**WICKFORD CRICKET CLUB**

**Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on Tuesday 31st May 2022 in the Club Pavilion.**

**Present:**  13 members of the club were present, as per attached list of Register of attendees

Meeting started at 21.00 With the requisite quorum in attendance.

Meeting chaired by Andy Baker (Chairman).

Minutes recorded by Alan Moss (Secretary).

**Apologies: -** Apologies were received from Ian Brandle, Paul Corps, Brian Ward, Mike Oldham and Craig Hamilton.

The Chairman stated that the meeting had been called as Essex County Cricket Board had advised the Club that we need to make several changes to our Club Constitution, by 30th June 2022, if we want to keep our Clubmark accreditation.

Some of the proposed amendments are also compulsory for Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC’s), which we are registered as.

**Resolution A**

Amendments to clause 3 - Aims

Existing constitution states: -

3. AIMS

3.1 The aims of the Club shall be:

• To encourage community participation in organised cricket on a recreational basis

• To provide high quality playing and training facilities for both senior and junior cricketers

• To strive for improvement of the playing abilities of all participants

• To promote a better understanding of the Laws of Cricket and to always adhere to the Spirit of the Game

• To provide members with a high standard of playing fixtures

• To achieve and maintain a position of the highest status within club cricket and be at the forefront of cricket development within Essex and the local community

• To provide comfortable and safe facilities for players, officials, and spectators

• To maintain and endeavour to improve the quality and features of the ground provided by the Trustees of the Patmore Memorial Sports Ground

• To cultivate good relations with all local and county bodies concerned with cricket

• To participate in relevant local community issues

3.2 The Club shall be a not-for-profit organisation and any surplus income or gains shall be reinvested in the Club (see also Clause 16.6, Disbandment).

**To be amended to: -**

**3. Club Purposes, Affiliations and Aims**

3.1 The main purposes of the Club are to provide facilities for and to promote participation in the amateur sport of cricket [replaces first aim].

3.2 The Club is affiliated to the England and Wales Cricket Board through the Essex Cricket Board [new clause].

3.3 The Club and its members shall ensure that members, playing and non-playing, abide by the ECB Code of Conduct which incorporates the Spirit of Cricket and by the Laws of Cricket [New clause].

3.4 The Club shall adopt and implement the ECB Safe Hands – Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children and any future versions of the policy. The Club must also have a separate club safeguarding Policy Statement, as required by the ECB. [replaces existing clause 4.8]

3.5 The Club shall adopt and implement the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code of Conduct and any future versions of this policy. [New policy recently introduced by ECB - compulsory].

 The aims in our existing constitution are then moved to 3.6, except the first aim – to encourage community participation in organised cricket etc, which is to be removed as this is now covered under 3.1.

3.6 The aims of the Club shall be:

• To provide high quality playing and training facilities for both senior and junior cricketers

• To strive for improvement of the playing abilities of all participants

• To promote a better understanding of the Laws of Cricket and to always adhere to the Spirit of the Game

• To provide members with a high standard of playing fixtures

• To achieve and maintain a position of the highest status within club cricket and be at the forefront of cricket development within Essex and the local community

• To provide comfortable and safe facilities for players, officials, and spectators

• To maintain and endeavour to improve the quality and features of the ground provided by the Trustees of the Patmore Memorial Sports Ground

• To cultivate good relations with all local and county bodies concerned with cricket

• To participate in relevant local community issues

3.7 [existing 3.2] The Club shall be a not-for-profit organisation and any surplus income or gains shall be reinvested in the Club (see also Clause 16.6, Disbandment).

***Resolution carried.***

**Resolution B.**

Amendments to clause 4 – Membership

Existing Constitution states: -

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 The Club shall operate a membership policy that does not discriminate on grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, creed, colour, sexual orientation, or social status.

4.2 Categories of Club membership shall be:

• Full Members

• Life Members

• Honorary Members

• Vice Presidents

• Junior Members [Parents/Guardians/Carers of Junior Members, who are not fully

 paid Members in their own right, are given an automatic Non-Voting Membership].

• Associate Members

4.3 The Management Committee may invite and elect as Life Members, Honorary Members, Vice Presidents suitable persons distinguished in promoting the cause of cricket in general or the Club in particular

4.4 Associate Members shall be limited in number at the discretion of the Management Committee.

4.5 Application for membership of the Club shall be in writing to the Secretary. This shall clearly state the name and address of the candidate. Applications shall be considered by the Management Committee who may refuse membership only for good and sufficient cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or sport into disrepute. Appeal against such a decision may be made to a Membership Appeals Panel and decided by a majority vote. The Membership Appeals Panel shall be appointed by the Secretary and/or Chairman and shall comprise five members none of whom shall have participated in the decision to refuse membership.

4.6 Junior Membership of the Club shall be administered by the Junior Cricket Committee.

4.7 Membership of the Club shall continue only for the period covered by the current subscription.

4.8. The Club shall adopt and implement the ECB Cricket Equity Policy and any future versions of this policy.

 To ensure a duty of care to all members of the Club by adopting and implementing the ECB “Safe hands – Cricket’s policy for safeguarding Children”, and any future versions of the policy.

**To be amended to: -**

**4. Membership**

4.1 Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone interested in the sport on application regardless of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, or other beliefs, except as a necessary consequence of the requirements of cricket [replaces existing clause 4.1].

4.2 Categories of Club membership shall be:

• Full Members

• Life Members

• Honorary Members

• Vice Presidents

• Junior Members [Parents/Guardians/Carers of Junior Members, who are not fully

 paid Members in their own right, are given an automatic Non-Voting Membership].

• Associate Members

4.3 The Management Committee may invite and elect as Life Members, Honorary Members, Vice Presidents suitable persons distinguished in promoting the cause of cricket in general or the Club in particular

4.4 Associate Members shall be limited in number at the discretion of the Management Committee.

4.5 Application for membership of the Club shall be by completion of a membership application form [replaces existing clause 4.5].

4.6 Junior Membership of the Club shall be administered by the Junior Cricket Committee.

4.7 Membership of the Club shall continue only for the period covered by the current subscription.

4.8 The Club may have different classes of membership and subscription on a non-discriminatory and fair basis. The Club will have an equitable pricing policy and will keep subscriptions at levels that will not pose a significant obstacle to people participating [replaces existing clause 4.8, which is covered under proposed clause 3.4 Club Purposes, Affiliations and Aims under Resolution A].

Clauses 4.9 to 4.12 are new clauses.

4.9. No person shall be eligible to take part in the business of the Club, vote at general meetings or be eligible for selection for any Club team unless the applicable subscription has been paid by the due date and/or membership has been agreed by the Committee. Two days must also have passed since the application for membership was submitted before membership can be granted

4.10 The Committee may refuse membership, or remove it, at their discretion but only for good cause such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or cricket into disrepute and:

 4.10.1 The Committee may only refuse to admit a new member if a resolution is passed at a meeting where the person in question has been notified in writing in advance and been given 14 days to submit written representations for the Committee to consider at the meeting. Appeal against a refusal of membership shall be to the Appeal Committee as detailed below under clause 15 [see Resolution D].

 4.10.2 The procedure for taking disciplinary action against a member, including removing membership, is dealt with in more detail below under clause15 [see Resolution D].

4.11 All members will be subject to these Rules and by joining the Club will be deemed to accept these Rules, any Club Regulations, and any Codes of Conduct that the Club has adopted. A Code of Conduct for Members and Guests must be displayed prominently to ensure that all Club guests and non-member volunteers are aware of the code and the requirement to abide by it.

4.12 The Secretary will keep a register of members.

4.13 Membership is not transferable and shall cease on death.

4.14 A member may resign by written notice to the Club, but the return of any subscription paid is at the discretion of the Committee.

***Resolution carried.***

**Resolution C**

**Insert new clause 6.11**

6.11 Whenever a Committee member has a personal interest in a matter to be discussed he/she must declare it, withdraw from that part of the meeting (unless asked to stay), not be counted in the quorum for that agenda item and withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter concerned. Conflicts of Interest must be recorded and minuted.

This clause is compulsory for ECB Clubmark.

***Resolution carried.***

**Resolution D**

Amendment to clause 15 and removal of clause 7.5.1.

The removal of clause 7.5.1 and the amendment of clause 15 brings all disciplinary actions and appeals together. There is further mention of appeals in existing clause 4.5, which we are proposing to replace in resolution B.

Existing Constitution clauses 7.5.1 and 15 states

7.5.1 Behaviour and conduct: A Senior Cricket Committee (SCC) Disciplinary Panel may discipline, by reprimand or suspension from selection, any member whose play related conduct be considered detrimental to the character and/or reputation of the Club. An adverse report from a Match Governing Body or Match Official shall be dealt with promptly, being considered a matter of the utmost urgency. A SCC Disciplinary Panel shall comprise four members of the Senior Cricket Committee, one of whom shall act as chairman. Each member of the SCC Disciplinary Panel shall exercise one vote and not less than three votes shall be required to approve any action. A member to be disciplined shall have the right of representation at the meeting so convened. Notwithstanding Clause 15, there shall be no right of appeal. Disciplinary action taken by the Senior Cricket Committee may not preclude action being taken under Clause 15.

15. DISCIPLINING OF MEMBERS

Subject to matters being dealt with under Clause 7.5.1, matters of unacceptable behaviour by members shall be dealt with by a Management Committee (MC) Disciplinary Board which may suspend, remove from office, or terminate membership, any senior member whose conduct be considered detrimental to the character and/or well-being of the Club and any subscriptions paid shall be forfeited. A MC Disciplinary Board appointed by the Secretary and/or Chairman shall comprise three persons one of whom shall be nominated as chairman and in normal circumstances shall convene within twenty-one days of the matter being reported. Each member of the MC Disciplinary Board shall exercise one vote and not less than two votes shall be required to approve any action. A member to be disciplined shall have the right of representation at the meeting so convened and a subsequent right of appeal to the Management Committee.

**To be amended to: -**

**15. Removal of Membership, Discipline and Appeals**

15.1 Any complaints regarding the behaviour of members, guests or volunteers should be lodged in writing with the Secretary.

15.2 Any person that is the subject of a written complaint or appeal shall be notified of the procedures to be followed by the relevant committee in reasonable time to prepare for any hearing.

15.3 The Committee shall appoint a disciplinary sub-committee (Disciplinary Sub-Committee) who will meet to hear complaints within [21] days of a complaint being lodged. Any person requested to attend a Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall be entitled to be accompanied by a friend or other representative and to call witnesses. The Disciplinary Sub-Committee has the power to take appropriate disciplinary action on behalf of the Committee, including the termination of membership or exclusion from Club premises.

15.4 The outcome of the disciplinary hearing shall be put in writing to the person who lodged the complaint and the person against whom the complaint was made within [14] days following the hearing.

15.5 There shall be a right of appeal within 14 days of receipt of the disciplinary decision or decision to refuse membership:

 15.5.1 against the Disciplinary Sub-Committee’s findings or the sanction imposed or both;

 and

 15.5.2 against the Committee’s refusal to admit a new member

in either case, the Committee shall appoint an appeals committee (“Appeals Committee”). The Appeals Committee shall have a maximum of three members which shall not include members involved with the initial disciplinary hearing but may include non-members of the Club. The Appeals Committee shall consider the appeal within [21] days of the Secretary receiving the appeal. The individual who submitted the appeal shall be entitled to be accompanied by a friend or other representative and to call witnesses. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

***Resolution carried.***

 The meeting closed at 21:05

 Signed as a true record with no amendments/amendments as annotated……………………….…….

 Date………………………………