



Strongroom AGM 2025

5th November

Venue: David Proctor's abode in Muswell Hill

Menu: [presented here in the WhatsApp words of DP]

*"Trad bonfire night fare with some Yorkshire-style input whilst not denying our north London liberal heritage. Hat tip to the veggies. Baked potatoes, limited but agreeable toppings, Butter and salt (purist), Tons of cheddar (blokes), Black beans, jalapeños (left field, but fuckin ace), Sour cream and chives (emasculated). Combo of all the above works well. Roasted veg soup (compliments of Miss Jones). Top drawer liquids. Italian bangers (for the carnivores), Parkin (pudding), *possibly custard* - never written that before. Beverages including hot chocolate for anyone avoiding the sauce, Guy to bring bubbles (channeling his inner Raffles alter ego). Reefers and vapes optional. Carriages by midnight".*

Minutes taker: David Siddall.

Attendees:

Members: Richard Boote, David Gower, David Proctor, Jon Gower, Vinay Venkateshan, David Siddall, Guy Wilson, Marty Newkirk, Ankit Chandna, Ted Proctor, Otto Proctor, Joe Rahman.

Non-members: Rich Woolhouse, Andrew Orme, Jonathan Crofts, Jas Singh (later arrival).

Apologies:

Members: Ben Hartridge, Jerome Armit, Seb Davey, Ted Davey,

Non-members: Mario Picceri.

1. Chairman's Welcome

[Richard Boote]

"Thanks for hosting the AGM, DP. It will be good to have a party at the end of the season at Strongroom Bar. Origins story of Rivington Allstars and Strongroom combining forces, 1984. Our founding principle was that we would never join a league"

[At this point RW asks RB how we managed to obtain permission to play at Highgate Wood]

"We used to play at Finsbury Park, and I recall Guy once broke both arms clambering over a fence at that ground. Adrian and Guy took laughing gas in the ambulance, and later on I caught Guy explaining to the nurse how many bones he's broken in his body. I was living in Holloway Road, in a Corporation of London owned property, and it was somehow through connection that I



convinced the Corporation of London to give us a lease at Highgate Wood. It's fantastic that Strongroom CC is still in existence, and I'm amazed Strongroom itself is still in existence"

[At this point, Guy claims Rich B once folded the club for three weeks because of falling out with the Exiles (which RB has no recall off), with "that absolute knob" as captain. RW also fires off various a series of anecdotes and wide-ranging comments, in his characteristic style, much to the perennial irritation of RB, yet, to all seasoned onlookers, this is nothing more than classic SCC AGM fare]

"Marching powder all night!" (Rich Woolhouse comments, in an excited recall of the infamous and tempestuous game he skippered against the Exiles).

2. Club constitution

[RB]

Same as last year.

3. Captain's Report 2025

[sadly Ben couldn't make the AGM, as apparently he was moving house. So, he messaged a very short update to Joe, which he read out below, and then JG read out some additional highlights].

[BH, via JR]

"Excellent batting. Bowling good as usual. Very strong team. Thanks to Jon. It would be good to seek out some stronger opposition next season."

Ben and Joe's Champagne moments of 2025:

- Knock of the year – Jas 73 vs. Erratics in a winning cause, showing some application and dedication.
- Catch of the year – Guy vs. Gaieties (covers).
- Spell of the Year – Marty 4 wickets in the final over to win vs. Jesmond Jagues

[JG]

- Won 22 Lost 5 Tied 1.
- Jas and Crofty are excellent new additions.
- We welcomed returnees in the form of Marty (14 years) and DG (2 years paternity leave).
- We celebrated 40 years of service in the form of Guy.
- Mario is still doing a job in his mid-60s.
- We carried out a ruthless demolition job on Gaieties. After two ties and never having beaten until now. Bowled them out for 31. Very pleasing. [RW adds some colour in recalling this event, glorying in how he came down to the woods to watch the route unfold].



- Last ball tie with Jesmond Jaguars – an astonishing 4 wicket-burst in the final over from Marty Newkirk the destroyer.
- Three wins over North London rivals Pacific.
- Centuries for Rashid, Marty, Dave Siddall, Ajay. DP highlights how DS scored runs with aplomb in 2025.
- Bowling – wickets aplenty, led by Riaz (33), Joe (20), Marty (18) .

Tour trophies

- Devon Tourist Trophy – Dave Siddall (tremendous century at East Prawle).
- Henry Davey Autumn Tour Cup – Mario Picerri (bowling, umpiring, dry sense of humour).

Club Trophies

- Rabbitron – Strongroom won it (best of 3 x T20 games vs. Paddington Rabbits)
- October cup – Strongroom retained it.
- Zanzibar Cup – Strongroom lost it against Jesmond Jaguars in September.
- Metatron – Strongroom lost it - it's currently hanging from the ceiling in the Haberton Pavillion

4. Treasurer's Report

[DP]

- c.£1,500 in the SCC account.
- Nets on Tuesdays 8-9pm at Lords confirmed.
- DP saying people should pay their subs if they are regulars.
- Teas and match fees stay the same (£10 tea, £5 no tea).
- If you play 5 games a year, you should be paying subs.

ACTION: £80 to stay the same for subs for 2026 season.

5. Fixtures

[JG]

- Replace Wookey Hole? Everybody keen to replace if we can.
- DP – Fearless Lions of West Ham were over-appealing. Not terrible, but would rather have them as a backup.
- Vinay – reinstate Budleigh Salterton. Others are less keen as that would mean we need to remove Erratics.
- Stronger opposition? We can explore this

ACTION: JG to explore Wookey Hole and FLOW replacements (and possibly replace Erratics with Budleigh Salterton).

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FOOD AND DRINK BREAK

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6. Kit and team wear

[DP / JG]

- No club kit needed.
- Club branded teamwear store still with Gray Nicholls. Plus traditional club jumpers available - which Andy Orme modelled and looked sharp in. If anybody wants one, let Joe know. 3 months lead time.

7. Squad recruitment

[JG]

- 62 x players in total in 2025. Squad numbers are in a good place generally.
- Crofty and Jas are good new additions.
- Thanks to Jon and Vinay for managing.

ACTION: Peer pressure on Rich Woolhouse to play more.

8. Election of club officers

[JG / RB]

- No resignations or nominations.
- Social Media Manager – Guy volunteers to share role with DS.
- Marty raising SEO issues for the SCC website. SCC does not come up when you search for Strongroom Cricket Club.
- Director of Fielding – Marty nominated / persuaded / encouraged / strong-armed to share the role with Ankit.
- Guy offers to buy “crazy catch”. We will wait and see what happens there.

ACTION: Marty and Guy added to club roles.

9. Nets

[DP]

- All booked, starts as of 6th Jan 2026.

10. Website / digital / social media

[JG / DS]

- 6 x match report authors in 2025 = very good to see.
- Andy Orme to volunteer some Google AI to convert match reports into video content.
- Marty mentioned SEO again.
- Jon floated the idea of getting a literary figure to review match reports and award a prize for the best.



11. Domestic tour

[JG]

- JG is looking into replacing Wookey Hole.
- No more post-match dinner at the Church House Inn in Haberton (too poncy and expensive), we will have a BBQ at the ground instead.

12. Overseas Tour

[JG / JR]

- Scheduled for 2026.
 - JR and JG present 5 shortlist options
- Malaysia
 - Penang and KL. 6 or so hands. Looks comfortable and pleasant, albeit the cricket scene is dominated by South Asian expats and lacks that native element which we so enjoy connecting with and enjoy on tour.
- Guyana
 - Mainland of South America. Coastal cities, where mostly cricketers are Afro-Caribbean and South Asians play, with more Amerindians inland. A game against an indigenous team can be organised via Jon's contact, in the interior, and requires an internal flight.
 - 8 or so hands go up when asked for interest.
 - AO can do feb 2027.
 - On the negative side, it is a long way, and there are no direct flights.
 - Jon's preference is Guyana. Joe is also pretty biased, as half-Guyanese.
- Sierra Leone
 - Easy to organise, 5 x hours direct flight.
- Gambia
 - Easy to organise, 5 x hours direct flight.
- Namibia
 - 7 or 8 hours flight. Windhoek. White Namibian. Internationally strong. Stuck in Windhoek an issue?
- = There seems to be a lean towards Guyana, though Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Malaysia are also popular and feasible options.

ACTION: JG and JR to continue tour research.

13. Teas

[JG]

AOB

- Marty - special mention to Riaz. A great knock and top bowling this season.



- Andy Orme - special mention to DP for hosting the AGM. Quality of the oat parkin and the beans highlighted.

