

# **MAIDENHEAD & BRAY CRICKET CLUB** (Founded 1798)

Maidenhead & Bray Cricket Club (1996) Ltd. (no.3192424) A Company limited by Guarantee

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The Pavilion at Bray, High Street, Bray, Berkshire, SL6 2AA. ☎ (01628) 622669  
(affiliated C.C.C., Berkshire C.C.C.) President: Sir Michael Parkinson CBE

## **Annual General Meeting of Maidenhead & Bray Cricket Club**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 - 7.00pm**

### **1. Introductions and agenda**

The committee welcomed all the in-person and virtual attendees and a copy of the agenda was distributed

**2. Apologies for absence:** Matt Greenough, Michelle Jeyarajah

### **3. Review and adoption of minutes of the last AGM**

Brett proposed the minutes and Vijay seconded it

### **4. Chairman's address – Tim Child**

TC noted that 2021 had been a welcome return of a full season of cricket, after the lockdown season in 2020. We hadn't been able to do any indoor nets, but the outdoor season started on time and as a club we had a very successful season, growing numbers of players at all levels, and in consequence it was a healthy season financially. TC paid tribute to the efforts of the volunteers who make the club happen – captains, managers, coaches, administrators, as well as course to the players and the parents of the juniors.

The club has been experiencing very welcome growth, which has enabled us to commit to long overdue investments. The aging netting has been refreshed and replaced, including replacement and extension of the surface of the net nearest the Pavilion. The club will be buying a new, larger, roller for the Main Square, as the old one is about 70 years old and broke down (thankfully not terminally) the week after the end of the 2021 season – which would have been a disaster if it had happened a few weeks earlier. The plan is to move the old roller over to the Jubilee, so that both squares will have the benefits of upgrades to equipment.

The accounts show the source of the increased income for the club - the increase in numbers of members, all of whom pay annual subs. We are now the largest club in Maidenhead, with 5 TVCL teams, Ladies, more All Stars than anywhere else locally and 13 junior sides from U9 to U17, girls and mixed.

TC also thanked the clubs sponsors last year for their generous support, Wicket Academy, Tutortoo Slough, Cliveden Conservation, Savills, Horse Guards/Wing Walker and Cook My Grub. Sadly, neither Tutortoo nor Horse Guards can renew their sponsorship this year, so we are actively inviting approaches for our Zing sponsorship and Gold Sponsor packages.

TC also paid tribute to two stalwarts who are stepping back this year:

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- James Cunliffe is stepping down from his role as Vice-Chair due to pressures of his professional life in the context of world events at the moment. He has been in post for 5 years and very active in driving, for example, the Jubilee project. TC also paid personal thanks for James' assistance showing TC the ropes when TC first became Chair.
- Vijay Kalalbandi has decided to give up the captaincy of the 2s, after an incredibly successful stint leading them to be champions of division 5 and then establishing the side firmly and successfully in division 4. He isn't stepping away as a player, thank goodness, so we won't be losing his talents in the field.

Finally, TC also wanted to express thanks on behalf of the club to Charlie Jacobsen and Lewis Gould and his team for their dedication and skill in preparing the wickets and the grounds for cricket, a process which goes largely unseen and continues all year round, and for some reason is often overlooked and under-appreciated by players. Without them, nothing else we do would be possible!

*VJ raised a question about whether there is more that can be done about draining the ground effectively after a downpour. Tim responded that compared to many grounds, MBCC does drain pretty well, apart from the square, for which there is a Bowdry upstairs in the main changing room that can be used.*

*Allan Hagglund then explained for the benefit of the meeting that there have been a number of additional ground-preparation procedures over the winter this year, in an attempt to improve the square and the outfield. Deep aeration has been done on the squares and the outfields (using different contractors as the machines are different), the outfields have been rolled and slit and the club has invested in new cartridges for Charlie's mower to enable him to do a lot more to the strips in the course of pitch preparation. AH has been liaising closely with Charlie to find out what he has at Henley that we don't and how we can address what's needed.*

## **5. Finance report –Jenni Hagglund**

Finance report shared with the attendees and Jenni ran through the financial report (see attached).

An overall increase in membership numbers and electronic capturing of membership fees has helped increase the overall membership.

*John Hewitt asked whether we have put in an order for 2<sup>nd</sup> sight screens for the main ground? TC replied, noting that double sight screens are only needed in div 2 and due to the 1's being in div 3, it should hopefully be an expense for next year. Brett van Niekerk noted that double sight screens are really a necessity and should be prioritised in the future.*

Subs are being maintained at the same level this year, except that the ladies and girls are being moved up to be level with the boys.

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Match fees are going up by a pound.

JH and BvN proposed and seconded the finance report.

## 6. Summary of Captain's reports (Tim Child)

1's team: Kieran Grey is the 1s captain again this year and has noted that the goal is to bounce straight back up to the division above. A Crusader will be joining. Nick will be the specialist coach for the 1's. 1's training on Tuesday nights. The aim is to have a core group of about 16 players who will be training and playing through the season. BvN touched upon the lack of consistent performers in the 1's team

2's team: Paddy Searing (2s captain elect) noted that the aim for the 2's is to continue the good work started by Vijay and maintain our position in div 4. Being just one division lower than the 1s, the 2s will be provide as much assistance to the 1's team as possible by setting performances and standards such that players are ready and challenging for places in the 1s. Hopefully there will be a few young players ready to come through.

It was noted that Arul Appavoo has moved away to Basingstoke and won't be available on Saturdays as a result.

3's team: AH noted that it will be tougher this year with the new teams coming in and 4 teams coming down from div 6. In 2020 we came 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we finished 4<sup>th</sup> and the aim this year is to finish higher. In the 2<sup>nd</sup>-last game of the season we beat Eversley who finished top of the league. Allan want to try and get more people engaged within the team. Overall, there needs to be an improvement in the batting and more partnerships.

4's team: Alex LeClercq wants to maintain the spirit of the 4s and ensure that everyone gets a game each week, but at the same time to try and aim for a promotion with closer games.

5's team: TC noted that the 5s are about involvement, not results. The target is to get as many people involved as possible, including new players, fathers and sons/daughters, etc.

*BvN asked what the minimum age for league games is? TC explained that in theory it is U14 (so age 13/14) but that players who are in the full county squads can play at U13 or even U12, with permission from the county coach.*

Julian Plate team: We won the plate in 2021 and will be playing the Julian cup this year.

## 7. Head of Juniors reports – Matt Greenough and Rachel Scully

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Rachel Scully talked about the girls and womens update/plans. Monday night training for girls and women to continue and will be run by Future Legends, with whom the girls and ladies section are very pleased, as they seem to “get” girls’ and ladies’ cricket coaching.

## U11 – Tim Bowley manager

At U11s for the girls all games were played in the Festival format only last year. This year we will have the Festivals but also a new Challenge format, T20 Pairs but still softball.

We are planning an U11 mixed hardball team for transition for those girls ready for it. U11 at county is hardball, but we don’t have enough to do hardball-only girls... yet, but we have great experience last year with joining girls into boys’ teams

## U13 – RS manager

U13s last year had festivals – both in softball format and T20 hardball. Numbers are high for next season but have only entered hardball team. We want girls included in boys’ games, and they can play down an age group – so u11.

U15 We are low in numbers at this age group – so they all play up in U17 (manager is Amit Sareen). We will do the same this year

Girls made up large numbers in boys’ u15/17 squads last season and were encouraged to attend training on Wednesdays with them and even consider the 5’s to get longer format games

Ladies – Michelle Jeyarajah MJ noted that the Ladies are in the Home Counties league again this year, playing on Sundays. Hopefully this year the fixtures will not be as geographically-far as last year. MJ will represent the Ladies on the club committee.

RS noted that the end of season parents/coaches vs kids had been great last year, as had the awards ceremony.

We had a lot of girls getting training with Berkshire at all levels over the winter, the largest number for girls, and also the MCC HUB training, County development u13, county u15 and EPP, and u18 county

The ECB is improving female visibility and have the #wegotgame hashtag, with some inspirational stories from England players, great for girls cricket since the Hundred. Interestingly, only 1/10 cricket clubs in England have girls section, but that is 2/3 in Berkshire. We are thriving, with about 75 girls age u9 to u17 registered in Teamo, plus the Ladies.

## **8. Election of officers of the club and captains**

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All officers and captains were elected unanimously:

Chair: Tim Child

Vice-Chair: Allan Hagglund

Honorary Treasurer: Jenni Hagglund

Secretary: Shabbir Mookhtiar

Head of Colts: Matt Greenough

Head of Ladies and Girls: Rachel Scully

Ex officio/co-opted Committee members (noted, not elected): Tom Allen, Matt Armstrong, James Cunliffe, Alex LeClercq

1sts Captain: Kieran Grey

Captain of Ladies: Michelle Jeyarajah

2nds Captain: Paddy Searing

3rds Captain: Allan Hagglund

4ths Captain: Alex LeClercq

5ths Captain: Tim Child

Sunday Captain: Matt Armstrong

(The club safeguarding officer is not an elected position but is noted to be Henrietta Thornton.)

## **9. COVID Update**

We will be following the ECB's advice on COVID measures. Currently, the only major change to the regular game is that applying saliva on the cricket ball has been outlawed.

## **10. Teas**

The survey results have indicated that the rise in prices needed to pay for teas are not agreeable to the membership and we will not be serving teas. We will be providing drinks (tea and coffee) at league games.

Sunday teas may be done, based on Matt Armstrong deciding what the options are.

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*JH asked whether some discussions could be had with the oppo if teas should be done. TC noted that at the TVCL AGM we had been one of only a very few clubs who voted in favour of teas being provided at TVCL games, so the reality is presumably that only those few will be thinking about providing teas, and of those a significant proportion won't do it anyway. We have been contacted by Datchet asking whether the 1s want teas when they visit, so there is some residual interest among clubs. There followed an open discussion around the room with reports on what the other teams are doing.*

## **11. Club infrastructure report (incl. changing rooms, Jubilee Project, equipment investments)**

There are plans to re-develop the upstairs changing rooms area. A meeting has been had with the ECB development officer and Berkshire. They will come back with some guidelines. The sports club will be paying with the cricket club supporting. The hockey club use the showers and so do the footballers (Braywood Beavers 2 teams and Holyport FC U12).

The Jubilee project continues, but has stalled pending getting any information about planning requirements out of RBWM, whose planning department are being extremely difficult about responding.

The charity creation is underway. The Pat Welford bequest is ongoing. We've been setting up a charity to receive the fund. It will help with the Jubilee project

## **12. Sponsorship and fundraising**

We welcomed MyWorkSpot (Will Ballantyne and David Johnston) as new sponsors at the club. They will be sponsoring a set of Zing wickets.

## **13. Overseas player**

Kurt Heigel is the overseas player. The LeClercq's have offered. However, we are waiting to see if any others would like to offer.

## **14. All other business**

JH noted that the 100 club needs to be revived and brought back up to date and he will deal with that.

TC noted that he had been informed by Peter Meade that grounds may be asked to provide a walkie-talkie system for umpires to talk to the scorers!

Congratulations were given to TC on winning the "Growing the game" award

A kit day will be setup to sell the spare junior gear from the changing rooms at the start of the junior season, and RS is leading that.