



**StrongroomCC AGM**

**05/10/2005 – Minutes**

**Present:** Richard Boote(RB), John Gower(JG), Mark Mellor(MM), Richard Woolhouse(RW), Simon Ray(SR), Chris Wilcock(Bully), Guy Wilson(GW), David Proctor(DP), Mike Gabbay(MG), James Morris (JM), Jolyon Rebbeck (JR), Pete Cannon (PC)

**Apologies:** David Gower, James Beattie, John Baddeley, Chris Englefield,

**Chairmans Welcome**

RB started the meeting by welcoming everyone. He said that he thought 2005 was a fantastic season, well organised and with the welcome addition of some new and keen players.

RB then handed over to SR for the captain's report.

**Captains Report**

SR started by thanking RB for his address and echoed his sentiments on the quality of the season and the new additions to the squad. SR said that he had thoroughly enjoyed captaining for the 2005 season and the 2 previous seasons, but 2006 would be his last as he felt a change would be good and that someone else should look to take over.

SR remembered a few good games. The double-header vs Gardeners (we won both), LBS (won one, lost one), Jesmond (snatched defeat from the jaws of victory) and London Nigerians (quality opposition and a good bunch).

SR then gave a quick summary of some good performances from individuals.

RW had been the leading run scorer again and played a great 118\*. JM was a great addition to the squad with both bat and ball, but as leading wicket taker he had really shone. RB had made a welcome return as a regular in the side and had taken the second most wickets in the season, including those of both RW and JM in the inter club game. The Gower brothers with their regular contributions with both bat and ball. DP had shown some excellent early season form with the bat, dipped mid season, and returned with a welcome 43 in the last

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game. MM had again strolled into the side for a game or 2 struck the regulation 50 from 18 balls and taken 6 wickets. Hopefully we will see this sort of performance in a few more games in 2006. PC was commended for a admirable effort behind the poles in 2005 and for some great umpiring decisions.

JG was also singled out for the massive organisational role he took on during the season. Fixtures, team selection and website, he did a great job and deserved the round of applause that he got.

Finally SR thanked everyone for the high standard of teas, although some of the antipodean efforts were slightly below par, there is a lot to learn about cricket in England. The prize for best tea had to go to RW and RB, for the inter club spread (including champagne) but there was a strong suggestion that Sarah had a hand in it, so thanks to her too.

### **Fixtures**

JG reviewed the fixture list. JG explained that we tried a number of new teams in 2005 (8 in all), as the fixtures generally needed a 'spring-clean'. As JG shouted out club names (RW noise pollution causing him to raise the volume), those present voted to keep or drop the fixture. Decisions were made to retain successful fixtures from 2005, to drop a couple, and to try a few more new ones. As usual, the real test for this is when we negotiate the dates from Metro for 2006, and can actually start sounding out opposition for matching dates. RB & SR also expressed enthusiasm to retain Intra-Strongroom fixture which was shared among the group.

At this point RW was told to shut up in no uncertain terms by the president RB

### **Finances**

Subs were kept the same at £60 regulars (central contracts), £30 for first season. They were paid quite late for 2005, but have almost all been collected already for 2006.

### **Kit**

Good amount of kit, maybe need some new batting gloves, wicket keeping gloves and RW has requested Dukes balls. He says that they swing more. MG suggested umpire coats and counters.

### **Posts**

The change in the fixtures secretary post saw the retirement of MM. MM handed over his heavily worn fixtures folder to JG, in a moving passing-on ceremony, and this bought to end a long and distinguished service in this role and hopefully will allow him more time to play in 2006. After RW's belligerent showing at the AGM, he was voted into a role that would give him some more responsibility. No one has really grabbed this role since Omar performed it so admirably a few years ago, so let us see if Richard can step up to the challenge as 'kit boy'/infrastructure management.

DP was elected treasurer on the strength of an email he sent round a couple of weeks ago. It is in the minutes for legal purposes:

*If you're a regular at the winter nets, get your wallet out and pay the cash. If you play more than five games a year, get your wallet out. If you're loaded, get your wallet out, in fact if you've got any self respect at all, get your wallet out. If you used to play regularly and now live in Australia and want to turn up every so often, with your slightly funny new fangled*

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*accents, and have a game, you might be excused! But the rest of you should just get your cash out full stop – it isn't much to pay for the quality of the pitch, surroundings, teas, companionship (missing you already Jon Gower!) and general top notch get-away-from-the-ball-and-chain on a Saturday option!*

*I am not a fan of the "occasional cricketer" subsidy, that's a nonsense notion. Either you want to be part of the club and have the option of playing 4-16 games a season, which are all organized for your entertainment, or you don't. If you don't want that option, fine, but don't expect others to pay for your benefit – I mean would you travel all the way up to Alton Towers in a mate's car and try to get in on a kids day pass, c'mon, this is Strongroom CC not some two bit nipple peep show in Rio de Janeiro. Expletives to follow at AGM.*

*Rant over.*

*Regards to all. David Proctor (regular cricketer)*

- Captain – Simon Ray
- Vice Captain – David Gower/Jon Gower
- Chairman – Richard Boote
- Treasurer – Dave Proctor
- Fixtures Secretary – Jon Gower
- Infrastructure Management – Richard Woolhouse

### **Nets**

Nets were agreed to remain as they have been, 10 at Lords starting in early 2006 (dates to follow) between 8 and 9. Everyone turn up and then we will work it out once we are there. Nets at Highgate are a possibility in the summer, JG to investigate.

### **mid-week cricket**

JG suggested looking into some mid week action. It was agreed that a league would be too much for now (and maybe not what the clubs about) but a cup would be fun. JG to investigate.

### **AOB**

Website was commented on and again JG was thanked for doing an excellent job. RW was reminded by RB that 4 years ago he had said he would write a history of the club. JG to do this instead. Other contributions welcome (match reports, articles, player profiles, photos etc) as long as they don't create more work for JG.

Red Stripe shirts were finally available (SR apologised for their lateness) and cost £15 each. Now that Morrart have the origination of the StrongroomCC logo, they can put it on most other items for not much extra cost. Some shirts have been bought already.

Team selection process was discussed. Everyone seemed happy with how it had been going, but the members-first policy was reiterated. That is wherever possible a paid up member gets priority over a non-payer, This led into a discussion of 'what was the point of the team?'. RB said the team was founded 21 years ago by some people who enjoyed cricket but were not interested in the attitude of league sides. Winning was preferable but enjoyment was also a massive priority. It was agreed that generally that spirit had carried through to today (having a few original members helps – RB, GW). Trying to give everyone

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some involvement was also mentioned and, although this occasionally lapses, everyone seemed pretty happy with how things were going.

A tour again reared its head. JG mentioned India, which although was initially laughed at, by the end was receiving some more serious contemplation. Bully was going to look into a tour to Cambridgeshire, SR to Holland, JR to brainstorm and RB was to look for a fixture in Surrey.

Another lively AGM was brought to an end by President Boote, after which we retired to the Strongroom bar for some interesting music and a drink.