

# BLEMLOW RIDGE CRICKET CLUB

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### MINUTES

The meeting was held at the clubhouse at Meadow Styles Playing Field on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Present

Mike Beattie (Chair) Ian Murdoch (Secretary), Mike Stevens (Treasurer), Paul Cheshire, Marcus Angell, Mark Dakin, Martin Harris, Victoria Fellowes, David Saint, Phil Brooks, Jim Cornish, Mike Gillet, Richard Dryden, Carlton Newton (part)

Apologies for absence Steve Bird, John Rolfe, Richard Sainter

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence in memory of James Goodband

1. The minutes of the 2018 AGM were accepted by the meeting
2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a short report during which he thanked the outgoing committee for their efforts across the season and expressed the opinion that the club was faring well. He announced that the improvement of facilities at the club for both players and non playing members would be a priority for the incoming committee and that the club would report on developments as they occurred. The first stage of this had been the replacement of the exterior roof, thus (hopefully) taking care of the leak problems.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the accounts and answered one or two minor queries to the satisfaction of the meeting. He reported that the club was in a robust financial position with a healthy cash reserve. He proposed the accounts to the meeting (seconded by IM) and they were accepted unanimously. He further proposed that subscription levels for 2019 would be reduced from the 2018 level to reflect the fact that no kit was being issued in 2019 and advised that the final levels would be advised to all club members in due course.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that the 2019 season had been our most successful in recent years in terms of availability and the club had fielded 2 complete teams on all bar 2

occasions, when the 2s were one player short. He further advised that the Cherwell League had confirmed the 1s promotion to division 5 and that he himself had been elected as General Secretary of the Cherwell League for another season.

#### 5. Club Captain's Report

The club captain was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a written report. MD (1<sup>st</sup> team captain) presented a summary of the report to the meeting. The full report is addended to these minutes.

#### 6. Adoption of new Club Constitution

The committee would like to adopt the new ECB devised club constitution, however there are some amendments to be made to fit the club, so asked the meeting for a mandate to do so when completed. This was granted unanimously

#### 7. Election of Management Committee and Sub Committee

The outgoing General Committee had nominated individuals to roles as follows. There were no further nominations from the floor and committee was elected unanimously en bloc.

General Committee		Playing Committee	
Chair	Mike Beattie	Chairman	John Rolfe
Secretary	Ian Murdoch	1 <sup>st</sup> XI captain	Mark Dakin
Treasurer	Mike Stevens	1 <sup>st</sup> XI vice	Matt Brightwell
Club Captain	John Rolfe	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI captain	Martin Harris
Comm member	Paul Cheshire	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI vice	Paul Cheshire
Junior Rep	Marcus Angell		
Bar Chair	Richard Sainter	Match Secretary	David Saint
Social Sec	TBA	Fixture Sec	Elliot Collins
Facilities manager	TBA		

The club committee immediately ratified the appointment of Victoria Fellows to the post of Child Welfare Officer. The Chairman thanked VF for her commitment to the junior section.

#### 8. Any other business (as allowed by the Chairman)

PB asked the Chairman about the absence of a sign marking the electronic scoreboard's dedication to Sid Bird's memory. The Chairman explained that this had been discussed in committee but that a suitable method of marking it had not yet been agreed. He promised to discuss this further with PB to see if an appropriate solution could be found.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10.30am.

## **2018 Season Report**

Judged by most criteria the 2018 league season was highly successful.

### **1<sup>st</sup> X1**

The 1<sup>st</sup> X1 proved much the strongest team in Division 6, the 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 survived in Division 9 and for the first time in a number of years the club did not forfeit any matches.

The 1<sup>st</sup> X1's success was built on powerful batting performances and the team's strengths were particularly suited to the new 50 over win/lose format in which half the matches were played. We won all completed win/lose games. The team also had sufficient bowling in depth so there was no weakness among the minimum five bowlers required in this format.

The only defeat of the season was at home to Twyford in the traditional format.

Had it not been for three match abandonments to rain (no other team in the top eight divisions had as many games rained off) the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 would have won the division by a significant margin. As it was, we relied on a three points penalty against Challow and Childrey who we had beaten in both matches. Promotion was assured either way.

Ben Keeping led the batting with 779 runs at 77.9 including two centuries and two other scores of 90+. He also covered the most mileage, travelling to play from distant parts of the south west in the expectation of piling on the runs. Satisfyingly one of these journeys resulted in his only single figure score of the season. Mark Dakin, Simon Lloyd and Steve Bird all averaged 40 or over, Samuel Rolfe made the season's top score of 132 at Sandford and 11 players averaged 20 or more. Hamsah provided the fireworks when invited to open and lost a few cricket balls in the process.

Captain Dakes was outstanding with the ball taking 32 wickets at 11.38, which, added to his 413 runs at 45.89, meant he was comfortably the best all-rounder in the Division.

Mike Gillett was unerringly accurate and took 25 wickets at 17.92, Ben Hillary, Hamsah and Allan Loxton took 13, 18 and 12 wickets respectively and the best returns were by the master statistician Gilet with 7-35 v Challow and Ben Hillary, 5-20 v Buckingham. Phil Brooks stunned everyone with a match-winning 5-30 at Eynsham which is hard to explain. The bowling attack was particularly good at containing runs in win/lose games, however the team needs an additional slow bowler to wheedle batsmen out in the win/lose/draw format.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> X1**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 was built around a solid core of players unselfishly led by Martin Harris (whoever he is) and supported by Paul Cheshire. Although there were a number of fine individual performances during the season there were not enough of them to pressurise opposing teams. With two wins we were fortunate to remain in Division 9.

Junaid, with a top score of 125 not out and best bowling of 5-11, was the outstanding performer with bat and ball which inevitably attracted the interest of the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 for whom he played for the second half of the season. Only David Saint exceeded his 16 wickets with 17 of his own and no other bowler took more than five wickets in the season which made victories hard to come by.

Seven batsman made scores of over 50, the least likely of these being former bowler Ian Murdoch (whoever he is) who defied gravity with a career best 91 not out versus the hapless Stokenchurch, accompanied by Jai Angell who was dismissed in sympathy, in the same match, for the same score. Shaun Dryden, Faisal Mahmood and Chesh also made half centuries as did David Maunder who played for the first time in a couple of years contributing 83 not out, 14 and 46 in his three innings.

Special mention should be made of Faisal Mahmood who was the only player in the club to play all 18 matches and who shows genuine potential with the bat.

### Players

As indicated earlier, availability was good. The player pool did not increase significantly however, which meant that existing players played more games. This is clearly a good thing but it should be noted that a successful team inspires strong availability. A number of 1<sup>st</sup> X1 aspirants went “the extra mile” to play (see what I did there?) as the 1s chased promotion, and it is to be hoped that availability will be as consistent in 2019 regardless of whether we are topping Division 5 or not.

Recruiting players continues to be of prime importance both in order to increase playing strength and to replace existing players, one of whom, Sam Rolfe, will be moving overseas with his work for the foreseeable future.

### Non-League Cricket

As far as non-league cricket is concerned the evening T20s arranged by Richard Sainter continued to be a success both as social events and in terms of occasional recruitment. The only Sunday fixture was rained off, however the Sid Bird Six-a-Side took place in glorious sunshine with players asking if more teams can take part in 2019.