

Rankin’s Cricket Club

2021 AGM

Minutes

Thursday, 21st October, 7:30pm at the Clubhouse

Committee members in attendance: Mark Lewis, Mark Albon, Nicola Holland, Bob Warren, Phil Bird,

Shakira O’Connor, Peter Warner, Martin Shields, Karen Shields, Dave Jones and Brian Pettitt

Members in attendance: Greg Dutton, Rowena Warren, Liam Warren, Deepak Nanda, Paul Napthine,

Joe Gooden and Rahman Bhatty

Apologies received from: Craig Bolton, Darel Greenfield, Andrea Styles and Mark O’Connor

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| **Minutes of 2020 AGM**  2020 Minutes were circulated and agreed. |
| **Chairman’s Report – Mark Lewis**  It’s been a year of change and challenge. Across the country, cricket got off to a good year even though not as we know it. Rankin’s Cricket Club is a very unique club which will be built on next year. Certainly we were limited by senior team player availability this year, however, with a strong youth section coming up through the ranks, Rankin’s will only become stronger. The talent coming through from our youth section is great to see; I witnessed this at the recent end of season presentation night.  Having said this, we are entering exciting times for our club. We are considering entering only 2 teams to the T Rippon league, setting up a new 3rd XI ‘Fat Dads & Grandads’ friendly team and, finally, starting a 20/20 short form style XI. As you know, I took our concerns regarding the interest in a short form cricket to the recent league committee meeting. After much discussion, unfortunately, there was insufficient interest to make a league. Plenty of work has, however, been going on in the background to make this idea a reality and I thank all those involved. Watch this space!  We need to look into what we are missing at our club; and clearly, we are missing a coach for our youngsters. A lot of clubs have this issue. Ideally, we need to find a coach who would also be willing to play in our 1st XI. As a club we are in a good position, there are more clubs in the area with greater difficulties so it isn’t easy out there. However, we are financially quite healthy and ultimately, we have a lot of people who care about Rankin’s Cricket Club which actually bodes well for the future.  The committee will be looking at our five-year plan over this winter. We have a plan A and a plan B. Both options need consideration.  And finally, who could forget the ladies cricket day. What a brilliant day had by all. Ladies, you were fantastic.  Let’s hope for a more normal year in 2022 |
| **Treasurer’s Report – Shakira O’Connor (see attached ledger)**  We have had quite a good year, considering the circumstances. Thanks to covid 19 and grants from various bodies, Rankin’s is financially better off than we have ever been. We can’t, however, become complacent. We need to plan for the future ie: repair nets, extend clubhouse, potentially replace mowers and tractor. At the moment we are repairing the equipment but this will come to an end. We received grants of £20,600 and if we actually took these funds away from our balance sheet, we only really made a profit of £2,200. This is a very small margin to keep us ticking over. We have to keep fundraising for the club. Yes, we are a not-for-profit organisation, but we can’t keep the club going on this amount. We need to put money aside for depreciation. Going forward, we need to look into fundraising nights and special event days. Pitch maintenance has gone up. Our lottery profit is up but only because certain people are donating their winnings back to the club (for which we thank you). Maybe we could reintroduce the bus stop cards or similar fund raisers on a Friday and or Saturday night? Net and pitch hire gone up considerably; thank you to Brian for continuing to work tirelessly on this. Thank you also to Mark Albon for allowing Shane to work at our ground.  BP – as always, outside hire will bring more funds into the club and I have been in discussion with quite a few other teams who have shown interest in our facilities, but only if we are not using the grounds. I will keep you updated. Thank you, Shane, for repairing the changing room and portacabin roof and preparing for replacing our fencing – and to Mark Albon for allowing Shane to work at the grounds. We can now use the new fencing for advertising space bringing in further revenue.  ML - do we still have bad debts? BP - Hockley evening league owe one hire out £85. A large proportion of the 3rd XI have paid their debts (about £500 for half dozen players). PW – it is rumoured the 3rd XI are off to Wakering – we must make sure they have paid their debts before they can sign for another team. ML – we have received support from the league and under their rules anyone who has not paid debts cannot sign for another club. We have also made the league aware that they were trying to poach our youth. They said they won’t let them do it. |
| **Secretary’s Report – Nicola Holland**  You can’t even get rid of me when I don’t have children who play cricket. This year has certainly been more ‘normal’. I’m going to be short and sweet this year and just do the thank yous; thank you to all who have worked on the grounds, worked behind the bar, cleaned the clubhouse, worked behind the scenes, played in the adult teams, organised the juniors, secured the grants, counted the money, cut the grass, maintained our machinery – the list goes on. Next year is looking promising and I hope it will go down as a year to remember, for the rights reasons! Bring it on 2022! |
| **First Team Season Report - Brian Pettitt**  2021 was a mixed season. Availability and particularly injuries early in the season had a negative effect. Problems with Covid/transport etc and some poor decisions meant penalties from the league were incurred which made things difficult. In the second half of the season, with Darel leading the side, there was a much improved atmosphere and team morale and although difficult, it was an enjoyable season overall. Chris Ashdown was the stand out bowler and Darel got plenty of runs supported by various players on different occasions. There were a number of games where we were on top but could not close them out which nearly led to relegation and the “too good to go down” comment was heard from a couple of oppositions after they had just got the better of us. Relegation was finally avoided on the last day of the season helped out by a win for South Woodham Ferrers over a “doctored” Great Baddow 2nds.  There were a number of positives: including Rahman joining the club, Archie Davis taking over the gloves and relieving Darel of the pressure of having to keep, open and captain. Young players such as Thomas Dean, Morgan Thomas, Will Green and Will von Isenburg all came in and contributed which bodes well for the 2022 season. |
| **Second Team Season Report – Dave Jones**  It was a very challenging start for the 2s right from the off with only 8 in the side at one point. However, there are lots of positives. We chucked Will von Isenberg in 1st to bat and he coped very well, we also have the bonus that was Ollie Cousen dropped down from the 1st XI for a few games. Obviously mention needs to be made of the ever-going Brickie; thank you for stepping up as captain this year. There were lots of positives in our bowling too. Congratulations to Will O’Connor for making his 5fer and ultimately being crowned our leading wicket taker for the 2s. Thomas Dean will be a 1st XI bowler, he is far too good for the 2s always putting in 100%. Ben Murray was outstanding at the end of the year taking his first 4fer having never played a competitive senior match; we have big plans for him next year. Another youth player to mention, Sam Parrot; another youngster who took his first 4fer. And, of course, congratulations to Bob for his 6fer. It’s a great little team to be part of, and great to watch the youth playing cricket and enjoying it. Onwards and upwards.  PW – the atmosphere was great in the 2s. I’ve been in a lot of teams and this year was outstanding.  SOC – as a parent of player who plays for the team, Dave, you have been amazing with the kids. Your support for them, and encouragement is fantastic. All kids love you. Great job. |
| **Third Team Season Report – Brian Pettitt**  This was something of an experiment in 2021. Led by James Gray a number of the Rochford footballers grouped together to play in division 10 supplemented by Kyle Holling and a number of u15s when they were short. They believed that they would be competitive, however, soon realised that it was a decent standard and their patience with the batting meant they were often bowled out well short of 40 overs with scores too low to give the bowlers a chance. Unfortunately they got relegated despite 3 or 4 wins in the 2nd half of the season. They have decided to de-camp to Great Wakering CC to become their 2nd XI in Division 11 if they get elected into the league. We hope to retain one of two of this group and our 3rd XI will be a friendly XI in 2022 away from the strictures of the league and played on terms agreed between the sides which are suitable for the age and commitment of the players. This will include “lads and dads” and occasional players and hopefully this format will encourage more people to get involved in a shorter and less prescriptive format of the game. |
| **Youth Section Report**  I would like to begin by saying thank you to the managers of respective youth teams, who give up a significant portion of their week for no other reward than to see children enjoying themselves playing cricket. I would also like to thank the parents for taking the time to make sure the children are present for training and matches, and providing support throughout the year.  Rankin’s successfully fielded u9s, u11s, u13, u15s and u16s teams this year. The u9s team were corralled by novice manager Bill Sillett, who oversaw a huge development in the squad as the season progressed. Many of the team had not played match cricket before, but with each training session and game, all undertaken with boundless enjoyment and enthusiasm, confidence increased as did the performance level. This was a young team, with a significant number of the squad still eligible for the Allstars program. This bodes extremely well for next season, with most of the team still being available for u9s cricket and having a year’s match play experience under their belts.  The U11s, managed by Glenn Geeson, placed 6th in the league and bowed out in the quarter finals of the cup. The boys demonstrated on many occasions the lessons learnt from training. Individual growth came through games and experience and the team ethic of all for one and one for all. Two of the u11s team (Ruari Geeson and Joseph Potter) had the honour of being picked for the South Essex U11s district team, with both being a credit to Rankins during those games. Joseph Potter deserves a special mention – being picked for and then captaining Essex.  The u13s, managed by Mark Young, had a successful season – finishing third in a highly competitive performance league, falling just short in the South Essex league playoff semi-final and then agonisingly losing the cup final in the final over. Tom Carson, Tom von Isenburg, Alfie Young and Harry Casey all represented the South Essex district team during the season and Tom Carson, Harry Casey and Ben Murray very successfully made the step up to the adult game, playing regularly for Rankin’s 2s, which leaves Rankin’s in very good hands for the future.  The u15s and u16s teams were both managed by James Dean. The u15s showed real commitment on many a dreary and wet Thursday night, with the banter from the team being something to behold. Thomas Dean, Henry Dean, Piers Hatcliff, Lenny Scarlett, Samuel Parrott and George Bennett also all made valuable contributions to the Rankin’s adult teams. The u16s entered The Essex Cup 40 over competition for the first time and found the going hard, which is unsurprising given that a majority of the team was made up of the u14s year group, whereas many of the opposition players were also playing adult cricket in the top tiers of the Essex League. Nevertheless, the boys’ heads never dropped and they learnt a huge amount from the experience. It is testament to their character that the first words uttered after a chastening defeat at the hands of incredibly strong Ilford CC side, was their desire to return to the competition and prove themselves in future years. |
| **CWO Report**  **DBS**  All team captains are currently DBS checked we have a few volunteers that should have had automatic renewal and these need to be followed up by myself before the new season starts but it should be stressed these are committee members who do not directly train or coach children.  As teams and positions change review will be conducted and new people accredited. Please keep in mind the system is now more robust so our safe hands accreditation has the DBS certifications for each person.  **Safeguarding Issues**  The club had a situation on team selection dealt with by Dave Jones where a child who was a member of an age group team was not selected in favour of a younger player. We do need to make youth managers aware of this and if for whatever reason we have a potential selection issue then the manager should deal with it with the support of the CSO and with input from the Club Captain. We appreciate playing your strongest team but we need to ensure this is done in a fair and explained manner.  **Safehands**  Rankins were one of the first 3 clubs in Essex to achieve safe hands accreditation, well done everybody for the support and accepting roles. The club must understand this is a more robust system than the Clubmark and is fully electronic based so to stop any chance of positions being held in the club by non-DBS or qualified persons. (Coaching, All stars etc.) the system is live so we have to reflect all club changes as they happen. Safe hands also covers our insurance policies and risk assessments and we still need to be conscious that we do not have enough female ladies toilet facilities unless we have a safe illuminated route to the ladies toilets in the cabins. This has been on for 5 years and maybe this gets priority to get a simple gravel path and a couple of lights?  Both Dave and I feel the club is in a good place with Child Welfare but we cannot get complacent so everybody needs to play their part and be ever observant and vigilant. If you see something that does not look right, Dave and myself can always advise and protect the person.  Lastly thank you Dave for all your support as following my accident I have not attended the club as much as normal but hopefully next year I will be back to normal and offer you more support. |
| **Constitution Changes and Proposals**  None |
| **Subscriptions and Match Fee Charge for 2021**  Going forward it was agreed all subscriptions to stay as they were in 2020, with the exception of the new Fat Dads and Grandads group of players. PN & KVI proposed a £20.00 social membership be paid, but with a £10.00 per game match fee. This was voted on and unanimously agreed.  NH to produce paperwork for circulation and approval. |
| **Election of Officers**  The following officers were re-elected under a block vote proposed by Kevin von Isenburg seconded by Doc:  Honorary Chairman Mark Lewis  Vice Chairman Mark Albon  Honorary Secretary Nicola Holland  Treasurer Shakira O’Connor  Youth Manager Mark O’Connor  Funding Manager Martin Shields  Membership Secretary Karen Shields/Martin Shields  Child Safeguarding Officer Dave Jones/Martin Shields  Social Media Nicola Holland  Committee Member (1) Kevin von Isenburg  Committee Member (2) Peter Warner  Committee Member (3) Bob Warren  Club Captain Dave Jones  Bar manager Phil Bird  The following officers were elected: Proposed by Seconded by  1st Team Captain – Rahman Bhatty Paul Napthine Shakira O’Connor  2nd Team Captain – Dave Jones Mark Lewis Shakira O’Connor  3rd Team Captain – Joe Gooden Mark Albon Kevin von Isenburg  Short form Captain – Luca Albon Mark Albon Shakira O’Connor  Fixtures Secretary – Brian Pettitt Shakira O’Connor Dave Jones  Events – Joe Gooden Shakira O’Connor Mark Albon  Committee Member (4) – Andrea Styles Shakira O’Connor Mark Lewis  Committee Member (5) – Paul Napthine Nicola Holland Kevin von Isenburg  Committee Member (6) - Deepak Nanda Shakira O’Connor Mark Lewis |
| **AOB** |
| MA – I would like to say everyone here has done a great job this year. Brian and Bob thank you. Without cricket players, and people paying fees, we will have no club. Martin did a grand job getting the grants, thank you. Going forward, it is good to fundraise with events like the fireworks etc but, ultimately, we are a cricket club. Bringing in new players and supporting the youth should be our priority. I’ve been coming here 13 years and every year we keep asking the same question. We are not the only club that faces that problem but we need to find an answer to that question – if we don’t get a longer-term solution, we could be going down the same route as Ongar (club now defunct).  MS – we have great facilities at which everyone wants to come to play, but not as a Rankin’s member. What will attract those people to come back?  ML – comment to RB – thinking about 1st team, what is your take on this position? RB – first of all, as a club we have everything you need for a successful club including the spirit and the youth. Game wise the 1st XI team must have priority, there were a few games this year when we only had 10 players, this cannot be right. The club is based on what the first XI is doing. I know this year was difficult but we must look forward. If I’m captain, I’m making the plan and the bowler is not setting the field. I certainly think our teams should be higher in the league and I will do my best to make this happen. Players should not be picking where they want to play. It’s going to be an exciting year.  JG - we have a good 27/28 people who are interested in playing in our ‘Fat Dads and Grandads’ 3rd XI cricket team next year. ML – how are we planning to organise our fixtures for 3rd/Short form? BP, as the new Fixtures Secretary, will look into fixtures with local teams interested in this kind of standard of cricket. It maybe we have a 3rd XI comprised of 30 players in the squad, and we rotate the players depending on strength of the opposition. We will have matches home and away. We also have the advantage of an extra ground. Thought to be given and further details advised in due course.  Short form team – by offering this short form cricket at Rankin’s we are aiming at the group of lads we really want to entice back to cricket. Hopefully if they start enjoying the game again, we may be able to persuade one or two of them to play for our 1s or 2s. MA – I have spoken to the lads (President’s Day) and they would be up for playing 25 over games. We will organise a Whatsapp group. BP to speak with LA and organise matches with local teams. |

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| **Meeting closed at**  10:15pm |