play in the girls' leagues with U9 & U11 softball matches as well as hardball U11 or U12 (depending on what leagues are available) and U13 and U15 hardball.

Arrangements for Women's training did not work out quite as hoped in 2024 so we are looking to reorganise things on 2025 to make it more accessible, suitable and valuable for all women of all standards from beginner to ex-county.

6. Club welfare Report – from Sarah Osborne

Quite a busy year; mostly chasing and checking DBS. The new process for annual renewal is causing a few issues. Objective for 2025 is to design some sort of in-house reminder system.

We welcomed Nicola Stedman as assistant welfare officer this year. Nicola focused mostly on organising 1st aid kits for all teams and will do so again in 2025. We end the season with a reminder that kits are essential and that managers and captains need to look after them.

7. Membership/Match fee Collection for 2025

We will be using a new online system in 2025 to replace LoveAdmin for collecting membership data and fees and Spond for availability and match fee collection. The new app we will be using is called Plai and it will be rolled out over the next couple of months well ahead of the 2025 season. There will be training sessions/videos available for members, captains and junior coaches but the system is very user friendly and hopefully will be easy to adapt to.

Memberships and match fees for the 2025 season will be as follows:

Senior Playing Memberships

Senior playing membership - £95

Working young person's U25 membership* - £75

Senior playing membership for those who only play in women's matches - £50

Senior playing membership for those who only play in veteran's matches - £40

Senior playing membership for those who only play women's softball - £30

*defined as post student members 25 years old or under at the start of the season

Student/Junior Playing Memberships

U5 - U8 Boys and Girls (Reception - Year 3) - £50

U9 - U16 (School Years 4-11) - £75

Student^ playing membership (Aged 17 years and above) - £75

^defined as 'in Years 12 or 13 at school or in higher education

Social Membership - £30

Match Fees

Match fee for senior and U25 members, including match tea - £9

Match fee for senior and U25 members, excluding match tea - £5

Match fee for non-members (or before membership fee is paid) - £15

Match fee for a junior or student playing in a senior match, including match tea - £7

Match fee for a junior or student playing in a senior match, excluding match tea - £4

Senior women's match fee - £5

Match fee for a junior or student playing in a women's match - £3

Junior match fee - £3 (maybe more during Sussex Junior Cricket Festival)

Plans for 2025

Senior mens' teams

Unfortunately, we lost several of our younger senior players during the 2023/4 winter and this made selection for our Saturday league teams very challenging during 2024. Many players were asked to play in higher teams than they were used to and the 4th XI particularly fielded teams which were predominantly filled with older junior players.

To address this for 2025 we are seeking to stabilise availability in our 1st XI to prevent players from being sucked up from the 2nd XI which then has a knock-on effect on the 3rd and 4th XIs.

We have secured the services of a pro overseas player called Ashay Palkar, and he will be accompanied by his wife who is also very interested in cricket. Ashay will play for the 1st XI and will also coach at Thursday night senior training and at various other times. We are also looking to get a playing coach for the 1st XI who will coach the 1st and 2nd XIs. We will also be looking for an amateur overseas player for the 2nd XI.

During the meeting Neil North and Matt Hennings volunteered to oversee the transition of older junior players into the 4th XI and will try to encourage more adults to play at this level too.

Election of Officers

Chairman – Stephen Hodgson

Proposed by Peter Jones

Seconded by Jim Gee

Hon Treasurer – Annie Tatchell

Proposed by Stephen Hodgson

Seconded by Matt Hennings

Hon Secretary – Mandy Davies

Proposed by Peter Jones

Seconded by Jo Alcott

Junior Chairman – Simon Capel has resigned as Junior Chairman. We will be seeking a replacement. Simon was thanked wholeheartedly for the tremendous job he has done over the past 4 years

Welfare Officer – Sarah Osborne

Proposed by Stephen Hodgson

Seconded by Dan Barnes

1st XI captain – Hugo Gillespie

Proposed by Stephen Hodgson

Seconded by Raylene Barnes

Other non-elected positions

President – Peter Jones

Girls’/Women’s Cricket Managers – Sarah Osborne and Patrick MacDonald

Social Secretary – Jo Alcott

Sponsorship – Jon Taylor/Jason Davies

Facilities – Al Reeves/Jason Davies

2nd XI Captain – Alfie Reeves

3rd XI Captain – Hugh Warmisham

4th XI Captain – Neil North

Sunday Captain – Terry Beeks

Slam Captain – George Bryans