



**AGM, 6th December, 2022  
Strongroom Bar**

Minutes (D Gower)

**1. Attendance**

**Present**

Members: Richard Boote (Chairman), David Proctor, Vinay Venkateshan, Jon Gower, Ankit Chandna, Ben Hartridge, Jerome Armit, Guy Wilson, David Gower

Non-members: Ramu Nair, Nara Hariharan, Sam Leach, Nilesh Mulashiya, Arun Parameswaran, David Siddall

**Apologies**

Members: Henry Davey, Seb Davey, Mario Picceri, Mike Gabbay, Ian Hutchcroft, Hem Patel

Non-members: Nick Dennis

**No-show**

Non-members: Andrew Orme, Louie Orme

**No response**

Members: Gwyn Jones, Otto Proctor

Non-members: Richard Woolhouse

**2. Chairman's welcome**

Having started the club in 1984, Richard Boote thanked everyone for coming and was happy to see many faces, new and familiar. Has not been playing recently, and is not often in the UK but he follows the SCC news and matches. Was delighted to have made it to Zanzibar to coincide with SCC being the first English-based team to play there since 1964. Richard thanked everyone who plays and especially those who organise and keep the club going (especially Jon G and match manager assistants). Attendees were reminded that SCC aim to play serious but not-too-serious cricket. If you want less or more serious then you'll need to look elsewhere.

**3. Captain's report**

Dave P regretted that injury kept him off the field for many games, but summarised how much he'd enjoyed playing in 2022. Especially enjoyed the Devon and Tanzania tours. Highlighted the great contributions and skills of the magnificent trio of Vinay, Ben and Ankit to SCC's success in 2022. Given fitness issues, Dave proposed that Ben be appointed as Vice Captain for 2023 – which was unanimously supported.

**4. Treasurer's report**



Dave Proctor summarised that we have approx. £900 in the SCC account. Major expenditure on the horizon in terms of indoor nets, ground fees etc. So we will need 2023 subs to be paid soon.

Subs increase from £75 to £80 per year agreed.

Match fees approx. £5 but set in response to provision or not of tea etc.

#### **5. Fixtures review**

Jon Gower proposed that all 2022 opposition were fine and can be approached for 2023 fixtures.

Unopposed.

#### **6. Kit and teamwear**

We have keepers gloves, pads, stumps, balls, scorebook. SCC teamwear is available via the AllRounder cricket website (thanks to Joe Rahman for setting this up).

#### **7. Squad recruitment, matchday management**

Approx. 60 people played for SCC in 2022 (!) with a core of approx. 15–20. Highlights were the return of Jerome, and arrival of new players including Sam, Oscar, Ramu, Nara, and Arun. Please continue to invite and welcome like-minded cricketers to join us in 2023...

Jon G was helped greatly with getting teams together by Vinay and Ben. Sam Leach will join this “match management” team for 2023.

#### **8. Officers**

Captain: David Proctor

Vice captain: Ben Hartridge

Fixtures sec: Jon Gower

Treasurer: David Proctor

Match Managers: Jon Gower, Vinay Venkateshan, Sam Leach , Ben Hartridge

Director of Fielding: Ankit Chandna

Director of Social Media: Sam Leach

Well-being Czar: Jerome Armit

#### **9. Winter nets**

Dave Proctor will soon try to book Lords sessions. Fees likely to be £10 per person per session. Watch this space.

#### **10. Website**

Thanks to Jon G for continuing to manage this up to 2022 and into the next year.

Thanks to Jon G, Dave G, Ben and Jerome for writing match reports in 2022.

Andy Orme failed to deliver his promised ‘blind’ match report.

Volunteers are welcome to help with match reports in 2023. Jerome and Dave Siddall seemed keen.

#### **11. UK tours**

Everyone enjoyed the Devon (June) and Somerset (September) tours. Will try to repeat these in 2023 with possible fixture modifications.



### **12. Overseas tour**

Lots of love for the Tanzania tour by all who attended.

Jon G suggested lining up the next one for 2024. Ideas floated included Ghana, Guyana, Grenada (all the Gs). There was notable enthusiasm for looking into the possibility of a 2023 overseas tour – especially from Dave P and Ankit (the latter willing to look into some options).

### **13. Team teas**

Cancelled since COVID-19. Lots of enthusiasm to reinstate home teas for at least some fixtures, depending on a match-by-match willingness to help out.

### **14. AOB**

The Club has been notified of a proposal from London Cricket Trust to install an artificial track in Highgate Woods, in order to increase opportunities for cricket to more people, and we have been invited to respond to this.

Some support for having an artificial track added – especially the increased provision of cricket facilities for all. However, there is also plenty of concern – especially what that might mean for the longer-term provision of grass wickets. Everyone present wanted to continue to play on the grass, despite the challenges of the Highgate track. There is probably no long-term guarantee for grass wicket preparation (even if an artificial track is rejected).

Some thought that potential negatives would be greatly reduced by an artificial track being installed only at one far end of the square.

Suggestions for action included:

- Contact the other three teams that play at the ground to assess their views and possibly coordinate a joint response.
- Say that development of cricketing opportunities would be greatly advanced by improving the Highgate Woods outdoor nets (whether or not an artificial track is installed).
- Ask the Council what the longer-term prospects are of them preparing grass wickets and whether that would be affected by introduction of an artificial track.

Finally, Jerome highlighted the importance of avoiding opposition umpires when we are batting, especially where there are father (umpire) and son (bowler) combinations - as happened when Jerome was given out LBW on a Devon tour match this summer.

Many thanks to Richard Boote and Strongroom Bar for hosting and feeding us.