

2024 AGM Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members of Lancashire County Cricket Club Limited Held in The Point at Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester (and via Zoom)

Thursday 30th May 2024

Time: 16:15 - 18:30

Present:

Board & Secretary: Andy Anson OBE (Chair), Vic Stewart (Honorary Treasurer), James Sheridan (Senior Independent Director), John Abrahams (Board Member), Navin Singh (Board Member), Rachel Downey (Board Member), Lee Morgan (Club Secretary)

Executive Team: Daniel Gidney (Chief Executive), Liz Cooper (Partnership Director), Mark Chilton (Director of Cricket Performance), Angela Hodson (Sales Director),

Other: Club's auditors from Hurst & Co, Gaz Morris (Head of Guest Experience), Phil Johnston (Member Relations Manager), 357 Members

Apologies: Sir Howard Bernstein, Chris Peacock, Sara Tomkins, Vice Presidents Ray Wilson, Bob Bennett, Alice Bennett, plus Jill Bennett and Georgina Gray

Introduction

THE SECRETARY welcomed everyone, formally opened the meeting and declared it quorate in line with Clause 13.1 of the Club Rules. He introduced the Chair, Andy Anson, to chair the meeting in the absence of the President, Sir Howard Bernstein.

THE CHAIR highlighted that it was fantastic to see so many Members in attendance. He reported the sad loss of the former player, Bob Radcliffe, and two of the Club's Vice Presidents, David Moss and Edward Slinger. He extended his sincere condolences to their family and friends.

All in attendance were invited to take a few moments to remember three people whose passing are a great loss to the Red Rose family.

Apologies for the meeting were read, including Sir Howard Bernstein, Chris Peacock, Sara Tomkins, Vice Presidents Ray Wilson, Bob Bennett, Alice Bennett plus Jill Bennett and Georgina Gray.

2023 AGM Minutes (ITEM 1)

THE SECRETARY shared feedback received from two Members. One Member had highlighted two cosmetic changes plus a request for the minutes to be amended to better reflect what he had said at the meeting. Member, Christopher O'Brien, wanted the minutes to state that if Members were expected to approve a change in the rules, justified on the basis of the governance framework included in the County Partnership Agreement (which the ECB used for funding first class counties), this framework should have been circulated to Members as was promised during the Members' consultation meeting. The response provided was that it was not a public document, it was a contract between each county and the ECB, and not something that could be shared.

Another Member, Alan Higham, requested that the notes of the Chair's statement in the minutes should be more specific in recording what was stated regarding playing targets for both men's and women's teams, which were for the men to win at least one trophy in the next three years and the women to win one trophy in the next five years.

THE SECRETARY confirmed that the minutes would be updated accordingly.

THE CHAIR, with the changes identified and included, put the 2023 AGM minutes to the floor and they were unanimously approved and agreed as a correct record (Item 1a).

CHAIR'S STATEMENT (ITEM 2)

CLUB CHAIR, Andy Anson, welcomed everyone to the AGM. It was noted as a good opportunity to reflect on the last 12 months and look ahead to a busy year at Emirates Old Trafford.

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and thanked all in attendance. This year's AGM was the most engaged meeting the Club has had for many years with 357 Members physically attending the meeting. 1,194 votes were made throughout the process, both online and in person at the AGM.

A special welcome was issued to new Members. The Chair met a couple of new Members during his Q&A a few days earlier. He was delighted to hear how much they were enjoying their membership and feeling part of the Club. He invited everyone to work hard to welcome new Members and make them feel part of the Club. One of the key priorities is to ensure that the Club engages properly with Members. The Club is working hard to grow and diversify the membership base to represent the broader cricket agenda at Lancashire.

There were four key areas that were discussed in the Chair's update:

- **Cricket performance**, he referred to the disappointing start to the men's season in the County Championship and reinforced the Club's commitment to winning trophies. Although it will take time for the players to adapt to the new Head Coach. He confirmed that the full salary cap is at Mark Chilton's disposal to spend on players, and the cricket department is fully committed to building the best team to ensure that we are competing for trophies. The Club are in the market for an overseas player. Nevertheless, to see Lancashire's young players get an opportunity and performing well has been a highlight. Keaton Jennings' leadership was heavily praised, and the Club expects to see better performances from other senior players. In addition, the women's game continues to grow. Lancashire is delighted to be awarded tier one status. The Club was highlighted as one of the only counties to demonstrate commercial value in women's domestic cricket. Chris Read as Thunder's new Head Coach was noted as an excellent appointment. Again, the need for time for the culture change to bed in and translate into results was referenced for the women's game too. The Club hoped to see results pick up throughout the course of the 2024 campaign.
- **Commercial and financial performance**, 2023 was described as a very positive year financially for the Club and it's vital that Lancashire Cricket is financially independent and sustainable. The Club generated nearly £36 million of revenue and over £5 million of operating profit. The aim is to be a thriving, vibrant Members' organisation which is successful on and off the pitch. Consequently, it is essential that the Club performs well financially. In 2023, Emirates Old Trafford hosted the Ashes, New Zealand IT20, Vitality Blast and The Hundred as well as two sold out concerts. Over 120,000 tickets were sold here for the Vitality Blast and The Hundred last year. There is a desire to keep investing in Emirates Old Trafford to ensure that the venue hosts the biggest international fixtures. He confirmed that the Club can make up to £1 million from hosting concerts and that should be taken advantage of, given the finances of county cricket. Moreover, non-cricket revenues at Emirates Old Trafford continue to grow, with C&E and the hotel generating revenue of £10.5 million. Meanwhile, the continued development of the Club's second ground at Farington, which will open in 2025, was noted. The facility will include two cricket pitches, a Pavilion and net facilities. The Club want to create a facility that both men's and women's team can train and play at, with the Second XI, Academy and age-groups all playing there regularly.
- **The Board**, put in a huge amount of time and effort, as volunteers of the Club. All decisions are taken in the best interests of the Club. A well-defined skills matrix is populated for the Club's Board Members and the rules of diversity and inclusion are applied to make sure that the Club has a well-represented Board. A brief background on the Board's expertise was

given. Andy Anson has a background in high performance sports (he is currently Chief Executive Officer at the British Olympic Association) and has significant experience in media and television and commercial roles (previously Commercial Director at Manchester United). Vic Stewart (Treasurer) oversees the finance functions of the Club. She's also the Chief Financial Officer of a major leisure group, which has a lot of similarities in how it operates to a sports club in terms of trying to attract people into a venue, but also using debt to make sure the development and ongoing business of the hospitality trade can be funded. Navin Singh is responsible for digital media rights and digital marketing. He has a background in US sports. He's been the Commercial Director of the Football Association and is now in a senior role at Six Nations Rugby. Rachel Downey – who has significant legal and finance experience - has had a number of senior roles in the property development business with Manchester Life and is also on the Board of Berkeley Homes. She has devoted a lot of time into the development of the new hotel and the Farington project. Sara Tomkins has a strong background in marketing and human resources. She's now the Marketing Community Director for Co-Op Live. The Chair also paid special tribute to Sir Howard Bernstein – for an incredible influence on Lancashire Cricket having been the President for the last decade. James Sheridan, a lawyer by trade with significant experience in mergers and acquisitions, as well as corporate finance. John Abrahams, former Lancashire captain, chairs the cricket committee. He has significant experience in cricket development, coaching the England Under 19 teams, working with Shropshire CCC, and others to help develop their cricket. Chris Peacock was elected to the Board last year as the Member representative and has been integral to voicing Members' concerns. With a Member vote taking place later in the meeting, Dame Sarah Storey has agreed to replace Sir Howard as President. She will add significant experience of elite sport.

- **The future of The Hundred**, it was confirmed that negotiations continue between the ECB and all counties on the future of The Hundred. Each host venue will be gifted 51% ownership of the team by the ECB, so Lancashire Cricket would control 51% of Manchester Originals. Between 30-49% of the ECB's shareholding would be sold externally with a 'significant number of parties interested'. The first £275 million that is generated from selling those 49% stakes will be shared amongst the 19 entities (18 counties and the MCC). 10% of any capital receipt from the ECB's share would go back into the recreational game. The next £275m to £475m will be shared between the ten non-host venues and the recreational game, and then over that it would go back to being shared between all the parties again. The ECB have appointed the Raine Group to lead the sales process. They have recently been the exclusive financial advisor to Manchester United as part of the sale of shares by the Glazer family to Jim Ratcliffe. The Hundred is a very important part of the broadcast deal moving forward. The Hundred could expand by up to two teams from 2029 but Lancashire Cricket have confirmed that it is against expanding the length of time that the competition is played. Anson also confirmed that it's likely that the Club would receive 'between £5-8 million as a one-off payment' as part of the sales process from the ECB's shareholding, which would help other counties survive.

Andy Anson thanked all staff who work tirelessly throughout the year. Each year, a Club member of staff is recognised. This year, he presented the David Hodgkiss Medal award to Peter Ash who has worked at the Club for 31 years. Peter was highlighted as relentlessly loyal, dedicated and a familiar face to Members. He has played an important role in the re-development of the ground, and he's been a vital cog in the operations, C&E and hotel teams at Emirates Old Trafford.

Andy Anson also thanked the Members for all that they do to support the Club. He acknowledged the need to communicate more effectively. The Board and the Club will endeavour to do better, and he emphasised the importance of working together with the Red Rose Together mentality. The Board will do its best to ensure that all needs are met. Thanks were issued for Members' support.

REPORT and ACCOUNTS (ITEM 3)

VIC STEWART (Honorary Treasurer) thanked Andy for the introduction and stated that it is a great privilege to be the first female Treasurer of the Club. She thanked Members for voting her into the position. A brief summary of last year's financial performance and a response to Members' questions would be addressed in her update.

Vic Stewart reported a record £36.5 million turnover last year and operating profits of more than £5 million, so it was a great year for the Club. Of the £36.5 million, a large proportion of that emanated from the hotel and conference and events (almost £11 million). She highlighted the importance of the diversity of revenue as we continue to grow the Club. The 100-bed hotel extension was noted as having an immediate impact, and the occupancy rates are almost at a level expected from a mature hotel.

The Club successfully delivered major events in 2023, despite the rain impacting the last two days of the men's Ashes Test Match. She confirmed that although we had insurance in place to mitigate the financial impact of this, insurance is never as good as not needing to claim on it.

She discussed how cricket is a difficult sport to run sustainably from a financial perspective. The income is variable year-on-year depending on which international fixtures the venue hosts. The counties that are making it work best are the ones that have varied their off-field revenue streams. This provides some context for the importance of the hotel extension as it offers a predictability of income. This will be crucial in 2026 when we won't have a Test. It was confirmed that all profits are re-invested in cricket.

The Treasurer used the analogy of buying a house. A house is a brilliant asset, but it requires a deposit and a mortgage. A mortgage entails a set of repayments that need to be met. Similarly, the Club have borrowed money to build the hotel extension. The Club are at the beginning of the process, so the loan is at the maximum and her role involves ensuring that the Club hit the schedule of repayments and the amount to repay continues to reduce over time. The ECB have helpfully given the Club a long-term view with the major match package, which is informing the five-year forecast. This enables the profit to be calculated year on year, as well as any sales and cost actions.

In addition, it was confirmed that the Club's financial projections don't include a windfall from The Hundred. To hit debt repayments, this windfall is not required. The Club expect to refinance in 2029, and Stewart confirmed that the Club was in a healthy financial position.

EXECUTIVE TEAM PRESENTATIONS (ITEM 4)

Mark Chilton, Director of Cricket Performance provided an update on the objectives set by the Board, the cricket department and a brief summary of the season from his perspective.

The Club's three cricket objectives are:

1. Commit to getting local talent through the pathways into the professional squads with an aim of fielding a yearly average of 7 local players across all competitions.
2. Produce England players.
3. Win two trophies by 2028 (both men and women).

Chilton reported on a disappointing start to the season. Although he stressed that the team are undergoing a period of transition and it will take time for the men's squad to adapt to a new coaching staff, led by Head Coach Dale Benkenstein. He referenced the number of young players that have played for the Club that have impressed. He confirmed that he was comfortable with the strategic decision making. Providing opportunities for young players is particularly important for the Club and its future. The squad have fallen short of the expected standards at the start of the season in the opening

rounds of the County Championship. He said everyone at the Club is committed to improving our current standing and the whole squad are working hard to do so.

There has been a significant change in personnel, and no other first division team is building or giving as many opportunities to as many young players as Lancashire. The performances of Matthew Hurst and Tom Aspinwall, for example, were described as impressive.

Chilton said that he was aware of criticism of Dale Benkenstein, as the new Head Coach, but he is very comfortable with his appointment which will hopefully be evidenced in some improved performances throughout the season. Meanwhile, across the men's team in the last 12 to 18 months James Anderson, Tom Hartley, Phil Salt, Jos Buttler and Liam Livingstone have represented England, Keaton Jennings and Josh Bohannon the England Lions, and Academy graduates Charlie Barnard and Jack Carney have represented the Young Lions. Across the women's team, Sophie Ecclestone and Kate Cross continue to be regular members of the senior sides. Mahika Gaur has broken into the senior team, whilst Seren Smale also represented England over the winter. The Lancashire Thunder squad is a developing one, again with a number of young players. Reaching Finals Day in the T20 competition was a real step forward last year and they are looking to build on that. The Thunder squad continues to see improvement, with much improved batting performances under new Head Coach, Chris Read and his coaching staff.

Everyone at the Club is committed to improving our current position for the rest of this season and getting more wins on the board – across both the men's and women's teams.

Finally, Chilton provided an update on Farington – the Club's second ground. Construction started at the end of last year and good progress is being made, despite some challenging weather at the start of the year. It will be open by the end of next summer, with professional cricket potentially being played at the venue in 2026.

He thanked everyone for their continued support, and he looks forward to some exciting cricket for the remainder of the season.

Angela Hodson, Sales Director, provided an update on the different commercial revenues that are generated by the Club, including international and domestic ticket sales, conference and events, commercial partnerships and hospitality. She confirmed that the commercial revenue for the year totals around £23.5 million. Of this, 55% of the Club's revenue stream comes from the conference and events and hotel side of the business. This provides a sustainable financial model for the Club that can be re-invested back into cricket.

The 100 bed Hilton extension, which opened in 2023, was noted as vital for the Club. The hotel achieved 80% occupancy in November and 70% in December. Hotel revenue was referenced as up by 39% from this time last year, which is an increase of over £1 million in revenue. This enables the venue to host further large-scale residential events. The strategy and focus is on attracting large scale residential events through the Destination Emirates Old Trafford campaign. Also, continuing to develop relationships with Hilton account managers, booking agents and directly with corporates. In addition, working with local partners including Marketing Manchester and Pro Manchester. It was noted that the conference and events business is thriving.

Hodson discussed the continued investment from commercial partners made in the women's professional game which is significant. In particular, the Club are very grateful for the investment made by partners, Hilton and SportsBreaks.com. This investment is referenced as being integral to funding three joint pre-season tours to Dubai and India alongside Lancashire Cricket's men's team. The tier one status from 2025 is something that the Club is very proud of. 2025 was also confirmed as the year that Emirates Old Trafford will host its first women's international cricket match since 2012. Between 2025 and 2031, the venue will host five women's games and hopefully games in the ICC women's Cricket T20 World Cup in 2026 and the men's version in 2030.

The Club's India strategy continues to progress with the venue hosting the India men's team for four matches over the next five years. The Club are looking to grow awareness of Lancashire Cricket in

the sub-continent, whilst also maximising commercial opportunities. Hodson referenced Lancs TV's collaboration with the Jio Platform and the launch of a 24/7 channel on Jio TV.

Furthermore, membership growth was identified as a key area of focus. The objective is to increase the number of Members to 10,000 by 2030 with a diverse and engaged group of Members. Hodson confirmed that although membership levels have reduced in 2024, which was to be expected, following the Ashes year spike in 2023, the Club are ahead of the highest point in 2019. A Member survey was conducted in December 2023 with over 1,000 Members confirmed to have completed it. Overall satisfaction rates with the membership were at 80%, which is an increase from 78% in 2021. Hodson suggests that this is reflective of the stronger relationships that have developed between Members and the Club.

Hodson acknowledged the debate surrounding Standard Members and voting rights that originated from the concern around Standard Members using their membership allocation to attend Hundred matches. Although the data shows that in 2023, only 210 of the 3,434 Standard Members (6%) attended a Hundred match. She identified that the Club want to focus on growing the Standard membership, recognising that people are increasingly time poor. She suggested that this was the best strategy to grow memberships and encourage as diverse an audience as possible.

TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD AND ACCOUNTS OF THE CLUB FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023 TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE AUDITORS ON THOSE ACCOUNTS (ITEM 5)

THE CHAIR requested that the Club Secretary explain the voting process and how the proxy votes and the online votes would be amalgamated.

THE SECRETARY confirmed that this year there were 6,500 Members eligible to vote. For the first time electronic means were used to distribute AGM papers and to facilitate proxy voting. 95% of Members received their papers electronically. So, the vast majority of Members were part of the electronic process. The Secretary thanked Tony Slater, from My Voice, who had helped throughout the process and ensured that it was as smooth as possible.

The Secretary confirmed that 882 Members had voted by proxy and there were 305 Members in attendance with a vote. In total, there were 357 Members in the room compared to 100 last year. By the end of the meeting, the projected votes would be just short of 1,200 which compared with around 400 last year. Focus was drawn to the increased engagement with Members and the high attendance rate compared to previous years. He issued thanks to all those in the room.

The Secretary stated that for the following few resolutions there would be a show of hands to vote for each resolution. He confirmed that the process would be for Members to raise their papers in the air following which the results of the proxy vote would be read. These would be combined to determine the outcome. If there was any doubt over the outcome, then a poll would be conducted. This was confirmed as the reason for the provision of the resolutions on the back of the voting sheets. The presence of two members of the audit team from Hurst was confirmed, their role being to oversee and facilitate the process. All the resolutions during the meeting, with the exception of the three Rule change resolutions in Item 11, which required a two thirds majority, required a simple majority vote.

THE TREASURER formally proposed that the report of the Board and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023, together with the auditor's report on those accounts, was adopted.

Navin Singh seconded the proposal.

THE CHAIR put the proposition to the meeting for approval, and all votes were in favour.

THE SECRETARY confirmed that of the 882 of the proxies that came in, 799 were given to the Chair and 83 were alternate proxies. The Chair's proxy alone, where the votes for resolution were 787 for the resolution, accounted for 89% of all proxy votes (irrespective of how the alternates voted). Motion was therefore passed with a clear majority.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT (ITEM 6)

THE CHAIR formally proposed the election of Dame Sarah Storey as President of the Club for the next two years.

John Abrahams seconded the motion.

THE CHAIR put the proposal to the floor.

THE SECRETARY confirmed that there was only one vote against the proposal from the floor. When combined with the proxy votes of 752 out of 799 from the Chair, which represented 85% of total proxy votes, there was a clear simple majority. So, the motion was passed.

THE CHAIR welcomed Dame Sarah.

RE-ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD (ITEM 7)

THE CHAIR introduced the re-election of the Board members who had served a three-year cycle and were being put forward for re-election for a further three-year cycle.

Rachel Downey formally proposed the re-election of John Abrahams.

THE TREASURER seconded the proposal.

THE CHAIR put the proposition to the floor.

THE SECRETARY confirmed that it was unanimous and in terms of the proxies over 85% of the proxy supported it. Motion was passed.

THE TREASURER formally proposed the re-election of Andy Anson to the Board to be approved by Members.

John Abrahams seconded the proposal.

THE TREASURER put the proposition to the floor.

THE SECRETARY noted that there were some votes against but confirmed that there was a majority in favour of the motion. Added to the minimum of 75% of the proxy votes that were also in favour, the motion was passed.

Navin Singh formally proposed the re-election of James Sheridan to the Board.

John Abrahams seconded the proposal.

THE CHAIR put the proposal to the floor.

THE SECRETARY confirmed there was a clear majority in favour of the motion. Combined with the proxy votes that were 75% in favour, the motion was passed.

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS (ITEM 8)

THE CHAIR moved to Item 8, which was the election of Vice Presidents proposed by the Board.

John Abrahams formally proposed Bobby Cross to become a Vice President of the Club.

Navin Singh seconded the proposal.

THE SECRETARY confirmed a unanimous vote in favour from the floor with a minimum of 84% of the proxy votes also in favour. The motion was therefore passed.

Rachel Downey formally proposed the election of Carole Hodges as Vice President.

James Sheridan seconded the proposal.

THE CHAIR put the proposal to the floor.

THE SECRETARY confirmed a unanimous vote in favour from the floor supported by a minimum of 84% of the proxy votes also in favour of the motion. The motion was therefore passed.

THE CHAIR invited Members to share recommendations of anyone they feel should be a Vice President of the Club as it is an honour that we like to bestow on those who are worthy of it. The Board appreciate input on potential candidates.

ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS TO THE MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP (ITEM 9)

THE SECRETARY explained that there were four vacancies on the Members Representative Group. The 2024 AGM was confirmed as the first instance where there have been elections to fill those places. He thanked all five candidates for their willingness to put themselves forward. All voting was conducted in advance of the meeting and 634 Members cast their vote. The results of the vote were reported as follows: Kate Crane received 442 votes, Jo Dibben 564 votes, Mark Orr 380 votes, Simon Reynolds 422 votes and Jack Rule 302 votes. Consequently, Kate Crane, Jo Dibben, Mark Orr and Simon Reynolds were duly appointed to the MRG.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS (ITEM 10)

THE TREASURER formally proposed Hurst & Co as auditors of the Club until the conclusion of the general meeting, which considers their report on the annual accounts of the Club for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Rachel Downey seconded the proposal.

THE CHAIR put the proposal to the floor.

THE SECRETARY acknowledged one dissenting voice from the floor but otherwise there was a clear majority supported by a minimum of 88% of the proxy votes. The motion was therefore passed.

CLUB RULE CHANGES (ITEM 11)

THE CHAIR invited James Sheridan to introduce the Item 11a, a Rule change resolution.

James Sheridan confirmed there were now three consecutive resolutions that were Rule changes which went out in the notice of the AGM; therefore, the technicality of the Rule changes and the resulting wording of the Rule changes were taken as read. The first resolution to vote on was resolution 11a which was a Rule change that was linked to procedural changes around the use of electronic voting going forward. Due to the resolutions being Rule changes, they required a two-thirds majority vote. He invited the floor to raise any questions before formally proposing resolution 11a.

Navin Singh seconded the motion.

THE CHAIR put the proposal to the floor.

THE SECRETARY stated that there was a clear two-thirds majority. The proxy votes also had an 88% approval rate, which also resulted in achieving a two-thirds majority. So, the motion was passed.

James Sheridan confirmed the next Rule change 11b, was also reported in the notice to the AGM. Again, the notice was therefore taken as read. The resolution was to propose an additional Board member that will be voted on by the membership at the next AGM. He clarified that this would be an additional seat on the Board for the Members to elect. He invited the floor to raise any questions in relation to the proposal.

Member Question (David Stanley) suggested the first part of the amendment was fine, increasing the Board members from seven to eight as well as the section on equality. However, he suggested that naming the suitable skills required may cause issues. He proposed that there could be a danger of already having someone on the Board who had the Members skills but they're not what you necessarily need. Although if the rule was introduced then you have to appoint someone with the named skills. He argued that if the clauses weren't exactly right, then you can be challenged in the future.

Daniel Gidney stressed that if Chris Peacock was present then he would be keen to clarify that it is a different role to his. Chris Peacock's role is to act as the Board member specific for Member services and communication. The Rule change to create an additional Board space is for a new member to be recruited on the basis of the skills mix required whilst understanding the ECB governance rules.

Member (Alan Higham) asked if the next item, 12c, could be put to a vote or if the vote could be paused and some questions dealt with.

THE CHAIR stated his preference to vote in the order of the AGM agenda.

Members (Alan Higham) expressed his support for the new role in its generic form and principles but questioned the consultation process with the membership.

THE CHAIR re-iterated that the Rule change must be passed in the first instance. Once the motion is passed, he confirmed that a consultation could take place with Members. That the nature of the skills that the Board require and any gaps in the skills matrix would be communicated through a Members' Forum.

James Sheridan formally proposed resolution 11b.

THE CHAIR seconded the motion.

THE SECRETARY confirmed there was a two-thirds majority in the room and the minimum proxy support was 85%. The motion was passed.

THE CHAIR formally proposed the Rule change in resolution 11c, confirming the series of tidy ups and cosmetic changes that arose from the Club Secretary's review.

Rachel Downey seconded the proposal.

THE CHAIR put it to the floor.

THE SECRETARY confirmed that it was unanimously supported by the floor and by a minimum of 87% of the votes. The motion was therefore passed.

MEMBER PETITIONED RESOLUTIONS (ITEM 12)

THE CHAIR introduced the Member, Alan Higham to propose all three of the Member petitioned resolutions. He requested that they were taken one at a time then put to a vote.

Member (Alan Higham) requested permission to address the meeting from the front. He introduced himself as the national co-ordinator of the county cricket Members group, as well as a lifetime Lancashire fan. He stated that his main issue of concern was the voting rights given to Standard Members. He suggested that he doesn't fundamentally disagree with the creation of a five-day membership. He agreed that the Club should be looking to attract a younger, diverse membership and that the offering of flexible memberships helps to achieve this aim. He argued that the challenge presented itself when the two-day, Taster membership was created for access to two Lancashire games. There is no vote for this category. The five-day, Standard membership had the potential to be used for accessing Manchester Originals games. He referenced the statistics, which were shared for the first time at the AGM, acknowledging the fact that very few Members were using the Standard membership for access to the Manchester Originals Hundred games at Emirates Old Trafford. Nevertheless, he insisted that his issue was that the principle of mixing Lancashire Cricket and Manchester Originals fans remained.

He disclosed that he was a Standard Member and didn't wish to take votes from Standard Members, noting there are a number of reasons for people requiring a lower commitment membership. Although he suggested that four days of Manchester Originals games equates to a Hundred season ticket, and he has concerns regarding giving voting rights to people who come to watch a different team with different ownership. The issue was first raised at the 2022 Special General Meeting. As a result, the Club consulted the MRG, and the outcome was to maintain the set up as it was. In 2023, 80 Members

tabled a resolution to put it to a discussion. However, the discussion did not take place at a Members' Forum, as had been promised, before the 2024 membership packs were issued.

Mr Higham accepted the Club's apology for the lack of consultation but objected to it being labelled as an oversight. Before the membership packs were approved, he reminded the Club that a forum hadn't been held. He stated that he had contacted the Club on five occasions. Finally, he appealed to the Chair before the deadline to submit AGM resolutions. So, the resolution was tabled as Mr Higham was of the opinion that it wasn't simply an oversight. The Club have since scheduled a Members' Forum for Sunday (2nd June) to discuss the subject. He invited the Board to comment on why it took as long as it did before action was taken and how will they intend to prevent any similar occurrences in the future.

THE CHAIR reiterated the Board's apology for the oversight.

A Member suggested that to label the consultation as an oversight trivialises the issue. He compared it to if the Board of Marks & Spencer had agreed to consult with shareholders on their voting rights and failed to do so, it would be extremely serious. He suggested that there was an issue with Board culture. He argued that Members' ability to implement changes was inhibited by the way that the Club does not allow those submitting resolutions to provide relevant information in the AGM papers, whereas the Club can do so. He welcomed the Chair's commitment to do better in the future. However, he believed that it was appropriate for the Board to be reprimanded for its failure.

THE CHAIR proposed to move to a vote on the Members reprimand of the Board for its failure to keep the promise made at the 2023 AGM to hold a Members' Forum on voting rights before the 2024 membership terms were raised. The vote was then put to the floor.

THE SECRETARY reported that the proxy votes were close. It was therefore deemed necessary to conduct a poll to get a definitive result. He invited those in the room to cast their vote and in the meantime, Alan Higham was to pick up the next resolution.

A Member asked if he should put a tick or a cross.

THE SECRETARY confirmed either was OK; it doesn't matter.

THE CHAIR reiterated that the tick or cross just needed to be placed next to the one resolution they were voting for. Alan Higham was then asked to continue with Item 12b.

Member (Alan Higham) sought to address a misunderstanding that he suggested was communicated to Members in recent weeks. As a Standard Member, along with a number of his family and friends, he argued that his intention was to re-examine the definition of a Standard Member. His preference would be to separate The Hundred fixtures from the Standard membership entitlement. He insisted that he had no intention of taking votes from Standard Members who were using their membership to attend Lancashire Cricket games. He stated that if any Member wanted to attend Hundred games, that this was fantastic. However, he would prefer if The Hundred were separated from the Standard membership and involved a separate purchase so there was a clearer definition of who has voting rights at the Club.

THE CHAIR thanked Alan Higham and requested that Daniel spoke on the matter due to its technical nature.

Daniel Gidney expressed his passion for Lancashire Cricket Club being an inclusive Club and welcoming everybody. He argued that he does not believe in creating a second class of membership with voting rights determined by how often people can attend. Despite Alan Higham's assertion that he did not want to remove voting rights from Standard Members, if Item 12b were passed then voting rights would be removed from all Standard Members. Instead, he insisted that we should be opening our arms to say, come and become a Member of Lancashire Cricket Club, this great cricket club that's 160 years old. He explained that it was agreed last year that it was not appropriate to give Taster Members voting rights. The creation of that membership was to encourage new people to attend. But he suggested that it went completely against Lancashire Cricket's ethos of inclusivity to remove the voting rights of Standard Members. He also read a question submitted from a Member, Richard

Annandale, requesting that the Member proposing resolution 12b be invited to withdraw that resolution.

Member (Alan Higham) affirmed that he made the offer to withdraw when he stepped up to the podium.

THE CHAIR sought clarity from Alan Higham.

Member (Alan Higham) responded to confirm that he did make the offer as he was not concerned about when the open discussion took place as long as it took place and that a fair record was made of how Members feel. He wished to echo Daniel's comments surrounding inclusivity. He insisted that he did not want to treat anyone as a second-class citizen and didn't have antipathy towards The Hundred or people who watch The Hundred. Instead, he'd prefer a distinction to be made between people who are Members of the Club who watch the Club's cricket team, and those supporting a different cricket team, Manchester Originals.

THE CHAIR declared that it was time to move to a vote.

Member (Alan Higham) suggested that he didn't want to make the vote binding on the Club arguing that it would negate the value of the forum.

THE CHAIR confirmed that the vote couldn't be changed. It is either voted on or not.

Member (Alan Higham) concluded that a vote was needed then.

THE CHAIR insisted that the issue will be discussed in a Members' Forum to ensure that the packages were defined in everyone's best interests.

Member (Richard Annandale) walked to the front of the meeting and introduced himself and confirmed that he had written into the Club to request that the motion was withdrawn. He stated that he was a Standard Member and lived in Bristol. He highlighted that the potential removal of voting rights was an important issue that required detailed discussion, starting with the Members' Forum. Secondly, he offered some context as a Lancashire supporter for over 60 years. He used to live within easy reach of the ground, so he was able to attend games regularly. After re-locating to Bristol, he has continued to support the Club loyally from afar. He expressed his support for the Standard membership which matches his commitments. He issued strong objections to the 107 Members that have put their petition forward for the removal of voting rights for Standard Members. Thirdly, he echoed the Club's commitment to diversity and inclusion arguing that the proposed resolution goes against the Club's objectives.

Another Member walked onto the stage.

THE CHAIR challenged this Member, insisting that requests must be made to speak at the meeting. The Member was asked to return to his seat. He acknowledged Mr Annandale's point was well made. He made a commitment to hold a subsequent forum to maximise the opportunity for Members to attend and discuss the matter. He re-read the motion aloud i.e., the Members do not agree that the Standard membership, as currently defined, should carry voting rights at Lancashire County Cricket Club. He put the motion to the floor.

THE SECRETARY confirmed that a minimum of 64% of proxy votes were against the motion, and with a majority clearly against the resolution in the room, the resolution was defeated.

THE CHAIR assured Members that they would be consulted on future membership packages.

The final item- Members require the Club to formally consult them during the 2024 cricket season on a Board role reserved for current Club Members, was questioned given the commitment to hold Members' Forums and the approval of the Rule change 11b. The resolution was then formally withdrawn by Alan Higham and confirmed by the Chair.

THE SECRETARY confirmed the location in the room of the boxes to be used for placing votes and for proxy holders to post their votes both for resolution 12a. He notified the floor that the auditors

would need some time to count the votes and handed back to the Chair to continue the meeting in the meantime.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (ITEM 13)

THE CHAIR moved onto any other business and opened any questions to the floor.

A Member asked if there was a discrepancy between the auditor's name on the slide, Hurst & Co, and the ballot form which had Hurst Accountants Limited printed.

THE CHAIR confirmed that it's the same company and apologised for any confusion.

A Member (Roger Sutherland) commented that he couldn't read the form. The white writing on a red background was the issue.

THE CHAIR agreed and confirmed that the feedback would be noted. Assistance was offered to ensure that all Members in the room could vote appropriately.

THE CHAIR acknowledged feedback relating to the instructions for voting online, particularly in relation to the options for online and offline voting.

THE CHAIR confirmed that the Member services department would be consulted following confirmation from a Member that they were awaiting a response to a general enquiry.

Vice President, Malcolm Lorimer highlighted that the Lottery would decide on a £2 million bid for a Lancashire Museum in July.

THE CHAIR recommended the book Malcolm wrote about the Olympic Games in Paris in 1900, which is being re-issued since cricket is going to be back in the games in Los Angeles.

A Member asked why it was to be expected that membership numbers should drop by roughly 2,000.

Daniel Gidney explained that a year-on-year increase in membership numbers cannot be expected. A spike in membership levels during an Ashes year is to be expected as people purchase memberships to enjoy priority access to Ashes tickets. Yet the 2024 membership numbers were higher than those of 2019, which was an Ashes year, therefore illustrating membership growth. So, membership levels are higher in 2024, compared with 2019, and lower than last year which was an Ashes year. The key point is that membership is growing and there is increased engagement.

A Member requested membership figures and a ballpark figure of how many Members they expected to have taken out a membership last year for the sole purpose of enjoying priority access to Ashes tickets.

Daniel Gidney explained that it was difficult to measure but there has been a drop off of around 2,000 Members compared to last year, although membership levels are higher than 2019 which was an Ashes year, reiterating that this demonstrates growth and engagement. He suggested that this gives some indication of how many "cricket tourists" there were.

THE SECRETARY confirmed that the auditors would need approximately half an hour to determine the results of the poll.

THE CHAIR assured the room that if the outcome of the poll was that the Board be reprimanded, then the Board would take this seriously and endeavour to do better in the future, particularly through the practice of Members' Forums. He asserted that the Board would accept the tone of the motion regardless of the result. He then drew the AGM to a close and thanked all in attendance for their significant contribution, highlighting that it was brilliant to see so many Members present.

Daniel Gidney issued thanks for engagement and support, one of the best engagements he'd seen in 12 years.

Post meeting, the results of the poll were confirmed. Item 12a: Members reprimand the Board for its failure to keep the promise made at the 2023 AGM to hold a Members' Forum on voting rights before the 2024 membership terms were issued. Motion passed with 55% approval.