

## Exmouth Cricket Club

### Minutes of the AGM held at Exmouth Cricket Club, The Maer on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

The meeting was opened at 19.35pm with a welcome from the Chairman.

**1. In Memoriam:** Fortunately at this time we had received no advice of any deaths during the year so The Chairman requested that all present stood in memory of the Atrocities in Paris.

**2. Apologies:** Apologies were received from 10 members: Dame Mary Bridges DBE, Dave Barnard, Joan Treece, Wilfred Easterbrook, John Hawkins, Geoff and Maureen Folland, Brian Hall, David Lye, Chris and Annie Blong, Trevor Blackburn and Richard Baggs,

27 members attended the meeting whose names were recorded.

#### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 20 November 2014**

These having been previously circulated were recommended for approval by the Secretary. Jim Wood proposed and was seconded by Rachel Tozer that these minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and they were agreed unanimously without discussion.

#### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The only matter arising from the minutes of the previous AGM was that the Committee had been unable to recruit either an Estates Chair or Social Chair during the past year.

#### **5. Honorary Secretary's Report for 2015 on behalf of the Executive Committee**

Paul Corder's report had already been circulated. The Chairman suggested that any comments be reserved until after his Report which would be complementary to the Secretaries report. This was agreed unanimously.

#### **6. Chairman's Address**

Richard Butler gave a comprehensive report which is attached to these minutes and comprises part of them. At the end of his report, the Chairman asked for any questions relating to either his or the secretaries report.

6a) Questions and Answers:

Matt Tarry asked how would the team players be made to help out on Friday nights, as obviously they may have work or family commitments making it difficult. The Chairman advised that the more senior players would have included in their contract that they would need to attend in order to make Friday nights a training session rather than a 'creche'. Linda Fishlock stated that was supposed to happen last year, to which the Chairman agreed, however the lack of contracts meant that it was unenforceable. The Secretary advised that of course a Rota would be needed. Ashton Collinge asked if there were any players on contracts currently The Chairman advised that no there weren't and when asked if the contracts related to paid players the Chairman advised that any contracts were not related to payments.

6b) Jim Wood stated that volunteers are important as the report said, however it had been successful in finding volunteers in other clubs where the Membership Form included a section requesting that members advised the club if they had any particular skills that they be prepared to offer the club. The Chairman noted that we failed in getting

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recruits for the CricketForce weekend. It was agreed that a request for skills be added to the Membership Application form. Gordon Tremlett was concerned in the use of the word Contract for players. The Chairman agreed that maybe the term Obligation be used instead.

6c) The Chairman advised that he had been present at the Planning Application meeting last Monday (14<sup>th</sup>) and the planners had approved the re-alignment of the road. The report in the Journal was incorrect in advising that the Club had offered the ground for the Contractors vehicles. The Madeira Bowls application for parking on the footpath adjoining their clubhouse had been vigorously objected to and a decision is awaited. Nigel Sampson had read the Journal report and he too was concerned, the Secretary advised that the letter that he had written regarding using the Cricket Ground as a car park was specific in stating that we would allow private light cars only and any money raised be to the clubs benefit. It categorically excluded contractors van etc and advised that the ground would be unavailable during inclement weather conditions. The Chairman advised that we need to keep a very close eye on this whole proposed development.

6d) Mike Dixon stated that if we had a storage problem surely we need to purchase a container as previously suggested. The Chairman agreed that the committee will keep a permanent storage solution on the list.

**6e) The Marquee** It still has the portable bar in it. Bryon Fishlock was concerned that the Marquee was still erected. The chairman accepted the point, but the club has been consistently been let down by volunteers. Also, the Chairman pointed out that he had received an email from Bryon about the Boundary rope and Nets which had not been taken down. Single handedly therefore he had removed both of these items and wondered why the volunteers had not been able to do that themselves.

6f) Gordon Tremlett noted that communications were not always as good as possible, however the Chairman advised that people don't always advise email address changes and this makes the problem worse. Communications for members on email was better than it had ever been and the Club Website and Facebook page were actively updated.

6g) Peter Dobbs asked if there should not be a regular working party, however the chairman advised that there is on Mondays and Wednesday mornings.

6h) Matt Tarry asked if perhaps the Colts parents couldn't be encouraged to help by possibly being able to do small jobs whilst the Colts training session was taking place. The Chairman agreed that could be considered but work needed to be identified prior to the training session and prepared for. The Secretary advised that the lack of an Estate Manager had exacerbated the problem.

6j) Paul Hurley suggested that we all agree to take the Marquee down on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon. This was agreed and immediately sufficient members volunteered.

**6k) Colts:** Jim Wood was pleased to see that younger Colts were to be encouraged and he advised that the ECB wanted clubs to run an National Entry Programme so that Cricket became part of their lives.

## 7. Honorary Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts to October 2015

An Audited set of accounts, which had been previously circulated, was presented to the AGM by Bruce de Saram. (attached). Bruce thanked Brian Webber for his assistance and advice in producing and auditing these figures. Bruce asked if there were any questions and he would be pleased to answer them.

Alistair asked what the difference was between Ground Maintenance and Ground Maintenance Nelson. Bruce advised that this was to separate the labour and material costs of the ground maintenance.

Bryon stated that on 2014 accounts the players expenses was £3080 whereas it was £2355 this year. The Chairman explained that this was due to the way, historically, that the players expenses had been paid from the Friends of Exmouth account. This was changed due to meet HMRC requirements and for accounting clarity.

Linda Fishlock asked if the overseas player really cost £4800. This was confirmed. The Chairman advised that he had already been told that recruitment for the teams was so good for the coming year, we would not be having an overseas player next year.

The Chairman advised that Income and Expenditure had both increased. Jo's efforts with Sponsors and Sandy's efforts with the Golf day had improved our financial income, however if we had not had the overseas player, the club would not have made the loss that it is showing this year.

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It was raised that Item 2 of the Financial Report mentions that the committee needs to address the way in which parking fees are collected next year. The Treasurer stated that as Madeira bowls have a planning application in for additional parking outside of our ground that will affect any system implemented, so no decision can be made until this has been approved or not. The Club has submitted an objection on the grounds of road safety as have many others. Bryon Fishlock raised that Madeira Bowls away teams do not pay for parking in our close season and that he or others were not prepared to stand on the gate and collect such fees. The Secretary advised that there was an agreed system in place whereby Madeira Bowls collect a fee from their visiting players and forward it to us, therefore we no longer need to provide support.

The President raised that if we had been able to raise more on parking we would possibly have been better off. Were there other methods being considered which did not involve volunteers manning the gate. The Chairman stated that we had to charge the same rate as the council according to our lease. The secretary stated that we cannot charge less than the council car park. The Chairman stated that from Monday to Friday in the summer we had to find a way of manning the gate unless we went into an electronic gate system. Our 2 gate system made it even harder, however we could improve our signage which could attract more cars. He advised that this was a downward trend since 2013 because of poor weather. The secretary advised that 2010 and 2011 were even worse than this year. Bryon Fishlock stated that he used to put a sign out by the Railway carriage restaurant. The secretary advised that this was contrary to our lease and could invoke its cancellation. Bryon Fishlock stated that there were 14 days, (3 weekends) in August when it rained, which the Chairman advised that he was well aware! The Chairman stated that whilst we have a valuable asset which could generate a good income, it was weather related and when we rely on that as our major source of income it was not a safe financial method. Bryon Fishlock advised that he had come down on a Sunday but as it was poor weather had gone home again. Mike Dixon stated that we didn't have someone like himself to stand on the date come rain come shine. The Chairman advised that possibly we could advertise. Gordon Tremlett asked when did the committee start looking for a replacement for Mike Dixon after he had advised that he was giving up. The Chairman advised that we had not advertised externally and had asked players and we had assumed also that the Overseas player would assist. The Committee had been under the impression that Bryon Fishlock was organizing a rota, however it was apparent by the June Committee meeting that this was not happening. The Chairman asked Sue Hurley to answer and she stated that we needed as many volunteers as possible and for a while during the Summer the Colts were helping out. The poor weather had made this difficult and not very successful. For this coming year, the committee have agreed to include car parking in the Estate Managers rôle and there is now someone in mind for this position. The secretary stated that he felt that advertising for the post of car park attendant would not work as due to the cash nature of this, you could not be sure of the applicants honesty; you needed to have someone known to the club. Bryon Fishlock stated that he wasn't prepared to come down at 8 am and stay all day when Madeira Bowls had competitions. The secretary again advised that this problem had been resolved and needed no man power from the club. Linda Fishlock suggested that the car park attendant should sit on the wall by the council ticket machine as she did and tell people to use the cricket ground as it was cheaper. The secretary advised that this was totally contrary to the lease on 2 counts, firstly we cannot charge less than the council and secondly we cannot aggressively tote for custom. He also stated that undertaking that kind of aggressive marketing could result in the club losing its lease! The Chairman summarised that we all agreed that there was a need to find a resolution and this will happen during next year. Thanks to Steve Bolt we now had a contract with Ocean for them to use our ground for wedding events. The Caravan club were also using the pitch although Teignbridge council were trying to stop it. We do have other options and need to get it in place to maximise it.

The Accounts were approved after a proposal by Graham Andrews, seconded by Jim Woods.

The secretary stated that some of our problems during the year were due to the lack of financial forecasting caused by the antiquated manual ledger system historically used by the club. He reminded the club that HMRC are not in favour of such manual systems and will not themselves accept accounts in that format. He requested that the club agree to implement a computer based system. This was agreed by all present.

### **8 Confirmation of Membership Fees**

The Chairman stated that the committee had produced these figures for approval and were largely based on last years with the discount for early payment. The Secretary did advise that there was a typo that Paul Hurley had

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noticed that Family membership stated that the early discount was for payment after April 1st not after April 30<sup>th</sup>. This had been corrected. The Chairman mentioned that the major change was that Colts would not be charged this year to encourage more Colts, however if they played for a team, they would have to pay the £25 members fee to ensure that they were covered by our insurances etc. The Car Pass will be issued to all members however ANY car that came into the ground without a pass, would be subject to a car park fee.

Matt Tarry asked if the club had noticed any advantage to getting players to pay their membership fees early with the discount scheme. The Membership secretary stated that she didn't feel that it worked. The Chairman advised that next year, players who have not paid their membership fee will NOT be picked. Matt asked if only 10 1<sup>st</sup> team players had paid, would the club cancel the match; to which the Chairman advised that we would field a 10 man team if necessary! All Captains had/would be advised that they cannot select any player(s) who is/are not members. The Chairman stated that anyone who was in a particular team would be expected to play if selected irrespective of where the match was or what day the match was on. The club will be much firmer than previously. All male players had paid last year. The President suggested that electronic methods could be used for playing fees as that is generally used nowadays. **Sandy Allen?** advised that the Rugby Club currently use this system with a dedicated fees bank account and also they allowed planned payments under certain circumstances. The Membership secretary was not sure that this was practical in our case. The Chairman advised that we already offer a stage payment scheme when requested.

The Fees were agreed after a proposal by Deborah Austen, seconded by Sue Hurley.

### **11 Club Constitutions Amendments**

This item was taken early as the formation of the committee as formed at the 2014 AGM needed to be ratified. All members had received a copy of the proposed changes with the reasons included with the Agenda for the meeting. The Chairman asked the secretary to expand on the detail, which was done.

The amendments were agreed after a proposal by Amanda Schaufler and seconded by Rachel Tozer

### **9 Confirmation of Officers, Club Auditor and Club Solicitors.**

The Chairman advised that no other members had advised the Secretary that they wish to stand on the committee prior to the AGM other than the incumbents and as the 2014 Officers had offered themselves for re-election and that the Club Auditor Brian Webber had agreed to remain and that Every's had also agreed to continue as Club Solicitors; that this be agreed 'en bloc' He listed the Current list for clarification. The Committee will be able to appoint any additional committee members if volunteers offer themselves in line with the Constitution.

This was agreed after a proposal Lynda Corder and seconded by Alistair Kemp-Tucker.

We would check to ensure that Brian Webber was happy to continue to Audit the Accounts now that the club was going to use an electronic accountancy system.

### **10 Re-election of Honorary Vice Presidents and Election of new Honorary Vice Presidents/ Hon. Life Members.**

The Chairman advised that the Committee had not put forward any nominations for new Honorary VP's or Hon Life Members, he proposed that we accept for re-election all of the present Honorary Vice Presidents as listed in the front of the 2015 Club book. This was proposed for acceptance by Paul Corder and seconded by Paul Hurley and agreed 'en bloc'.

### **11 Items received in writing prior to the AGM**

No Items had been received

### **12 AOB**

Gordon Tremlett stated there was a great deal of disappointment at the lack of the Annual Dinner and Presentation. It had not been formalized until after the T20 Final match which he felt was too late. Dickie Davis did remind Gordon that the Club lacked a Social secretary which of course created this problem. Deborah Austen had tried,

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however there was inadequate response. Sue Hurley advised that we have booked the event for next year (confirmed as September 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Royal Beacon Hotel) An Awards evening has been organised for this year however on December 12<sup>th</sup> in the Clubhouse. Due to space limitations priority will be given to the award winners and those who had booked to go the cancelled Annual dinner. Sue Hurley or Deborah Austen are the contacts.

Jim Wood requested a show of appreciation for the committee who were volunteers who worked tirelessly for the club and didn't really deserve the criticism apparent at this AGM. The Members present gave applause to which the Chairman thanked the members on behalf of the committee.

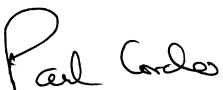
Alistair Kemp-Tucker suggested that up to date email addresses were needed. The Chairman advised that the Hon Secretary and Membership Secretary had undertaken a great deal of work in trying to correct and update the old database which had included many errors. He stated that the new membership form will request email address information be included for all members and that the Website and Facebook page were used by the club to advise members of special events/achievements as well as bulk emails to all on the email list. We will also target past members with a view to try to achieve a higher membership. We cannot be as active in advising those not on the emails as the costs involved are high and could also incur postal difficulties.

Linda Fishlock advised that they used to leave the mail in the clubhouse for those that they couldn't hand deliver. The Chairman stated that we have 2 kind volunteers who kindly arrange deliveries however we cannot take advantage of that with too many mailings and also when letters are left in the club house for members, that is where they remain!

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all for attending and suggested that those with ideas for improvement contact himself or the secretary for immediate consideration. The club was run by volunteers and needed the assistance of all members to operate.

Questionnaires had been provided for completion upon arrival and Sue Hurley was going to review these for consideration.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Signed as a true and accurate record .....  .....  
Honorary Secretary 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016