

## Minutes of Farnham Royal Cricket Club Annual General Meeting

Held at FRCC Clubhouse on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Apologies for Absence

Peter Brown, Matt Shave, Mark Perkins, Marwan Mohammad

### Previous AGM Minutes

The Minutes from 2022 were distributed and agreed.

Ben Nicholas welcomed everyone to the 2023 AGM.

### Secretary's Report by Ruth Wildman

2022 was a stable year for FRCC. Although neither cricket team did as well as we would have hoped in the league we witnessed some good games both home and away and, as always, our Social side provided great entertainment on Friday evenings.

We also saw entertaining games from visiting sides using our ground as their home and this is something we will endeavour to continue this season.

As a cricket club, it is important for us to have games through the season on as many days as possible – especially every Saturday and Sunday. If it means we have to look outside of the club to do this then we will do so.

Our crib and ladies darts teams had good seasons too and last week the Royal Roamers were again crowned league champions. Well done to Neville and the team.

As always, the social side of the club is what keeps us open. We are one of the few cricket clubs to stay open all year and provide entertainment for members by way of a welcoming bar, live sports and social events. The Committee and sub committees need your help for this to continue. It takes a lot of effort to organise, promote and run any event, whether that be a live band, race night, food night or bigger event such as the Coronation picnic or Fireworks Night. All too often we see the same few stepping up to help out. It would be nice to see some new faces and fresh blood willing to give a couple of hours every now and again and also come up with ideas as to what you want to see at the Club. Its also quite disheartening to those that have organised events when they are not supported.

So please, if you wish the club to remain as it is, open throughout the year, it really is up to you.

There is someone I would like to thank who has been a key committee member from way before I joined FRCC in any capacity. She is always ready to help, support and volunteer in any capacity be that manning the gate on fireworks night, collecting money on the door for comedy night or selling raffle tickets, and that's Michelle King. More importantly Michelle has been our Club Welfare Officer for many years – a role of great importance within the club and without which we cannot hold colts training or matches or even compete in league cricket. Michelle is now hanging up her Welfare Officers hat but I'd like to take the opportunity to thank her for everything she has done and for carrying out that role for so long. On behalf of the club and committee Michelle, thank you. – She'll still be badgering you for raffle ticket money though and acting as bouncer at fireworks and comedy nights!!

Finally, after 3 years as secretary, other commitments mean that I need to hand the reins over to someone new too. It's been quite a 3 years with changes a plenty such as COVID to keep us on our toes but I hope that I have managed to support the club and carry out my role diligently.



Please support my successor and please support your club and those that help to keep it a going concern and one of the focal points of the village.

### Treasurer's Report by John Hayes

John presented the accounts to October 2022, copies of which were circulated, attached to the previous minutes.

These accounts are made up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. These have been audited by Mr Peter Lacey.

Bar trading account for the year, referenced by Letters.

A – Bar Turnover. Pre COVID, our turnover was around £150,000 per annum. The last 2 years have been below this historical figure. 2022 looked to be on track until the cricket season finished and then our takings took a dramatic downturn.

B – Our margins are low due to several reasons. Brewery costs have increased – 3 times in the last 3 months. We have tried to keep increases to Members low but this impacts our margins.

Pre-COVID, the brewery would offer us rebates if we reached a certain threshold. During COVID we have not achieved this but after talks with our brewery representative I hope to have secured us £6000.

C - Special Donations – This is down significantly from the previous year. The previous year we had our crowdfunding campaign which helped raise substantial amounts in the way of donations. We have had no significant fund raising over the last year.

D – Rents, Rates Electric etc. I have highlighted this because last AGM we were in the middle of our dispute with OPUS Energy with them claiming we owed £24,000 and us saying they owed us £6000. I'm pleased to say that has now been sorted, we have switched supplier and are now getting and paying accurate bills..

Cricket expenditure should also be mentioned. The cost of cricket continues to rise and this needs to be addressed but not via a raise in subscription costs. The Cricket Committee will be tasked with investigating this alongside Finance.

E – Cash Profit – For the first time the club has actually made a cash loss of -£5345 over the last year. We were £4000 down due to lack of trade in September and October and we lost £3000 due to lack of brewery rebate. The year prior we show a profit on paper but this was because of the fundraising. We had actually been running at a loss.

We have just secured a new shirt sponsor which will generate £2,500 per year for the next 2 years but we need to generate more income through the bar and also cut costs.

### Balance Sheet

F - Our cash in the bank/in hand has dropped from £30,773 to £9101 is the total assets the club currently has today made up of tangible goods and cash balance, stock etc. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> October we owed £9,000 so all in all the Club is in a fairly healthy position of an asset base of £57,000.

A large part of this is because we have settled a number of bills but this is the minimum we need in the bank.

Finally, you can see that since 2018 we have invested continuously in improvements to the club but the last year we have been unable to do that.



## Chairman's Report by Ben Nicholas

Ben gave a review of the last year:

Everyone on the Committee does a lot for the club and most of it is behind the scenes, however, Opus wanted £24,000 from us and its with thanks to John, Ruth and others that we were able to work out what was going on and then to report to the Ombudsman and successfully make a stand against Opus and ultimately get everything sorted out.

There are 2 important factors to the Clubs success – costs and income. People have less money to spend at the bar, myself and Ian Pulsford have looked at cricket improvements and have decided that we can improve income by renting out the ground to an Asian league side for 9 games over the season. These leagues are growing but teams lack grounds. One of our players, Ramzan, has a local side and they will be playing here every other week on a Sunday. We will keep our own Sunday team every other week which should also help availability and for us to getbeter sides out. If necessary they can also arrange away games.

We need to look at Saturdays and make the best of what we have. This will mean not paying officials for our 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday teams to save money and this will mean team members will need to help out with officials duties.

If we are letting the ground out on a Sunday we must ensure that on a Saturday the ground, wicket and changing rooms are left in a good state, clean and tidy ready for Sunday.

### Club Restructuring

Looking at how the club is being run it has become obvious that too much relies on too few. We have been looing at how other clubs operate and several make use of sub committees to spread the load, leaving the main committee to focus on strategic decisions rather than the day to day.

To this end, we propose setting up the following sub committees:

Finance – headed by John Hayes

Grounds – Headed by Brian Pace

Cricket – headed by Ian Pulsford

House – headed by Maureen Brooker

Social – headed by Scott Young

Marketing - headed by Ruth Wildman

These will build their own sub committees and report back to the main committee at regular meetings.

I also have a personal plea which is for assistance with the Colts and age group managers. We need volunteers to help manage the various teams on match days. Fixtures are already organised, it is just someone to be there, offer guidance and support.

Finally, some Thank You's. Thanks to Ian as Head of Cricket. Last season was definitely more professional.

Matt for Captaining the 1<sup>st</sup> team over the last few years and Glenn for captaining the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

Rory, Osama and Rafay for keeping the Sunday team going and Scotty for managing the Social cricket during the Summer.

Our Umpires, scorers and colt managers for all their hard work.



Thanks to Brian and Biff. Last year was a bit of a nightmare with the hot weather and fixture changes. A huge effort goes in to looking after the ground and a plea from Biff – please pick up your rubbish after training and games and use the bins!

Emma, Karen and Al for their help behind the bar and Abbey in the kitchen.

Michelle, you have been a constant supporter of the club both volunteering and financially. Thank you.

An Thank you to Ruth for the last 3 years as Secretary, especially through COVID.

### Election of Officers

Chairman: - Ben Nicholas

Treasurer: - John Hayes

Both agreed to stand and were proposed, seconded and elected unopposed.

Ruth Wildman steps down as Secretary. An application for Secretary has been received from James Moore. He was nominated by Michelle King, seconded by Andrew Bryant and elected unopposed.

### Appointment of Team Captains and other roles

1<sup>st</sup> XI Capt. - Matt Shave steps down and Marwan Mohammed appointed for the coming season

2<sup>nd</sup> XI Capt. - Glenn Bucknell

Sunday Captain –Rory Scott.

Michelle King steps down as Welfare officer and is replaced by Ruth Wildman

Auditor of Accounts – Mr P Lacey

### Any Other Business

Scott Young – Changing rooms. Last season these were often in a bad state the following Friday when used for Social Cricket. Can we have the Jobs Board back for games?

Ian Pulsford said he had spoken to the players last season but will be more on the case this year.

Steve Ellis also mentioned that the players need to offer more support and maybe if players did not do their jobs then they shouldn't be picked for the following week.

Rory Scott mentioned that he will also watch the Sunday team to ensure they leave things clean and tidy.

Martin Lynch – Will match fees be on SPOND this season?

Ben Nicholas confirmed yes

Ian Pulsford – There needs to be a change of mindset within the club as to where the majority of our income is generated and need to exploit other ways to obtain money such as grants, support and sponsorship.

Rory Scott – will there be any savings in membership if paid annually or by a certain date?

John Hayes – We need to work out how cricket can support itself but that is for the Cricket Sub-Committee to look at.

Michelle King – How much does it cost us to run cricket?

John Hayes - £5000 - £6000 per year.

Steve Ellis – It is important that we remain a Cricket Club and do not fall into a general Social Club



John Hayes commented that a local club had recently ceased its cricket and done just that.

**Wally (whats Wallys real name??!!)** – He stated he was disappointed that last year during the Summer 4 team tournament one of our actual cricket teams deserted the tournament after just 1 match and didn't seem to have any interest in supporting the club.

Scott Young said that all Social Cricketers must be paid up members of the club before they play.

John Hayes said that the Golf Society has done the same thing.

Steve Ellis – can more of the Social players not play on a Sunday or for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI to help availability?

Scott Young – Some have offered but to be honest they are social cricketers!

Brad – How long have social subs been £20?

John Hayes – about 5 years but we would only make a few pounds by increasing membership. We make more by increasing margins over the bar.

Scott Young – Do the Cricket players pay enough in match fees to cover costs – officials, teas etc?

Ian Pulsford – We had been looking at the options but then COVID hit and took that away from us as teas were not longer allowed and therefore not a cost to be considered.

**Richard ??** – what is the leagues stance on teas?

Ian Pulsford – It is not a requirement for any teams to provide teas. As last season some teams do so on a reciprocal basis and we will do the same this year, though only Beaconsfield have been in contact about this.

Meeting concluded at 8:55pm.

Signed:-

Name:-

Position:-