

## *Camden Cricket Club*

### **Minutes of the Camden Cricket Club 2015 A.G.M. held at The Red Bull pub, Newnham on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015**

Present: Alistair Austin, Nick Austin, Martin Baker, Hugo Batley, Margaret Batley, Ramesh Bulusu, Justin Lee, David Mitchell, Andrew Redfern, Stephen Robinson, Dave Warren, Ray Whyley.

Apologies for absence: Alec Armstrong, Julian Chilvers, Duncan Gibson, Steve Hodsdon, Dave Mackie, Andrew Matthews, Brian Mitchell, Darren Ward

Minutes of the last meeting were passed unanimously and signed.

Finances: 2014 season was reported on 2015 season is yet to be finalised. There was a loss of £581 largely due to the demise of the Colts and uncollected subs. There was a warning from the treasurer about this year's finances also. He believes that we will break even on 2015 or possibly be in the black. We have £1800 in the bank. The reduction of subs appears to have been justified. The treasurer has stabilised the finances since taking over in 2009 and received the thanks of the meeting.

Captain's Reports were read (available elsewhere, on the website).

The president's report was then read:

Camden has had a difficult couple of years. There is little point in dwelling on them. We need to renew and revitalise our club. We can turn this into an opportunity to clear out the stables and streamline what we are. We have a chance to define the club and our approach to the game and we can make that the way we appeal to other people who haven't yet worked out what's so great about playing cricket for Camden.

The summer saw some victories and a lot of close games; the opposition were consistently astonished with how upbeat we were as a club. I think we have the heart of something good on which to build. While on the subject of the summer I would very much like to thank our captain; Steve Robinson and the Casuals organiser Nick Austin for their extraordinary effort and astonishing good humour while getting sides out. I sincerely hope we have survived the nadir and now most look for ways to achieve apogee.

To this end we must decide how we want to develop. DO we have two teams again? I think this is a necessity in order to both provide members with guaranteed cricket, but also to signal our intent. It signals an intent to the cricket community that while we are no longer in the premier leagues we are still a Cambridge Cricket Club with a unique appeal and ambitions, we should perhaps dwell briefly on what those ambitions are both in the long and short term and I look forward to hearing your opinions on this. It would also signal intent to all of you and those who have sent their apologies; that we are a club, we must pull together as a club and that that will involve every member of the club helping in any small way that they can. While the easy option of stabilisation is appealing I think this will not help; the playing membership are aging, the young players have played more and I hope that they will form a core on which to build; if we, as custodians of the club, are to ensure a future those of my generation must accept our necessarily limited role in it.

So, we all need to recruit, show up to nets and encourage, take up small jobs or places on committees and sub-committees, play when we are able and, speaking personally, re-discover the joy that this game can give. After a word about an opportunity from Nick I would welcome and invite comment from the floor.

As a prelude to discussion:

Nick Austin told the meeting about an opportunity to partner Anglia Ruskin in providing cricket for its student body. He will continue to liaise but it seems a very good opportunity.

After some discussion it was again agreed that if members wanted to qualify as coaches then the club would do all it could to assist.

A variety of problems concerning the structure of the Club in the future were discussed. The vital role of recruitment was agreed; Margaret Batley offered to contact ex-members of the club while Ali Austin offered to canvass Perse students in the New Year. Andrew Redfern and Steve Robinson told

the meeting that efforts at recruiting in the inter-departmental league had thus far proved largely unsuccessful. Steve agreed to arrange nets in the new year and their timing and venue were discussed.

Second team viability was discussed. Andrew expressed concern about numbers at the start of the season, he was also concerned about how welcoming a team of relative strangers might be. Nick Austin said he had changed his mind and now believed 2016 should be a year of consolidation for the club with one team. Martin Baker was worried people would have to make a sacrifice to play at the bottom of the league, would they? Steve agreed with this and other points. The desire to show intent was reiterated by the President and it was agreed there must be no stagnation, but concerns about quantity and quality of recruitment were again expressed by various members. Hugo Batley was also concerned about stagnation while Ali made the point that two teams would help with recruitment. Andrew said it was a gamble, we could afford it, but should we?

Eventually it was put to the vote and the meeting decided we should have one side in 2016 by 11 votes to one.

The election of officers was abandoned in favour of Margaret's proposal of a list of jobs to be done, in accordance with a point made by Justin Lee during the previous discussion that there should be regular meeting and that committees should be set up. The list was taken/compiled and has been distributed by Martin Baker.

The VPs were discussed and the number missing was a concern that needed to be addressed. Jerry Moss and Simon Gardner were elected as Vice Presidents.

There was further discussion of recruitment, a new structure for meeting with as many as possible attending and some inconclusive discussion of nets for the summer.

The meeting closed at 2140.

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