Strongroom AGM
2026

12th November

Venue: David Proctor's abode in Muswell Hill

Menu: Chicken curry, ginger chicken, lamb, rice, salad. Beer and fine red wine. Wonderful food.

Minutes taker: Audio recorded.

Attendees:
Members: Richard Boote, David Proctor, Jon Gower, Vinay Venkateshan, Ben Hartridge, David Gower, Guy Wilson, Marty Newkirk, Anup Patel, Jas Singh, Seb Davey, Jonathan Crofts,.
Non-members: Rich Woolhouse, Nick Soedjanto.
Apologies:
Members: Jerome Armit, David Siddall, Ted Davey, Joe Rahman, Ankit Chandna, Ian Hutchcroft.
Non-members: Lovekaran Singh, Arif Godhi, Andrew Orme, Hem Patel, Mario Picceri, Nara Hariharan, Sam Leach.



1. Chairman’s Welcome

[Richard Boote]

- RB reflected on the club's origins in 1984 and expressed his satisfaction that Strongroom CC continues to thrive 42 years later.
- He welcomed the continued strength of the playing squad and the club's tradition of domestic and overseas tours.
- RB particularly enjoyed the inter-Strongroom match, although he admitted to not recognising all the participants.
- The club's history and founding principles were revisited for the benefit of newer members.

2. Club constitution

[RB]

- The club's constitution and founding principles were reaffirmed.
- Strongroom remains committed to friendly rather than league cricket, playing to win while ensuring everyone participates and enjoys the game.

3. Captain’s Report 2026

[BH]

- Another strong season, including a successful inter-Strongroom match, with Guy Wilson scoring 41 not out, and enjoyable tours to Devon and Somerset.

- Strongroom regained the Zanzibar Cup by defeating Jesmond Jaguars and played three new opposition teams.
- Batting highlights included centuries from Marty Newkirk and Rashid, alongside three notable partnerships:
    - Vinay and Nick – 171.
    - Marty and Vinay – 163.
    - Rashid and Anup – 142.
- Leading wicket-takers were Jas (29), Jonathan Crofts (20) and Vinay (19).
- Jas bowled a club-record 127 overs during the season, surpassing Rich Woolhouse's previous record of 120.
- Joe Rahman's courageous 74 at Richmond and David Proctor's determined batting and unbeaten innings received special mention.
- Disappointments included:
    - two defeats against Pacific, losses to Gaieties and Paddington Rabbits, and Flynn Horne's Achilles injury on the Devon tour.
    - Jas's driving and Andrew Orme's unconventional contribution with the ball at East Prawle also attracted some light-hearted criticism.
- Otto Proctor observed that the season featured distinct clusters of victories and defeats.

<u>Tour trophies</u>

- Devon Tourist Trophy – Marty Newkirk.

- Henry Davey Autumn Tour Cup – Ben Hartridge.

Club Trophies
- Metatron – regained.
- Zanzibar Cup – regained.
- Rabbitron – lost.
- October Cup – lost.
- Jollof Cup – lost.

4. Treasurer's Report

[DP]
- The club remains in a healthy financial position, with approximately £1,730 in the account.
- There were 21 paid members in 2026.
- Annual membership remains good value and contributes towards the club's running costs.
- Home match fees will remain unchanged at £10 with tea and £5 without tea.

5. Fixtures

[JG]
- The 2026 fixture list was reviewed, with no significant changes proposed.
- JG suggested replacing the Somerset autumn tour with a tour to Suffolk. There was general support for the proposal.
  ACTION: JG to explore replacing Somerset with SUffol for the autumn tour).

6. Kit and team wear

[DP/JR (read out in his absence)]
- The club's wicketkeeping equipment remains in generally good condition.
- NS indicated that he might purchase new wicketkeeping gloves.
- No other immediate kit requirements were identified.

7. Squad recruitment

[JG]
- A total of 74 players represented Strongroom during 2026, with a substantial regular playing core.
- Squad numbers remain healthy overall, although the club was unable to field a team for a small number of fixtures.
- Members were encouraged to continue recruiting players through their own social networks.
  ACTION: All members to continue identifying and encouraging potential new players.

8. Election of club officers

[JG / RB]
- Captain – Ben Hartridge.
- 1st Vice-Captain – Joe Rahman.
- 2nd Vice-Captain – Jas Singh (new appointment, nominated and elected).
- Fixture Secretary – Jon Gower.

- Treasurer – David Proctor.
- Match Managers – Jon Gower and Vinay Venkateshan.
- Director of Fielding – Nick Soedjanto (new appointment, nominated and elected).
- Social Media – David Siddall and Guy Wilson.
- Holistic Insight – Jerome Armit.

N.B., Jas will captain matches when neither Ben nor Joe is available. Nick takes over fielding responsibilities from Ankit Chandna and Marty Newkirk, who are both overseas.

9. Nets

[DP]

- DP confirmed that he would arrange winter nets at Lord's Indoor Cricket Centre.
- Cheaper alternatives at Highgate School were discussed, but members strongly favoured retaining Lord's, recognising the privilege of training at such an iconic cricket ground.

10. Website / digital / social media

[JG / DS]

- Match reporting continued to flourish in 2026, with seven contributors.
- New match report authors remain very welcome.
- Seb Davey presented an **EXTENSIVE AND ENTERTAINING REVIEW** of the season's match reports, with proceedings requiring an interval before the final verdict.

  * * * FOOD AND DRINK BREAK (as Seb went on a bit) * * *
- The **2026 Best Match Report Award** (finally) went to Marty Newkirk for his Gaieties report, which included a particularly thoughtful reflection on the LBW law.

11. Domestic tours

[JG]

- The South Devon summer tour will continue.
- Members supported exploring Suffolk as a replacement for Somerset for the September autumn tour.

ACTION: JG to investigate suitable Suffolk opposition and tour arrangements.

12. Overseas Tour

[JG]

- Plans for the March 2027 tour to Guyana are progressing, with several potential opposition clubs identified.
- Outstanding arrangements include flights, accommodation, fixtures, ground hire, transport and the final itinerary.
- Members expressed strong interest and general support for the tour..

  ACTION: JG and JR to continue tour planning.

13. Teas

[JG]

- The standard of home-match teas remained excellent throughout 2026.

- Special recognition went to Marty, Seb, Ben, David Proctor, Anup, Jonathan Crofts and Jon Gower for their culinary contributions.
- The **Best Tea of 2026** was awarded to Marty Newkirk for his Vietnamese tofu salad.

AOB

- **Marty Newkirk:** JG thanked Marty for his considerable contributions to the club ahead of his return to Australia. Marty was presented with a commemorative T-shirt.
- **David Proctor:** Members thanked DP for hosting another excellent AGM, providing the food and refreshments, and enjoying a fine season with the bat.
- **Vinay Venkateshan:** JG acknowledged Vinay's valuable support with match management throughout the season.
- **AGM quiz:** Ten visual quiz questions were interspersed throughout the meeting. The competition ended in an eight-point tie between the teams associated with David and Otto Proctor, and David Gower and Ben Hartridge. The winners received cricket bat rubber grips.