

The Cricket Society

**150 Southridge Rise
Crowborough
TN6 1LL**

Notice is hereby given that the 71st Annual General Meeting of The Cricket Society will take place at The Civil Service Club, London SW1 on Tuesday 24th October 2017 at 6.00pm to conduct the following business:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting held on 4th October 2016
3. Matters (not on this agenda) Arising
4. Report on The Cricket Society's Year, 2016
5. The Cricket Society Accounts, 2016
6. Election of the President
7. Election of members of the Executive Committee
8. Election of the Independent Examiners
9. Any Other Business

Derek Barnard
Hon Secretary
July 2017

THE CRICKET SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2016

This report about The Cricket Society in 2016 incorporates contributions from several officer colleagues. The Cricket Society continued to do well, at a challenging time for cricket societies and member organisations generally. It provided a wide range of products – Bulletin, Journal, website, Twitter feed; meetings, dinners and other events, awards; a cricket team – at modest cost. The strengthening of the Executive Committee in October 2016 with three new members and the re-establishment of our West of England Branch, under dynamic leadership and with a strong programme of meetings in Bath, were particularly pleasing.

2. The Society's finances (please see the Treasurer's Report with The Society's accounts) remain in good order.

Membership (David Wood)

3. The membership figure at 31 December 2016 was 1,747, an increase of 27 on the comparable figure for the end of 2015. As in recent previous years, about 100 people ceased to be members for a variety of reasons and The EC worked hard to recruit enough new members to maintain and increase overall numbers. During 2016 recruitment methods included a particularly successful mailshot to members of the Association of Cricket Officials. It would help The Society enormously – and keep subscription amounts at their attractively low levels – if members could try and recruit a new member each during 2017.

News Bulletin (John Symons)

4. The *News Bulletin*, both in printed format and on the website, is often the first point of contact for members of The Cricket Society. During 2016 eight issues were published with regular features including: book reviews; meeting reports, dinner and Cricket Society XI match reports; the Chairman's Corner; statistical matters; and The Editor's views on all aspects of cricket. The most pleasing aspect has been our members' willingness to contribute their opinions and anecdotes. A survey was undertaken during the year to see if members wished for changes to be made in content and format of *The News Bulletin* and the answer was a resounding 'No.' Accordingly, we will try to continue to both inform and entertain our members in future issues, with the confidence that we are reflecting their wishes.

Journal of The Cricket Society (Nigel Hancock)

5. The two 2016 issues attracted much praise.

London meetings (Nick Tudball)

6. The Cricket Society held a diverse programme of events in 2016 with a high standard of speakers. Two well attended ROSL meetings starred former England cricketers. Bob Willis spoke fluently expressing his strong views and captivated his audience. David Steele entertained us with his memories and

funny stories. At CSC we hosted Mark Baldwin and Mark Pennell talking about the reporting of county Cricket. Other speakers were Simon Inglis on cricket grounds in and around London; Richard Tomlinson, whose book on WG Grace made the 2016 BOTY shortlist; Dean Allen on Early South African cricket; and a fascinating evening with Mark Williams from the MCC in discussion with Douglas Miller on forthcoming changes to the Laws of Cricket.

Library and archive (John Symons/Howard Milton)

7. The library continued to be much valued in theory but barely used in practice except on ROSL meeting nights of which there were fewer for financial reasons. An auction house was approached and an understanding made to relieve us of much of the Library when a final decision to dispose of it was made. Progress on an information service to members and digitisation was slow. A lunch to celebrate the outstanding work and service of the retiring Honorary Librarian, Howard Milton, was planned for and held in early 2017

Website and social media (David Wood/Exec Members)

8. Our website (www.cricketsociety.com) was revamped during 2016 with a planned focus on news of meetings and other Society events, awards and records – all presented in a more attractive way. Our twitter feed (@CricketSociety) gained increasing numbers of dedicated followers. We aim to use it to provide early notice of speakers at meetings and dates as well as dinners/lunches; tweets from society functions with photos and snippets of news; and to promote The Society and attract new members.

London dinners (Andrew Cashmore-Till)

9. Our 2016 Spring and Autumn dinners were held at the Royal Over-Seas League on 22 April and 4 November respectively. Detailed reports on the two dinners can be found in the appropriate 2016 Bulletins. The principal speaker at the Spring dinner was Pat Pocock, current President of Surrey CCC and at the Autumn dinner was David Smith, former Chief Executive of Warwickshire CCC. In 2017 we are endeavouring to develop new approaches to the dinners that please both existing dinner enthusiasts and attract new supporters. An Inaugural Spring lunch in 2017 at The Oval attracted 250 members and guests. We will continue to work hard on members' behalf to create the right formula for future lunches and dinners that will serve the best interests of both members and The Society in general.

The Cricket Society and MCC Book of the Year Award 2016 (Nigel Hancock)

10. Simon Lister's *Fire in Babylon* (Yellow Jersey Press) won the 2016 award for cricket books published during 2015. Nominated books were considered by a panel independently chaired by Vic Marks.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER

2015		Income	2016	I&E per
£	£		£	member
			£	£
32711		Subscriptions	32493	18.60
142		Net sales income	1190	0.68
917		Advertising and mailing	209	0.12
997		Lottery surplus	860	0.49
241		Gifts from members	89	0.05
3356		Dinners and functions	13141	7.52
2579		Raffles	2532	1.45
968		Interest and other income	<u>1055</u>	<u>0.60</u>
<u>41911</u>			<u>51569</u>	<u>29.52</u>
		Expenditure		
		Publications		
	3349	Journal	3522	2.02
	6055	Bulletin	6067	3.47
	<u>9830</u>	Despatch costs	<u>9369</u>	5.36
19234			18958	
		Meetings		
	3669	London	4259	2.44
		South West	304	0.17
	1111	Midlands	686	0.39
	<u>1457</u>	North East	<u>984</u>	0.56
6237			6233	
		Other activities		
	319	Library expenditure	116	0.07
	2574	Awards	1909	1.09
2893			2025	
		Administration		
	447	Meeting room hire	262	0.15
	162	Publicity	785	0.45
	938	Printing, postage and stationery	935	0.54
	996	Accountancy fees	1022	0.59
	23	Bank charges	22	0.01
	3190	Function costs	13579	7.77
	727	Insurance	754	0.43
	1456	Miscellaneous	693	0.40
	<u>144</u>	Website	<u>1799</u>	1.03
8083			19851	
<u>5464</u>		Excess of income over expenditure	<u>4502</u>	<u>2.58</u>
<u>41911</u>			<u>51569</u>	<u>29.52</u>

Note: Income and expenditure per member is calculated by dividing the fiscal values above by the membership of 1747 at the end of the year.

CRICKET SOCIETY

R 2016 BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

2015				2016
£	£	Accumulated fund	£	£
	44649	Balance as at 1 January 2016	50113	
	<u>5464</u>	Add: excess of income over expenditure	<u>4502</u>	
50113				54615
787		Library fund		787
	5452	Cricket Initiative fund		5452
		Vivienne Hoggarth Fund		
	20208	Balance as at 1 January 2016	14414	
	<u>5794</u>	Expenditure in year	<u>5798</u>	
14414		Balance		<u>8616</u>
				<u>69470</u>
<u>65314</u>				

The above funds represented by:

	Assets		
	Debtors		402
545	The Cricket Society Limited		545
20	Prepayments		20
73995	Balances at bank and in hand		80690
<u>1623</u>	Stocks		<u>1685</u>
76183			83342
	3355 Subscriptions paid in advance	4791	
	1350 Accruals	1400	
	<u>712</u> Creditors	<u>7681</u>	
<u>5417</u>			<u>13872</u>
<u>70766</u>			<u>69470</u>

Signed N Hancock (Chairman)
D Barnard (Hon Secretary)
P Reeves (Hon Treasurer)
For the Executive Committee

Merchandise (Brian Harrild)

11. 2016 was a bumper year for Christmas card sales (4470) with an unprecedented need to re-order. Other sales were much as usual: traditional ties 56, City ties 16, Anniversary ties 14, car stickers 33, pens 28, key rings 30, note pads 29, lapel badges 30.

Statistics

12. Statistical Officer Keith Walmsley continued to provide excellent advice to the EC on awards and Notes for the *Bulletin*.

Cricket Society XI (Tom Carmichael)

13. The players felt great satisfaction after an excellent season and resolved to do it all again in 2017. Seven wins against two defeats created an impressive win/loss ratio. The days of touring the Isle of Wight appear over but the Hampshire tour was a great success. Runs were scored with class and power. Jason Fenn and Rob Humphreys maintained their quality contributions, Paul Spencer and Peter Hardy both scored consistently well, and Angus Graham contributed a memorable maiden century and a match winning display of batting, bowling and catching the following week. Harry Fenn continued to be hugely unlucky, bowling with real pace and venom, to the benefit of old stagers Andy Sheldon, Paul Fielding and John Symons. Peter Hardy took eight catches with Angus Graham and Rob Humphreys 6 each. Tom Carmichael pouched 25 wicket keeping victims.
14. The XI was well served by its umpires and Brenda Symons, Robin Burns and Denise Fielding were excellent scorers. Vice-Captain Rob Humphreys and the match managers provided total support. The players were supported strongly by a travelling band of wives, partners, children and others.

Nigel Hancock OBE, Chairman

31 July 2017

THE CRICKET SOCIETY 2016 TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report another good year financially for the Society. We managed to keep our costs under close control and in many cases reduced them. Our income held up very well and where some elements fell these were compensated by increases in other areas. I will comment specifically on income and expenditure below.

Income

We had a successful year for recruitment. At the year-end we had 1,747 members as against 1,720 at the end of 2015. This was primarily due to a leafletting campaign to cricket umpires and officials which garnered us over 40 new members. Our advertising income showed a sharp drop but I can confirm that after the year end one of our main advertisers renewed his agreement and so receipts will be higher this year. Our lottery income fell slightly as members bought fewer tickets but the 2017 figures are much more positive. The stand out performance was from our merchandising sales which showed a huge increase mainly due to the popularity of the Christmas card (which sold out its initial run) but also as a result of booming tie sales.

For the first time we are showing all our dinner income and expenditure in the main accounts. Previously the dinner account was maintained by the dinner organiser and only the surplus was shown in our accounts. Going forward however we will incorporate all dinner income and outgoings in the Society accounts. We made a small loss on our functions this year but this does not take into account the raffle income from the dinners which is shown separately.

Expenditure

Our publications costs increased slightly but this was more than offset by a small decline in despatch costs – the first for many years. We continue to be able to source speakers at London meetings at reasonable rates but face continued price increases at the Royal Overseas League so many meetings will be moved to the more reasonably priced Civil Service Club. The West of England branch was re-established at the end of 2016 and the sum shown represents the costs for half the year. The costs for the north east branch fell this year as did the midlands branch, the latter due to profit on a function.

As we are winding down the library the costs fell as did awards costs which do fluctuate from year to year. Of our general costs these generally fell apart from publicity which covered the printing of leaflets for our mailing as mentioned above. This year we had to fund a new website and thanks to David Wood this was delivered on time and well below the budget. The total cost of just under £1,800 was something of a bargain.

We continue to make payments from the Vivienne Hoggarth fund principally to Chance to Shine Street and further details of the projects will appear in our publications soon. Our cash balances held up very well during the year despite funding the new website.

Conclusion

In summary we had another very good year financially and were able to fund our new website out of our trading surplus. Our main source of income remains member subscriptions and it is therefore crucial that we keep up our recruitment efforts and we hope the new website will assist this. We have been able to diversify our income a little e.g. the lottery and merchandise profits.

All in all the Society remains very well-funded and our income is more than covering our costs on an annual basis.

Philip Reeves Hon Treasurer

NOTES: