

WESTERN PROVINCE CRICKET CLUB

MINUTES of the 159th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the WESTERN PROVINCE CRICKET CLUB held in the BOWLS CLUBHOUSE, on THURSDAY, 31st AUGUST 2023 at 18h00

1. Welcome

The Chairman – Steve Palframan – welcomed everyone to the meeting. SP made special welcome to all Vice Presidents, Members and representatives from our business partners as well as RBHS representatives to the 159th AGM. SP thanked all for attending the AGM.

2. Apologies

Dr Andrew Golding, Shaun Nortier, Andrew Peile, Kevin Lodge, Norma Ratcliffe, Shirley Macdonald, Kobus Swart, Paul Burton, Brian Biebuyck, Dennis Nick, Adriaan van den Dries, Jackie Blundell, Mike Blundell, Michael Groves, Keith Cullis, Nigel Kees, Iain Fraser

3. Obituaries

3.1. The following members passed away during the year:

Margaret Adlard, Rowan Craig Algie, Mari Anne Bedford, Zeena Canning, Doreen Yvonne Coldrey, Antoinetta Commins, John Glyn Davies, Vince Dean, Ronald Frederic Delpont, Malcolm Leonard Domingo, Graham Geduld, John Eric William Hall, Timothy Patrick Hamilton-Russell, Ronald H Klose, Alexander McInnes, Graham McPherson, Edward Parlabean, Michael Douglas Reeler, Peter Anthony Roos, Maureen Scott, Peter Shout, Norma Noreen Skinner, Ian Clyde Smith, David Alfred Stewart, Martin Symons, Malcolm Loch Watters

SP requested the floor to stand and have a moments silence to remember members who had passed away.

4. Approval of Minutes

4. The minutes of the 158th Annual General Meeting were approved as tabled. Proposed by Graham Todd and seconded by Tony Huggett.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

5.1. General

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

6. To receive and consider the Executive Committee Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 May 2023.

6.1 Committee Report – Steve Palframan

Your Executive Committee has pleasure in presenting the 159th Annual Report for the year ended 31 May 2023.

We have been blessed with another action-packed year that has just flown by – with much fun - but not without its challenges. A few days after the last A.G.M I was privileged to be part of the WPCC Chairman’s XI that embarked on a cricket tour to the UK (the first tour to the UK since 2008). We played at some of the best private cricket fields in the lands – including Frogmore (on the grounds of Windsor Castle) and Wormsley – and the tour finished up with us being reciprocated in the members pavilion at the Oval for the rained out first day of the England vs S.A. Test match. Wherever we travelled the team looked resplendent in our “stripes” and it was wonderful to walk where many great men and woman of the sporting world have tread. A memorable start to the “new year” indeed.

The end of the hockey season – capped off with our Hockey 1st team winning the Grand Challenge Trophy back-to-back – ushered in an incredibly busy Summer at the Sport Centre. The running section staged two very successful races - Landmarks and the Medical 10 - before Christmas. The Bowls season got off to a great start – and with the use of all four greens we hosted a few major tournaments during the summer. Congrats to the Men’s Premier team who won the League for the second year in a row too. Our cricket teams fared well throughout the season with the 1st team ending 3rd in the Premier League – having been in the running for the title with just a few weeks to go in the season. The squash section continued to provide lots of activity in the centre and we successfully hosted many Club and Open tournaments. Our ladies’ tennis double and singles teams won promotion, and in the A mixed league finished joint 3rd.

A few other events that took place at the Centre (which have previously been mentioned in letters to members) include: A well-attended Wine Festival; the Club Sport’s Awards; Bowls Club Year-end party; Last Man Stands World Champs; Cricket and Hockey CPL tournaments; Cape Town Sixes; Woman’s T20 World Cup Cricket practices and practice matches; Over 50’s Men’s World Cup Cricket matches – including the memorable semi-final in which SA beat New Zealand and the closing dinner that we hosted in the Indoor Centre.

Back at Newlands we saw the installation of new seats to meet new public safety standards - along with the implementation of the plastic “cup rule” (regrettable – but which is now a new international standard for public spaces) as well as upgrades to players changeroom facilities (yes – also owned by us). The Oaks Room hosted the Over 50 World Cup Opening Ceremony as well the Cricket sections Annual Dinner. There were many days and evenings of awesome cricket including all the WP Blitz and MI Cape Town homes games in the SA20; the Over 50 Men’s Final and the Woman’s T20 World Cup. The final between SA and Australia will long be remembered as a spectacular occasion with a sold-out Members Stand.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution made to the Club of our previous Club Captain, Chris Boyes. Chris has been a great club man for over 50 years. He served the Club as Chairman of the Squash Committee for 3 years and as Club Captain for just over 6 years. Chris was a “reluctant” starter for the position in his 7th year - and he resigned at the end of October. Thanks for all you have done in shaping the Club over many years, Chris. It is always a pleasure to see your smiling face in the bar.

As before, the focus of our membership committee has been to retain members, enhance the members experience of the Club and to attract new Members. Graeme Cann has continued to Chair this Committee and overseen the marketing portfolio. Our weekly online communication, The Cricket, continues to keep all members posted with activities at the club as well as all team results and up-coming fixtures. We endeavour to have this emailed to members by 12h00 on Thursdays but there are sometimes delays due to fixtures not being finalised – and the occasional technical mishap.

Membership has grown over the year – most notably in the Junior sections of hockey, Varsity College and ETA, as well the recently added Magic Soccer Academy (for Women) that is run by George Dearnley. In the months ahead we will try again to re-introduce Ladies Cricket to our Club – in the hope that we too can nurture and produce a few new Ladies Protea talents for the world stage.

The Jokers Wild Draw that continued for 45 weeks was a huge success. Raffle ticket sales totalled R490 390.00 and the winning jackpot was R216 200.00. Congrats again to Club stalwart Bridgett Visee – we all shared in your joy of winning!! The Sports Sections raised a total of R116 139.00 through the hosting of some wonderful Friday evenings – and there were thus winners all round! The energy and buzz that this draw has created has resulted in EXCO calling for a “second round” which will start at the end of July. Sadly, the attendance draw has been rolled over for many months – and was standing at well over R40 000 at the end of May. Perhaps it is waiting for you to come on down and stake your claim. Our satellite bar on “The Wally” for our community friends has also continued to be a BIG hit on Friday evenings.

Deyar Natha has done a sterling job heading up our grounds and facilities committee, spending many hours in conversations with management and vendors alike. The significant achievements of the year are the improvements in the cricket nets and pitches, the bowling greens (and the

return to use of the “A green”), and the tender process for the Solar system which will be installed in during September 2023. The costs and specifications as well the savings the Club will benefit from were shared in a letter to members in June. Thanks, Deyar - your contribution is very much appreciated.

The more events and activities that we host at the Sports Centre or at Newlands the more contracts that need to be negotiated and then drafted or reviewed by our Operations and Legal team. Michael Dixon has done a fabulous job making sure that all aspects of any decisions or contracts always protect our Constitution - and always put our Club’s interests first.

At the end of the 2022 financial year EXCO were happy that we had made a smaller loss than had been budgeted, as we struggled to shake off the shackles of the pandemic years. I happy to confirm that we have once again “beaten” the budget and made a surplus of R290k for the year. Thank to Shaun Fisher, our Club Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Finance Committee, and John Vicars for managing the financial affairs so well.

In an update letter in June, I referenced the BIG projects that we will be embarking on in the months ahead. Having finalized the tender process and the funding of the solar project, we will now seek to put to bed the “Elephant in the room”. For many months deliberations on where to place courts and how to fund “Padel @ Province” has been a rather divisive topic. We are clear now that courts will not be on Tennis Court number 1 and we will also not creep any closer to Avenue De Mist in order to be considerate of neighbors who may have been affected by noise. At the same time, we will endeavor to begin the upgrades of the buildings south of the B Astro which include the double story house and the hall area (including the trapeze park and basketball court) - more commonly referred to as “The Noddy Precinct”. We look forward to putting this space to good use in the years ahead.

Pam Golding Properties, Growthpoint Properties and Personal Trust International have been very supportive business partners indeed, and once again I would like to THANK them and - our Newlands suite holders for their generous sponsorships and contributions. Balancing the books would be so much harder without you all. Our Club President, Dr Andrew Golding, and the Club Vice-Presidents have always been there with input, suggestions and encouraging words whenever we have needed them. Thank you all for your support.

Our facilities look great (I won’t ask you to stand and reflect from the balcony again) and the beers are kept cold by our wonderful TEAM. Thanks to John Vicars, Brad Seconds and all the staff and service providers who each play their own significant role in keeping Province a truly World Class Sports Club.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow EXCO members – Shaun, Michael, Deyar and Graeme for all their time and efforts. Many calls, meetings and emails tally up to a substantial contribution on the scoreboard, and I am sure members are all grateful for your sacrifice.

So here is wishing all Members another fun-filled year. I am sure many of you will help us to have a sold-out Members Stand for the Test match in early January and the SA20 matches. May the rest of your time be filled with lots of runs, wickets, goals, “nicks”, aces, personal bests and may you “kiss the jack often” and choose the Joker when you get the chance.

6.2 Finance Report – Shaun Fisher

Good evening

My last 3 finance reports have been fairly conservative as we as a Club navigated our way through challenges never encountered before.

I'm pleased to report that for a change I am able to be less conservative and a trifle more optimistic in presenting the finance report for the financial year ended 31 May 2023.

The financial performance reflects a pleasing surplus of R301 936 vs a budgeted surplus of R158,585, exceeding budget by R143,351.

The financial statements have been completed and we have received an unqualified audit report. We have finalized the financial statements within 3 months after the financial year end, which aligns to listed companies. This tight deadline does put pressure on both management and the auditors to meet the deadline and unfortunately it does not always go according to plan. We need to unpack this in the next few weeks to see where improvements can be made for next year.

A review of the balance sheet indicates a Net Asset Value of R45.7m and cash on hand of R2.3m.

On reviewing the detailed income statement, some interesting points stand out.

Firstly, we were able to grow revenue by 36% compared to FY2022 with all sub-categories of revenue increasing significantly.

It is interesting to note that membership fees as a percentage of revenue decreased from 53% to 42%, indicating management was also able to maximise the usage of the Sports Centre and Newlands to generate income to support our operational costs. This may inconvenience our members from time to time but is a necessity to generate income to cover our operating and maintenance expenses.

With increased revenue we were able to incur some much-needed maintenance on our facilities, most notably fixed seating was installed at Newlands using a combination of new seating as well as re-purposing seating from Newlands Rugby Stadium. Newlands also required some much-needed maintenance and compliancy issues with CoCT, in addition to re-surfacing a tennis court and purchasing new cricket covers.

The other large project identified during last year was the installation of solar at the Club. After extensive analysis and debate we have finally paid the deposit towards this in August 2023 and hopefully this will be up and running in the next 6-8 weeks. The feasibility of this is an absolute no brainer with a pay back of less than 5 years, controlling future increases by Eskom as well as the saving on the cost of diesel. We are financing this through Wesbank. This is unsecured financing which means we have not encumbered the assets of the Club in anyway.

John Maxwell once said that “vision not repeated is often forgotten” and our focus for FY2023 has remained consistent - to continue to grow our membership base, to maintain and improve our world class facilities and to continue to offer value add for existing members.

Our junior member hockey and cricket sections have continued their growth trajectory, and it is most pleasing to see these new members at the Club. This increased activity brings a lot of energy to the Club.

On review of the membership report it is pleasing to note the increase in the junior membership and the relative stability of our normal membership categories. We need to continue to focus on maintaining and growing these numbers.

Given the signs of newfound positivity with increased sports and economic activity, the Finance Committee has adopted a more robust approach in preparing our budget for FY2024. To this end we are projecting a surplus of R110,908 for FY2024 on the back of increased activity at Newlands and utilisation of our facilities at the Sports Centre.

The main objective for FY2024 is to remain consistent in our business operations, to ensure our facilities remain in the best shape possible; to continue growing our membership by adding value to our members and to ensure we are the sports club of choice in the Western Cape.

Looking forward to the year ahead we have some significant income generators such as the inbound tour from India and the second season of SA20.

This will allow us to identify some CAPEX projects, such as Padel, to ensure WPCC continues to thrive, to grow and move forward and to attract new members to the Club.

I would also like to thank our business partners, Pam Golding, Growth Point and Personal Trust for renewing their agreements with the Club. Their ongoing support is greatly appreciated. There have also been a number of smaller sponsorships through the year, for which we are also thankful.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow EXCO members for their support and accessibility; to John Vicars and Bradley Seconds who continue to play an integral role in the financial and operational management of the Club and for continuing to deliver a commendable performance under difficult circumstances

7. To consider and if thought fit, to pass any other notice of motion of which due notice has been lodged with the Club Management not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

None. Therefore, no matters to consider

8. To elect the Honorary Club President and Vice President who shall be recommended by the Committee

8.1 President

No such election was required as this position is held by Dr Andrew Golding, who is re-elected.

8.2 Vice Presidents

Chris Boyes was duly elected as a Vice President.

8.3 Re-elected Vice Presidents

Brian Biebuyck, Louis De Waal, Brian Mitchell, Geoff Phillips, Paul Burton, John Bissett, Lenore Fuller

9 To elect a Club Captain

- Lenore Fuller was duly elected as the new Club Captain.

10 To elect the Executive Committee

- New members elected – Llew Byrne and Brendan Commins

11 General

- SP informed the members that the introduction of four padel courts was eminent, the actual placement of the courts was still under review as well as the funding model thereof.

- Improved communication between the Committee and the Members is paramount and all steps in this regard will be taken to ensure this. Our newsletter, The Cricket, is going from strength to strength in content and the overall look and feel with advertising banners and links, please take the time to read and enjoy our Club news.
- Marketing our Club in the social media arena is in the embryonic phase, this is also something that will be pushed in the coming months.
- WPCC is looking at updating the constitution to come in line with our modern world. Mrs. Rousseau has kindly offered her assistance.
- SP thanked Neil Strybis for overseeing the voting process.
- SP thanked “retiring EXCO members” /or those not re-elected.
- SP invited the attendees to have a drink.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21h15