

Location: Club Suite  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August  
Time: 10:00  
Attendance: approx. 50  
Subject: Update on Heritage & The Hundred

**Cricket Update (Mark Chilton):**

Firstly, to start positively, the availability for the T20 Quarter Final is promising with high profile players likely to be available, however if Lancashire qualify for T20 Finals Day there are likely to be availability challenges. The last month has been tough with disappointing results and performances. The coaches are challenging players to adopt a different style than one they are accustomed to. The new coaching team need time to instil their methods and encourage a mindset that will win games. The MB50 game at Taunton was referenced as an example; the team needed to post a competitive score (300 minimum) and put pressure back on the opposition. But the culture change won't happen overnight. Nevertheless, we are making progress towards changing players' mentality. They're developing a more pro-active approach and showing signs of more intent. In the long term, this will translate into match winning performances. However, we can't hide away from some disappointing results recently and all the players and coaching are working hard to put things right. Matthew Hurst and Tom Aspinwall's places in The Hundred are an illustration of coaching success. Keaton Jennings received a late call-up to The Hundred with London Spirit. We obviously missed him and his experience in the 50 over competition, but he was deserving of his opportunity after his performances in the T20 Blast over the last couple of years.

With regards to signings, we have recruited Michael Jones on a three-year contract from Durham. He will strengthen our batting, in all three formats. Ollie Sutton's injury was unfortunate (three balls into his debut at Blackpool), but he is well placed to receive support from us. Keshana Fonseka, Charlie Barnard and Rocky Flintoff have all signed professional contracts with us this summer and have impressed the coaching staff. The priority with Venkatesh Iyer was to strengthen the four-day team and add some experience to the 50 over side. Chris Green has been an outstanding overseas player for the Club, with some brilliant performances in T20 and 50 over cricket this year. If we progress through the quarter final, we hope to have him available for Finals Day. George Dockrell will be available for the knockout stages, having played the last two group stage games.

**Member Question:** Mitch Stanley looked promising. Is there an update on him?

**Lancashire Response:** He is suffering from elbow pain. He is a long-term project and there is a challenge to get him match fit. He clearly has pace and bounce that are assets that we can utilise in the Blast.

**Member Question:** The number of Lancashire players participating in The Hundred is having a detrimental impact on our performance in the MB50 tournament.

**Lancashire Response:** We must credit the coaching staff for helping to get as many players capable of playing at that standard as we have. Unfortunately, the players have underperformed in the MB50 side. As previously referenced, we have a young squad, and we are instilling a new mindset. But it is a long-term project.

**Member Question:** Lancashire have some promising players but there are individuals who are not progressing, they are going backwards from two years ago. Why?

**Lancashire Response:** Ultimately players are responsible for their own performance. Matty Hurst is a good example of someone who has benefited from the new mentality that we're trying to instil. He's been brilliant for Lancs over the last 12 months and took his opportunity in The Hundred too. There are individuals in the team that are disappointed with their own performances this season, but it isn't through lack of effort. It takes time to adapt to change, particularly if it is a style of play that the individual is not accustomed to.

**Member Question:** Keaton as captain should be embedded into the competition. Why was he chosen to captain the side for the tournament?

**Lancashire Response:** At the time, Keaton was available throughout the tournament. Keaton's selection in The Hundred could not have been foreseen and happened at extremely short notice. The Club should not deprive him of such an opportunity. He deserves the chance to play at a higher level and his commitment to the Club is not in question.

#### **Heritage Update (Sandy Mitchell):**

Introduced himself as the Head of Heritage and Well-Being, which is a new role that has been created to drive Heritage within the organisation. Communications was sent previously to Members referencing the long-term ambition to put heritage back on the map. The Club has gifted the first floor of the new hotel extension to the project which has provided an opportunity and a space. The Lancashire Cricket Foundation, in partnership with Lancashire Cricket, are embarking on a £5.2 million project to develop a heritage attraction that will connect people across the region and beyond. This will be achieved through a programme of activities, exhibitions and events that engage with schools, grassroots cricket clubs and communities. The intention is to engage communities as well as serve current Members.

Three key aims:

1. Inspire communities through cricket- engage with local, regional, national and international communities.
2. Educate- maximise learning opportunities.
3. Make collections accessible- provide public access to our archive items, media, interactive experiences.

Main elements to the delivery of the project:

1. Heritage Hub- street facing Heritage Hub located on the ground floor of the new hotel extension featuring formal heritage collections, interactive games, exhibitions and technology. To attract as wide an audience as possible.
2. Heritage Trail- utilising the whole stadium to extend the reach of heritage in the venue. Guided and self-guided tours.
3. Outreach Programme- deliver an Outreach Programme that takes Heritage outside Emirates Old Trafford. Targeting schools and communities.
4. Online programme

The Club have been awarded an initial sum of £176,650 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to pilot a range of activities over the next 12 months. This will assist with the next stage of the application, the Delivery Stage application, for further funding of £2.1 million. This will be submitted to The National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2025. Members are integral to shaping this project. Already, the project has Member representation and there was a high response rate in the survey that was run. The Club are keen to get more Members involved and there will be a series of sessions scheduled to listen to Members' feedback.

**Member Question:** Is it going to be traditional museum?

**Lancashire Response:** There will be interactive displays as well as traditional ones. The Hub will include traditional objects that are commonly associated with traditional museums. Although the exact contents and shape of the space has not been determined. But there will be something for everything. We need to ensure that what we create is engaging.

- DG highlighted that to be successful in securing the next phase of funding, there must be community aspects that engage in innovative ways. It will be a celebration of Lancashire Cricket and its heritage
- SM noted that the project is broader than the Club.
- Malcolm Lorimer assured Members that the Museum will aim for excellence. Museums have developed over time but yes, there will be cabinets with objects displayed in them. There are plenty of objects in store which have been taking care of.

**Member Question:** The old museum was well liked, particularly its traditional focus.

**Lancashire Response:** There will be traditional elements to the Heritage Hub. But it will also showcase interactive displays, immersive technology, oral histories and hands on exhibits. We intend to attract an audience that is as wide as possible.

**Member Question:** Have you begun engaging with schools?

**Lancashire Response:** Schools are already part of the consultation process and will continue to be part of the process.

#### **Hundred Update (Daniel Gidney):**

Highlighted the importance of delivering Hundred updates to Members. It is an evolving process, and it is vital that we are transparent with Members. Further engagement is planned, such as a Question Time style event that will be held post season. The plan is to engage Members in a big interactive session so that the subject can be discussed in detail, especially as it is complex. The Club are keen to encourage Members to ask questions. The mix of opinions on The Hundred was acknowledged. Some of the concerns that are regularly raised include the threat to the schedule. However, the ECB would retain 100% control of the tournament and the schedule. Any changes to the domestic schedule would have to be put to a vote that would require a two thirds majority vote among the 18 First Class Counties and the MCC. Another concern that is often raised is what the potential risks to the Club may be. Under the proposal, we're potentially being gifted a 51% share of the Manchester Originals team. But Lancashire Cricket would not hold any residual losses as there would be a no parent guarantee. There are financial rewards for the Club by accepting the 51% shareholding in Manchester Originals, but also increased opportunity. Nevertheless, nothing has materially changed since the

last written update to Members. More digital updates and meetings are scheduled to ensure that we keep Members informed.

The next Members' open house update will take place on Wednesday 18 September during the lunch break of the opening day of Lancashire's County Championship fixture against Somerset.

**Member Question:** MRG raised their concern of The Hundred proposal being the first step of re-structuring of county cricket.

**Lancashire Response:** There is no desire or intent for Lancashire Cricket to de-mutualise. We are a Members' Club. We have no desire to become a private company. Hampshire looks like it will be sold, but it will be sold by a single person. There is little incentive for other counties to de-mutualise. Plus, non-Hundred host venues, minor counties and the recreational game are set to receive investment through this deal.

**Member Question:** I don't like the Hundred but accept the necessity. Although I am concerned over the results of the MB50 and the suggestion among some Middlesex Members that the tournament could be scrapped in favour of creating a second division Hundred tournament

**Lancashire Response:** We believe there is a desire within ECB for the creation of second division Hundred. Lancashire Cricket will not support this, and we would not sign non-objection contracts for our players to play in it. DG has challenged the ECB on the Hundred draft, but this will not be altered. Consequently, if there was ever a second division Hundred, we would arrange our own 50 over tournament. Lancashire will continue to play cricket with a Lancashire team.

**Member Question:** The last Lancashire and Derbyshire MB50 fixture reflected an appalling performance that wasn't good for both supporters. Is MB50 better as a regional competition/ tournament?

**Lancashire Response:** There is a future for the MB50. As a Club, we are passionate about 50 over cricket, we have a long history in this format of the game, and it's been great to see young players get opportunities in the competition over the last few years. We have been disappointed with our performances in the competition this year, there's no hiding away from that.

**Member Question:** Although you have said there is no intention for Lancashire to de-mutualise, but if The Hundred makes it financially attractive to do so, could it become a target for a hostile takeover? There aren't many people in the room as a relative figure to the 7,000 Members. A lot of Members may not care and could be enticed by de-mutualising.

**Lancashire Response:** There are rules specifically in place so that if the Club were de-mutualised then the Foundation would receive the payout, not the Members. The Club is protected. As we have stressed, we have absolutely no desire to de-mutualise or become a private company. We're proud to be a Members' Club.

**Member Question:** In the press, I read about the investors and that the Board's preference is to retain the 51% share hold in the Manchester Originals team. Is this correct?

**Lancashire Response:** We believe that the proposal offers Lancashire Cricket an opportunity to take ownership of a valuable asset (the 51%). But we are keen to appraise the details and undertake a thorough review of the potential partners that emerge through the ECB process. Any decision will be made in the best

interests of the Club. One of our key priorities is to have a cricket partner. The Board consensus is that we need to have a partner, preferably a cricket partner, that benefits Lancashire Cricket. The Board's preference is to retain the 51%. But there are no shares or places on the Board available.

**Member Question:** Why do we want 51%? Why don't we take the money from the sale of the 51% instead?

**Lancashire Response:** Daniel Gidney and Mark Chilton are not on the Board of the Manchester Originals, so over the last few years, we've had very limited involvement in Manchester Originals. The 51% share hold in MO presents an opportunity, especially with the franchise market proving a particular challenge, to leverage Hundred contracts and potentially steer contracts in Lancashire's favour. Our primary commitment is to Lancashire Cricket. The ECB would retain full control of the tournament.

**Member Question:** What are the Heritage Hub's opening hours likely to be?

**Lancashire Response:** Loosely, the plan is to be open six days a week. There will be some restrictions for major event days.

**Member Question:** Are temporary installations planned?

**Lancashire Response:** Yes. The Heritage Hub will be a dynamic space to encourage as many returning visitors as possible.

Cricket collectors will be showcased. There will also be objects and artefacts. The focus will be on sharing stories, and the Lottery are particularly focused on this too.

**Member Question:** Will access to the Heritage Hub be free?

**Lancashire Response:** There will be free access to certain groups and discounted access to others. But the exact breakdown has yet to be decided. Whether or not it will be free to Members has not yet been determined.

**Member Question:** The website makes it very hard to navigate, book tickets and find entry points. It's just not very user friendly. The call centre was also referenced.

**Lancashire Response:** There are plans to make the website more user friendly. A user survey is scheduled so that we can better understand the challenges faced, particularly of the Members' portal. However, expenditure on website has been delayed. There is a long-term strategy to remove the call centre.

**Member Comment:** Highlighted that they had a very positive experience with the Club's Ticket Office and that they were very responsive. If you get internal staff, they're very helpful.

**Member Request:** For a Sedbergh scoreboard that can be viewed.

### **Members' Representative Group & Board Recruitment**

Although not discussed in the Members' Forum, the Club wanted to update Members on MRG and Board recruitment. The recruitment process will operate in accordance with what was communicated to Members in the 2022 Annual General Meeting papers (Appendix 5 and 6). We advise that communication on the recruitment process will be sent to Members following the conclusion of the 2024 cricket season. The new

Board vacancy will be communicated to Members in September/ October with the deadline for Board applications on the 31 January 2025. The MRG recruitment will dovetail the advertisement of the Board vacancy so that Members have an awareness of all upcoming positions. Further detail surrounding the MRG recruitment process will be communicated towards the end of the year.

**Actions:**

- Engage with Members through formal and informal sessions to discuss the Heritage project.
- Keep Members informed of The Hundred updates. Schedule sessions for further discussion.
- Send user friendly survey for the Members' Portal.
- Review scoreboard that is available at Sedbergh for future fixtures.
- Further details of the MRG and Board recruitment will be shared post season.