

Strongroom CC

AGM 2016 - Minutes

2 November 2016, 19:30 Strongroom Bar

Present

Members: Richard Boote, David Proctor, Jon Gower, Grant Dixon, David Gower, Mitch Nicholson, Jimmy Hall, Tim Moore, Joe Rahman, Guy Wilson,

Non-members: Rob Lovell, Hem Patel, Dave Siddal

Apologies

Members: Vinay Venkateshan, Andy Orme, Mike Gabbay

Non-members: Rich Woolhouse, Tom Henderson, John Rajeeve, James Schneider, Harry Lojhan, Andrew Nicoletti

Minutes: Dave Gower

(1) Chairman's welcome (R Boote)

Still living in Portugal, Richard is sadly unable to make it to SCC games in the UK, though he keeps in touch with events. The highlight of his cricketing year was visiting Sri Lanka with his family and managing to catch up with us to watch the game at Maggona (the narrowest of our defeats, and one of the nicest grounds). Richard perceived little contention and few points in need of major discussion so thanked club members and especially officers for keeping SCC alive and in good shape.

(2) Captain's report (D Proctor)

Overall a successful and enjoyable 2016 season. Won 9, lost 8 (excluding our Sri Lankan losses), which is a perfectly respectable season for a non-league team. Narrowly lost to Gaities again after fine batting efforts from Grant and (especially) Mitch and superbly miserly bowling by Riaz. A poor early season (we'd won only three games by the end of June; two of those on tour) was followed by a run of 5 wins then a batch of cancellations and losses. Coming to the last game of the season (Pacific away) with an 8-8 record and having not won a game for 8 weeks, SCC were adrift before Pacific were reigned in by Joe Rahman and then James Schneider, Hassan Ali and Sumer made the 288 chase remarkably straightforward. Main cricketing weakness throughout season as a whole was our batting.

In his final season (for now) Joe was highlighted as a standout performer. Loud shouts were made for Grant (top wicket taker and some good shows with the bat) and also Vinay (both played 17 games in the season). Great to see Andy Orme and Hem back on the field.

(3) Treasurer's report (D Proctor)

Approximately £90 in account, which is not unusual for this time of year. Major expenses coming our way – winter nets (£720 bill upfront), 2017 ground hire (c.£550) and insurance (c.£250). Should be okay if we get an injection from subs (increased to £69 each – see below), then we can build finances through year again via nets and match fees.

(4) Fixtures review (J Gower)

Everyone seemed happy with the new fixtures that JG had arranged this year and no major grumbles with any existing fixtures. JG thanked and given club's blessing to continue in same vein.

(5) Subs review

Subs have been £60 for at least 5 years. General agreement that this is very reasonable and that, given increase in cost of nets, ground hire and insurance, it is time to increase this. In honour of Mike Gabbay's sole SCC innings of 2016, a value of £69 was agreed. Club members are encouraged to pay this as soon as possible so that we can book winter nets and the ground for next year – see subsequent email from JG and DP. Tim Moore led the way, paying before the end of the AGM.

Home match fees to remain at £5 each, irrespective of membership.

(6) Kit

Lack of club kit still seems to be working well. Nice new wicketkeeping gloves perhaps desirable. Mitch will see if he can bring his pair back next time he visits home. JG (as usual) to source balls.

(7) Squad/recruitment

We largely did okay in 2016 in terms of getting a team together and generally with a strong SCC identity. Good couple of new recruits (and nice to see Rob and Dave turn up at the AGM). Will continue the Gumtree ads this coming year. Members were encouraged to recruit friends, family, colleagues, randoms where possible. There was agreement that additional batting capacity/ability was more of a requirement than bowling, though we will miss Joe Rahman for at least the foreseeable future.

(8) Officers

No current Officers stepped down, no new nominations, so no votes needed. We did make a couple of tweaks. Dave Siddall replaces Guy Wilson as fielding coach. Mitch continues as Twitter Twonk – the club were keen that he build on his double figure of 2016 tweets and set him a 3 figure tweet target for 2017. Please direct Mitch to tweetable copy, especially on match days when he is not playing. Suspensions raised that many of our 627 followers are accidental Strongroom Bar/Studio bycatch.

(9) Nets

Winter nets (Lords) planned to start 10th Jan until start of season. 13 net sessions all on Tuesday evenings (variably starting at 7, 8 or 9pm, see: <http://www.strongroomcc.com/fixtures.htm>). Nets fees per session to be £7 for members, £10 for non-members. Whites!

(10) Match organisation

JG thanked Joe, Jimmy (nice work with stat-of-the-week) and especially Vinay for helping with sending out calls for players and organising games in 2016. Would appreciate similar help in 2017. Suggestion that we could look into team organisation apps, such as Teamer.

(11) Match reports

Patchy, but okay – even if we cut and paste copy from WhatsApp mini-reports. Any match reports gratefully received, otherwise keep up the WhatsApp, email and/or twitter communications to allow these to be scavenged.

(12) Website

All agreed it serves its purpose well and is suitably SCC in character. Hem Patel offered to maybe look it over and see what updates and improvements might be implemented. This is the third or so such offer from Hem; perhaps it will happen this time.

(13) Devon tour

Enjoyed by all who went. Universal wish to repeat in 2017. JG to look into fixtures and arrangements.

(14) Overseas tour

Sri Lanka early 2016 was thoroughly enjoyed by all who went. Still some heartache about our terrible record in Asia, and the missed opportunity to win at the wonderful ground in Maggona. Richard and the team enjoyed the surprise visit by family Boote. A big shout to Ian Hutchcroft (Harberton CC) for joining us as an honorary Strongman on tour – it was great having him along. And to Ujjal Roy – always a pleasure to have him emerge from his Hong Kong hideout and catch up with his SCC family.

General agreement that these (India, Sri Lanka) somewhat epic overseas tours can't happen every 12 months but that every 24+ months is too infrequent, so potentially looking at autumn 2017 for next adventure. JG and JR have been looking into Nepal (despite concerns that it lacks beaches) and already have some encouraging information and contacts. JG plans to continue research in this direction. JR will check out the Hong Kong cricket scene when he moves there. There is some desire among members to think about a less epic overseas tour, perhaps in Europe. Amsterdam has been mentioned before; Corfu was suggested during this AGM. Probably needs someone to look into it in more detail and propose something to see if there is enough enthusiasm.

(15) Joe Rahman

Is off to Hong Kong for the foreseeable future. Hopes to play a game here and there if/when he visits London, and is interested in joining us on overseas tours – so he was encouraged to pay his 2017 subs! Joe joined as a litherous teenager way back in 2008 (debuting alongside Ujjal), nearly walked away after his first unenjoyable experience, but thankfully for us gave it another go. Since 2008 he has likely made more SCC appearances than anyone, and he has developed into our most reliable bowler – in terms of both economy and wickets (now far and away the club's leading wicket taker with 221). Has chipped in some very useful performances also with the bat and (to a lesser degree) in the field. He'll be sorely missed. Was presented a slightly too large T-shirt and novelty key fob to send him on his way.

(16) AOB

Joe picked up an old-school SCC sleeveless sweater after the last game of the 2016 season (Pacific away). I think it might still be looking for its rightful owner.

Meeting closed 20:30

Many thanks, as usual, to Richard for hosting the AGM at Strongroom Bar and laying on the food.