



AGM, 8th November, 2023
Strongroom Bar

Minutes (D Siddall)

1. Attendance

Present:

Members: Richard Boote, David Proctor, Jon Gower, Vinay Venkateshan, Ankit Chandna, Ben Hartridge, Joe Rahman, Mario Picceri, David Siddall, Jerome Armit, Guy Wilson, Hem Patel.

Non-members: Ajay Pratap Singh.

Apologies: Mike Gabbay, Ramu Nair, Ian Hutchcroft, David Gower, Seb Davey, Andrew Orme, Richard Woolhouse.

2. Chairman's Welcome (RB)

Apologies for absences. RB expressed his warmth and happiness that SCC still continues. West Country and overseas tours are a fantastic addition to the club, and he was lucky enough to go to Zanzibar, and feature on local TV news coverage. Hopefully there will be more foreign tours to come.

3. Club constitution (RB)

RB ended with a reminder that SCC play friendly, non-league cricket, and that we don't play league cricket.

4. Captains Report (DP/BH/JG)

BH read out a summary of 2023: Played 26, Won 17, Lost 9. Two centuries from Ajay and Ben. Joe 31 wickets on his return to UK, and Ankit 33. Seb Davey achieved his first 5-fer (5-51). SCC won the October Cup. The Devon Tourist Trophy (Challenger Trophy) of 2023 went to Jerome, and Adrian 'Skip' Horne celebrated his 60th birthday on the Autumn tour to Somerset. Ankit was named as Player of the Year (477 runs, 33 wickets), following a spontaneous suggestion from DP.

5. Treasurer's Report (DP)

DP = the club finances are in good health. Ground fees remain the same. We need c.15 x club members, and payment of match fees, to keep the club financially sustainable. Subs £80 per season - works well (all agreed). DP suggests 10 x nets at Lords (as usual), and fees of £8 (members), £12 non-members. Some discussion around the fee for home games - some suggest £10, some £7.50 - depending if we offer a tea or not.

6. Fixtures review (JG)

JG = overall content with how fixtures were in 2022. AC and JR were unhappy with the Gaieties fixture in 2022, which ended in some acrimony. However, club elders also highlighted that they are a long standing opposition who we get on well with, and that this fixture had an unfortunate and unusual context (constant rain, T20 game, both captains' hesitancy to call it off). A vote was taken, and 11-2 voted to retain the fixture,



7. Kit and Teamwear (JR)

JR = expressed intent to source new branded kit provider, RB to provide access to Strongroom branding assets.

8. Squad/recruitment (VV/JG)

c.60 people played a game in 2023, with a regular playing core of c.15.

JG = we are in a good place overall with player numbers. While we struggled to raise a team for three games, these occurred randomly, and can be put down to the vagaries of playing cricket in a city with many other weekend attractions.

9. Election of Officers (RB)

Captain

- DP stepped down after 10 seasons a of service. JG read out a summary of his approach and achievements, and read out highlights of a bad-tempered tight victory against Village in 2017 as a case study in Proctology.
- Ben Hartdige was unanimously voted in as new club skipper for 2024.

Vice-captain

- Joe Rahman was spontaneously nominated (DP/JG) and voted in as club Vice-Captain for 2024.

Fixtures sec

- Jon Gower remains in the role.

Treasurer

- David Proctor remains in the role.

Match Managers

Jon Gower / Vinay Venkateshan remain in the role.

Director of Fielding

- Ankit Chandna remains in the role.

Director of Social Media

- Sam Leach stepped down.
- Ajay Pratap Singh spontaneously nominated and voted into piston for 2024.

Holistic Insight

- Jerome Armit remains in the role.

10. Nets (DP)

DP to book winter nets at Lords indoor school.

VV and BH to continue to promote summer nets at Highgate Wood and Wray Crescent.

11. Website (JG)

JG reminded us that match report writing volunteers are always welcome for 2024, and thanked Ben for some 2023 reports. David Siddall, Mario Picceri and Ajay Pratap Singh all volunteered to write match reports for 2024.

12. West Country Tours (JG)

Late June - South Devon. JA requested we tour Devon one week earlier, to avoid Glastonbury festival clash (this was agreed to by JG).



Late September - Somerset (we will try for Lynton & Lynmouth again)

13. Overseas Tour (JG)

JG said he had researched Nigeria and Ghana, and that Ghana is currently the leading candidate. All present voted to proceed with Ghana. Tour currently set for early November 2024 (TBC).

14. Teas (JG)

JG = we tried, with some success, to reintroduce prepared teas (post-COVID) in 2023. JG highlighted Ben's homemade scones and Ramu's wonderful chai. All present voted to continue to uphold the tradition of homemade teas for the 2024 season. DP suggested the moral responsibility for all members to prepare one home made tea per season.

15. AOB (RB)

DP suggested we maintain the Player of the Season award at each AGM (Ankit voted in for 2023), and also a Tea of the Season award. All agreed.

JG mentioned that 2024 is the 40th anniversary of SCC - all present applauded loudly. Guy suggested that the founding year of the club might actually be earlier than 1984, though there was little credible evidence to back up this assertion. All present agreed to hold an Intra-Strongroom club match to commemorate this anniversary, probably the final game of the season in early September 2024, followed by a big dinner somewhere. RB suggests Old Boys vs New Boys - in terms of length of service to SCC (i.e. rather than age).

RM also mentioned the passing of the first SCC captain Colin Challenger in 2023, and noted that Adrian Skip Horne had already renamed the Devon Tour Trophy in his name as a tribute.