

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 At Sawston & Babraham CC at 7:00 pm

**Present:** Simon Seabrook, Cindy Tai Lim, Andrew Abbott, Jane Reeson, Martin Stephenson, Ajaz Akhtar, David Swannell, Ken Smart, James Williams, Ian Rippington, Derek Wing, Keith Coburn, Geoff Beel, Stephen Whiting, Russell Doel, Rob Benson, David Ellis, Kim Smith, Dave Smith, Paul Tibble, Andrew Sheail, Nicholas Cliffe.

**Apologies:** David Barrs, Les Mills, Ian Liversedge, John Gothard.

Item	Comments
No	
1	Welcome from The Chairman
	The Chairman welcomed members to the AGM.
	The Chairman thanked David Ellis and Sawston & Babraham CC for stepping in at short notice to host this meeting.
2	President's Comment
	The President gave an introduction with the following comments;
	"Thank you, Chairman and Happy New Year, to everybody. I think I would like to just say how much I have enjoyed my year as president of Cambridgeshire County Cricket Club. I have met some old friends and made some new ones and visited one or two grounds that I wasn't fortunate enough to play on when I was playing. I think one thing I have learnt in the last 12 months is that running Cambridgeshire County Cricket Club is a lot more arduous than it was when I was chairman 20 odd years ago and I would like to thank the committee for all they have done. Everyone has a responsibility on there and I think we are very lucky to have that team off the field and also can I say thank you on behalf of myself and my wife for the way that you have welcomed us both into your setup. On the field well I think there is lots of reports but I think it has been a very frustrating season because we managed 15 overs in the T20 competitions we just seem to be in the wrong place at the wrong time because I believe our neighbour Bedfordshire managed to play all eight of their game so wasn't really our lucky time but it did seem to be an apparent very good team spirit and also a desire to play cricket for Cambridgeshire which I found very consoling. I am not going to say anymore because I notice there is an awful lot of reports to come just to say let's hope for a dryer 2024 and I look forward to seeing all of you at some of the games thank you very much'.
3	Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting
	The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 2nd February 2023 were circulated by email and by post prior to the meeting.
	There were no comments. The minutes were proposed by Ajaz Akhtar and seconded by Ian Rippington. The minutes were approved as a true record of the 2021/22 AGM.

Item No	Comments
4	Chairman's Report (Attached as Appendix 1)
	The Chairman's Report was circulated before the start of the meeting.
	Then Chairman invited questions from the members.
	As there were no questions, the Chairman's Report was accepted.
5	Secretary's Report (Attached as Appendix 2)
	The Secretary's Report was circulated before the start of the meeting.
	The Secretary invited questions from the members.
	As there were no questions, the Secretary's Report was accepted.
6	Captains and Coaches Reports
	The reports of the Captains and Coaches were circulated before the start of the meeting.
	Both captains were unable to attend so James Williams read out all three reports.
	CCCC White Ball Captain's Report – Callum Guest (Attached as Appendix 3)
	CCCC Red Ball Captain's Report – Wayne White (Attached as Appendix 4)
	Coaches Report – James Williams (Attached as Appendix 5)
	Stephen Whiting commented that Wayne White is correct to maintain that there is a shortfall in spin bowling and asked if there are any developments in that area?
	James Williams stated that from a white ball perspective James Sykes is locked in again and also a new player coming through, a promising leg spin and bat who should slot into the new order.
	The discussion then covered that last year there were 3 outside players, this year we may have 4 outside players (of which 3 is the limit in any game). We do not currently have sufficient new players from the region as there is only a small pool of clubs to choose from. Therefore, we are taking advantage of the opportunity to use outside players.
	James Williams informed that he has a list of 42 possibles for this season with some new young players from our EPP. Agreed that it will be good to stay close to the CYC and County Board to help build the pipeline.
7	2nd XI Manager's Report (Attached as Appendix 6)
	The 2nd XI Manager's Report was circulated before the start of the meeting.
	Dave Swannell thanked Exning for hosting the first game and Sawston for hosting the last game. We had all our home games at Saffron Walden in 2022. It is good to use more than one ground. There are a couple of spinners in the squad, but not yet ready to play in the 1st XI.
	There were no questions on this report.
	The Chairman thanked Dave Swannell, Ben Clilverd, James Williams and Callum Guest for running the squad well in 2022/23.

# Item Comments No

#### 8 Financial Statement from Finance Committee

Financial Statement for the year ended 30th September 2023 was distributed before the start of the meeting.

For the period 2022/23 we had a finance subcommittee of the main committee made up of Andy Abbott and Cindy Tai Lim with Simon Seabrook as back up. The accounts for the year have been verified by Paul Tibble.

Andy Abbott commented that we are showing a loss this year of £3,500 (that is £300 down from last year). That loss is primarily made up of the loss on the Showcase Game at Peterborough. Northants only sold 22 tickets which is worth £175 which was a disappointment.

The following questions on the accounts were raised;

#### 8.1 Bank Interest

Bank interest (£757 compared to £43) has gone up significantly solely due to the increase in deposit rates.

#### 8.2 Handbook Printing

Handbook printing of £96 (was for the previous years as it was late claim). There was no handbook last year due to increased costs.

#### 8.3 Website and Social Media

We have engaged a social media person (also works for Sawston) in the last year to strengthen our social media presence. In the current climate there is a real need to create a social media presence to drive sponsorship, advertise and build up to games and create interest from younger potential players and supporters.

#### 8.4 Costs

Costs in general (and particularly the grounds) are increasing, but ECB money has remained unchanged for the last 4 years so a tight rein on expenses has been important with a monthly budget review.

#### 8.5 Membership

- A question was raised about the fall in membership fees for 2022/23 (from £885 to £745). The reason behind this was that a single life membership application (£150) will boost income in one year relative to others.
- Benefits of membership were discussed and include: Free admission to showcase game and all home games plus supporting the game in Cambridgeshire. The Chairman and committee recognise that there is more to be done to encourage membership, this may reflect again on the need for a social media presence.
- Consideration was given to a proposal that members could get a discount from local traders. This was discussed, but would require a person to negotiate terms with traders and administer the membership lists. Such a marketing manager would need funding.

The Financial Statements for 2022/23 were proposed by Rob Benson and seconded by Dave Swannell and they were approved by the Members present.

The Chairman thanked Andy Abbott and Cindy Tai Lim for maintaining the accounting records during the last year and Paul Tibble for verifying.

Item	Comments
No	
8	Financial Statement from Finance Committee

#### 8.6 County Board

Rob Benson thanked the County Club for helping the County Board with the salary payments when Barclays Bank closed the County Boards account. The Barclays accounts have been reactivated for the County Board.

#### 8.7 Website

There was a discussion about the County Club website. We currently have a website run by a member in his spare time, it serves a purpose but possibly not 21st century in its use of social media (X, Facebook, Instagram, etc.)

Fixtures were not on the website at the time of the meeting, but this has now been rectified.

We are working with the County Board on the websites because the County Board are looking at theirs so we will be looking at ours as well.

#### 8.8 Showcase

This year's Showcase Game against Surrey will be at Fenners which will be more expensive, but there is a great opportunity if we can find some more sponsorship and make sure people will support it in the middle of Cambridge. Surrey is already keen to involve their marketing and communication team to make it a success.

It is noted that sponsors are more likely to be attracted when there are good facilities. Fenners and the County Club will both benefit from a successful day. We need the membership to support it. We need the CYC. We need the board directors there and we need to publicize it. We need the community there from Cambridgeshire. There is a college next door with a roof terrace, bar so we're going to be putting our sponsors up there.

#### 8.9 Grounds

No games are scheduled at March Town CC this year.

James Williams and Russell Doel are meeting Fenners to discuss a possible deal for 2023/24. The County Club will have a three-day game, a one-day game and showcase game there. The rest of the deal will consist of state school girl's festival, women's first team, under 18's boys and girls. Wayne Hardy is now pitch advisor at Fenners.

Members lunch at Fenners will also be discussed.

We will play our two T20 games at Exning, one 50-over game at Sawston and a 3-day game at Peterborough Town.

#### 8.10 Sponsorship

PacAir were very keen to increase their contribution for this coming year based around the Showcase Game with Surrey. We can use the day to try and get some additional corporate sponsors, but this requires some early involvement with the business community.

Item	Comments
No	
9	Safeguarding Report (Attached as Appendix 7)

#### 9.1 Safeguarding

Safeguarding Report was distributed before the start of the meeting.

Jane Reeson confirmed that the County Club is totally compliant and have no concerns during the 2023 season.

Ian Rippington informed that scorers are no longer required to have a DBS in order to score games.

#### 9.2 EDI

Ajaz Akhtar gave a verbal report on EDI. To date there have been no directives from the NCCA or ECB. The Captains and James Williams need to keep an eye on things generally and especially changing room behaviour. At present the club has not had any issues to deal with. If any issues arise then we will rely on the NCCA for guidance. Any queries or questions from the press should be directed toward Ajaz Akhtar (our EDI Officer) or the committee.

#### 9.3 Disciplinary

The Chairman informed the attending members that there had been one disciplinary issue during 2022/23. One member used abusive and foul language to the umpires for calling a game off at one of our home games. The individual refused to apologize to the umpires. We agreed with the NCCA that the club would deal with the issue. A disciplinary committee led by Andy Abbott followed the established process and a Charge Letter was issued to the said member. The member was given the opportunity to give his views on the incident (which was a denial), and this was considered by the committee. The member was informed of the decision to ban him from any Cambridgeshire ground and to suspend his membership for 2 years. The member was given the opportunity to appeal, but there was no response.

Geoff Beel asked how the ban is enforced. The Chairman replied that the individual is well known. We were aware that if he turns up we will have to ask him to leave. He is a member of the club where it happened and that club is also dealing with the issue. Clearly it is an uncomfortable situation for all.

#### 10 Election of Officers

The following were proposed as officers of the committee for the year 2023/24:

Position	Nominated	Proposed	Seconded
President	Martin Stephenson	Derek Wing	Simon Seabrook
Chairman	Simon Seabrook	Geoff Beel	Martin Stephenson
Vice chair and EDI	Ajaz Akhtar	James Williams	Ian Rippington
Secretary	Cindy Tai Lim	Ian Rippington	Ken Smart
Safeguarding	Jane Reeson	Rob Benson	Russell Doel
White Ball Captain	Callum Guest	James Williams	Stephen Whiting
Red Ball Captain	Wayne White	James Williams	Stephen Whiting

Each of these proposals were seconded without objection from the members present. Their election was therefore approved.

The committee thanked Simon Seabrook for his Chairmanship.

The Chairman thanked all members of the committee for their commitment over the year.

m	Comments									
)	General Committee									
	General Committee									
	The following were proposed as General Committee members for the year 2023/24:									
	Nominated Propose	d Seconded								
	Andrew Abbott (County Board Director) Martin S	Stephenson Ajaz Akhtar								
	Dave Swannell Ajaz Akh	ntar James Williams								
	Ken Smart Geoff Beel Rob Benson									
	The chairman invited questions from the floor.									
	<ul> <li>Keith Coburn suggested that Geoff Beel be considered for election as patron of the club: Proposed by Keith Coburn</li> </ul>									
	Seconded by Ken Smart	barata								
	The motion was carried unanimously by show of	nands								
	The Chairman thanked Keith Coburn for the nomi	ination.								
	·	pout attendance at away games, specifically Cumbria that the committee tries to support attendance at awas.								
	Derek Wing observed that the club does not have acknowledged that this is a weakness, but pointe through. The committee recognizes that there is	ed out that there are some talented youngsters comin								
		f players for games. James Williams replied that we e are trying to do and hopefully we will not have those								
		orthants County Cricket Club to the ECB. The Chairmanne clubs do not support the format due to cost and the tree agreement between the NCCA and the ECB for								

The Chairman thanked members for attending and Sawston & Babraham for hosting us.

Meeting closed at 8:14 pm



#### Cambridgeshire County Cricket Club AGM 10/01/24 - Chairman's report

Good evening and welcome to Spicers home of S&B CC. Thank you, Dave Ellis, for organizing the facility this evening at short notice.

The 2023 season was once again a mixed bag, a little disappointing at times but we are making overall progress towards our high targets. The season started very wet with only 15 overs bowled of the T20 campaign which meant we had no chance in making the T20 finals day at Tring CC last season. A new T20 format has been devised by the NCCA for 2024 and we look to target this competition.

Our 50 over campaign didn't go to plan as we were as a squad a little cold due to the lack of NCCA cricket, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> bottom in our group. Again, we look to progress in the 2024 tournament as we had in 2021 & 2022 seasons.

We came second in the 3-day Eastern Division 2 competition, behind worthy winners Bedfordshire who we scraped a draw with at Saffron Walden CC. Well beaten by Hertfordshire didn't help our cause after a strong win against Northumberland and boring draw against Cumbria.

Our success this season came again with our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, coached by James Williams and Callum Guest, captained by Ben Clilverd and overall managed by Dave Swannell. Finishing top with a loss to Essex in a tight match with Norfolk beating Essex in the final round to leave us champions and defending ones at that. What was even more pleasing than the results, was the make-up of the side. In our final game against Norfolk, apart from Ben as captain all other players were under 20 years old.

This shows our investment and development is working with the Cambridgeshire Board and the CYC proves the pathway plan is working. This will work if we continue to invest and work closely with the pathway key stakeholders. The future of our county must come from this pathway, and we will continue to drive our investment into this area when required. This doesn't mean we do not look outside our county when needed for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI but we are not going back to having 4 pros in a season.

The selection panel consisted of the coach and two captains continued to work well with James in particular driving the process, looking to bring in young players when appropriate for experience and development in plans as mentioned for the future.

My thanks to James as coach, Callum as the 1-day captain & Wayne as the 3-day captain, all three are standing once again and have my full support for 2024.

The Showcase game was a lot of effort for no return and a waste of time, effort, and money to the County Club. Despite the work of the committee and Peterborough Town CC only around 150 people turned up for the day, with 55 PTCC members, volunteers, and supporters. Next season we have Surrey CCC.

The Maurice Crouch Cambridgeshire County Cricket Club Player of the Year is Callum Guest. Congratulations Callum well deserved.

Off the field I would also like to thank the committee, especially Cindy and Andy who took on running the Finances of the county club with myself forming a finance sub-committee. The financial report you have has been verified by Paul Tibble after excellent tight controls during the 2023 season. All transactions are through the bank as you expect in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a 6 eye sign off / payment process to the appropriate player, club, or association.

I must repeat my comments from last season to thank Ian Rippington and Cindy Tai Lim our professional scorers for 2023. Ben Clilverd for the video recording analysis for each home game.

Moving onto our sponsors for the 2023 season, PACAIR and Mitsubishi Electric who came to the Showcase game and enjoyed the day but would like to see us in a final's day in 2024! I can announce they have committed and paid for 2024 already and we have increased this sponsorship for the 2024 season. Majority of this investment will be ploughed back into the playing side of the club. In 2023 their sponsorship also paid for 13 full 1-day coloured kit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and 5 spare 1<sup>st</sup> XI kit for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. I would also like to thank Caterfix who sponsored James Sykes in the 1-day NCCA games he played in.

We are looking to invest further in sponsorship with a major sponsor for the 2024 Showcase game and individual player sponsors for the 2024 season. More information will follow.

I would like to thank March Town CC and Les Mills for hosting the club's annual lunch in early May at our last T20 game vs Lincolnshire which was sadly abandoned without a ball being bowled due to poor weather. Despite that disappointment the lunch was a great success with our new Patron Derek Wing and Life Member Stuart Turner being recognised with awards and stories from Martin Stephenson, Ajaz Akhtar, and Nigel Gadsby.

I would like to recognize and thank all the clubs who hosted us in 2023, they are listed below and without their grounds, volunteers & support we couldn't play our cricket in Cambridgeshire.

March Town CC, Wisbech Town CC, Peterborough Town CC, Burwell & Exning CC, Saffron Walden CC

The ECB continue to place further demands on our club as they do <u>all</u> clubs. We have a further CPA meeting in March with the ECB and an ever-growing list of report completing and box ticking for the coming season. However, none of this can be ignored and we must continue to be diligent, and any transgression must be reported and dealt with accordingly.

I have decided to stand once again for the 2024 season, and I shall be into my 7<sup>th</sup> year as Chairman. In November 2026 I must stand down as per our constitution and we must start planning for this event. Simon Seabrook Chairman 27/12/23

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB



- Competition Tables -

Home Officers Fixtures Results Tables Grounds History Honours Links

## **National Counties Championship Eastern Division 2 2023**

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bat	Bowl	Pen	Points
Bedfordshire	4	3	0	1	10	16	0	78
Cambridgeshire	4	1	1	2	13	13	0	50
Hertfordshire	4	1	1	2	5	16	0	45
Northumberland	4	1	2	1	4	14	0	38
Cumbria	4	0	2	2	5	15	0	28

### **East of England Development Competition 2023**

	Played	Won	Lost	Aban	Pen P	Points	Nett R R
Cambridgeshire 2nd XI	5	4	1	0	0	8	1.43
Essex Development XI	5	3	1	1	0	7	0.97
Bedfordshire 2nd XI	5	2	2	1	0	5	0.35
Norfolk Lions	5	2	2	1	0	5	(0.63)
Suffolk 2nd XI	4	1	2	1	0	3	(1.40)
Hertfordshire Stags	4	0	4	0	0	0	(1.07)

# **National Counties Trophy Group 3 2023**

	Played	Won	Lost	Aban	Pen P	Points	Nett R R
Suffolk	4	3	1	0	0	6	0.59
Cheshire	4	2	1	1	0	5	0.09
Shropshire	4	2	1	1	0	5	(0.34)
Cambridgeshire	4	1	3	0	0	2	0.07
Norfolk	4	1	3	0	0	2	(0.51)

Competition Summary

**National Counties T20 Group 3 2023** 

	Played	Won	Lost	Aban	Pen P	Points	Nett R R
Hertfordshire	8	4	0	4	0	12	0.47
Cambridgeshire	8	0	0	8	0	8	0.00
Suffolk	8	2	2	4	0	8	(0.09)
Norfolk	8	1	3	4	0	6	(0.13)
Lincolnshire	8	1	3	4	0	6	(0.19)

Competition Summary

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#### Secretary's Report 2023

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending the CCCC AGM.

As I look back on season 2022/23 which marks my second season as Club Secretary, I am pleased to reflect that the committee has exercised its duties and obligations efficiently over the last 12 months (minutes from every meeting, actions properly recorded and transparent accounts).

The Club has a healthy membership with a total of 13 honorary members, 33 life members and 45 ordinary members.

On the field 2023 season was challenging for the 1st XI:

- We did not play any T20 games due to a very wet April.
- In the 50 overs trophy we came fourth in the group
- In the 3-day championship we came second in our group.

Elsewhere the 2nd XI had another successful season retaining their title.

I will also add that from the scorer's perspective the match days were very well organized. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to participate.

Your committee consisted of nine people and met six times in February, March, April, May, July and November. Three of these were held in person and three were done via Zoom. The Finance Committee also met three times via Zoom.

The committee are very grateful to our Chairman who was successful to secure increased funding from Mitsubishi and PAC Air.

We would also like to thank March Town CC for hosting our annual Members' Lunch which was well attended.

Finally, I will end this report by paying thanks to the committee for their support and to the many people who helped to keep Cambs County Cricket Club moving forward in 2022/23. Our officials, captains, umpires, scorers, supporters, and of course our sponsors all made valuable contributions.

Cindy Tai Lim
Secretary
Cambridgeshire County Cricket Club
1st XI and 2nd XI Scorer

#### **Appendix 3**

#### Cambridgeshire 2023 White Ball Season:

Hopes were high going into the white ball campaign after 2022's T20 run to the final.

After an off-season of change, the team had a fresh look by adding some highly promising youngsters from the CYC programme. With all t20 fixtures washed out and all barring an abandoned contest against Ipswich without a ball bowled, the T20 campaign didn't ever get going and made it impossible for us to qualify from the group and onto finals day.

This lack of momentum and much-needed game time vastly affected our 50-over campaign. A decent score against Cheshire, thanks to a brilliant century from Wayne White, then led to a pretty ordinary fielding and bowling display as the hosts comfortably chased down a target in excess of 300.

A defeat at home to Suffolk was then accompanied by a rain-affected game against Shropshire, which saw us on the receiving end of a DLS defeat and ultimately ended our 50-over campaign with a match to go.

A solid all-round performance against Norfolk finished the season very much the way we hope to continue our cricket. Will Routledge scored a maiden 1st team 50, and Yousuf Choudhary got us off to a flyer again before departing in the 40's.

A disappointing season as a whole after the previous two years. However, some really good exposure and lots of things to learn from and put right going into the 2024 season.

Callum Guest

#### Cambridgeshire CCC Red Ball Captain's Report 2023

We have developed a very strong and deep squad over the last few years, and this is starting to allow us to attract better players. We have recruited well and been very proactive to bring in the right characters and personalities to the squad. James Williams has brought through some terrific young cricketers who are getting good cricket, and the future looks bright for the coming years.

I believe we are a good spin option away from achieving a very good 1<sup>st</sup> division team, and believe we are well equipped in the other areas. Our batting consistency has improved year by year and we are putting consistent scores on the board to put us in the good positions where we attempt to win on the last day. We have ability now and experience in the side, we know must go and out to perform to those capabilities.

Results wise finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> was probably fair and backed up a 2<sup>nd</sup> place last season. We were outplayed by Bedfordshire but escaped with a draw, a would suggest a winning draw against Cumbria at Peterborough. Defeat came at Hertfordshire where we lost our spinner in the first morning and a wicket that turned and a convincing win in Northumberland. The goal is obviously to win the division this season and believe this is achievable. I definitely believe the whole outlook of Cambridgeshire cricket looks very positive and our reputation around the circuit continues to improve.

Our winter training gets better and better every year, although I do feel we need a better location to train to simulate outdoor conditions.

Would like to thank James Williams and Simon Seabrook for their support and backing throughout the years, and Callum Guest. I hope to see you all throughout the year.

Wayne White

#### **Coaches Report for 2023 AGM**

After the 2022 season we set our sights pretty high for 2023. The disappointment of losing in the final of the T20's really inspired the group to go one step further...however the weather had other ideas. With such a slow start to the season I feel this really stalled our white ball season. We didn't go in to the 50 over with any momentum behind us like the previous year and that showed in our performances, I think. We just didn't quite click in all areas like we had done in 2021 & 2022. That being said there were some encouraging individual performances from Wayne with his 100 at Cheshire, Will Routledge scoring his maiden 50+ score for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Jack Loveday taking wickets at the top of the order and Yousuf Choudhary returning to the team and making an important impact in the first powerplays. The 50 over comp actually gave us a great insight in to what talent we have coming through the group and players we now know can perform at that level when they are needed.

Again, with the red ball, we wanted to build on the positive 2022 season and we certainly started off brilliantly with a 2 day win up at Northumberland. A great performance as a team with some incredible individual contributions Cox 6 wickets, Guest 100\* and Latif 7 wickets. Unfortunately, we then had a month off until our next fixture, which slowed down our momentum. Finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> was an encouraging way to finish the season and it saw some of our younger players gain some valuable experience and make positive contributions throughout the year. Alex Peirson the U18 captain scoring his maiden 1<sup>st</sup> XI 100, Dan Andrew also with his first 100 for the county in only his 3<sup>rd</sup> game.

2023 was a season where we can build on further and look to have a successful 2024. We have a very strong squad with some very talented youngsters coming through and we are looking forward to Pre-Season and the 2024 season.

A few updates regarding pre-season and the upcoming season. We started our pre-season training in November, which I believe is the earliest we have ever started. Some players have also come in to work and train alongside our Emerging Players Programme, which has given a great insight to our younger players about National Counties Cricket but more importantly it will help the transition of those players moving in to our senior squads. Our senior teams will be having regular sessions from now until April, which will include a weekend away at the National Academy at Loughborough, where we will have full access to all of the ECB facilities and staying at the Elite Athlete Centre on Campus. This trip is also including our EPP squad.

As mentioned earlier we are now starting to build a squad with strength in depth and we are delighted to add to that for the 2024 season with the signing of Ben Claydon from Suffolk. Ben came through our junior set up until the age of 14 where he was then signed by Northants. Ben will be a great acquisition to us for all 3 formats and we are looking forward to seeing him in a Cambs shirt once again.

Thank you for all of your support this year, I know the squad appreciate seeing the support around the grounds and we hope to see more of you this season!

James Williams

### Cambs CCC 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Team Managers Report for 2023 AGM

#### Good evening everyone.

I hope to be in attendance tonight, work permitting, but if I'm not I'm pleased to start this report by announcing to those not aware that the side have managed to retain the East of England Development title last season, all be it with a little help from Norfolk, who pulled off an unlikely victory against our closest rivals, Essex in the final game of the 2023 campaign. This was an unlikely scenario as in the previous week, the Cambs side had produced our most complete performance of the season, when beating Norfolk Lions by 145 runs on a baking hot day at Sawston.

We started the season with a narrow victory at Exning over Beds via Duckworth-Lewis in a rain affected game, but this proved to be just the start of watching the side develop again through the season, just as the competition is designed to do.

The second game against Suffolk at Woolpit on a steamy day, for me proved the most interesting of the five games. The side showed 5 changes from the first game, which demonstrates the depth of talent at our disposal, and after bowling only 19 over of seam, with one end accounting for 25 of spin, a strong Suffolk side was restricted to 220-8 in their 50. An opening stand of 140 + between the Captain & Routledge, plus a blistering unbeaten 48 from Mohamed Saif steered us to victory with 14 overs to spare, to record a convincing win.

There were some questions asked about the prominent contributions of the captain & Routledge, bearing in mind their regular selection in the Senior Side but sometimes this is due to availability & balance of the side, and this was taken into consideration for the rest of the games. However, it must be noted that it is only through his participation in this side & competition that Routledge has forced his way into recognition for the Senior side.

The third game at 'fortress' Walden against Essex brought about our only defeat. Chasing down 324, the side fell 5 short despite a Century from Routledge a dynamic 70 from Alex Maynard, backed up with a crafted 56 from Alex Peirson. This was our poorest performance in the field - 5 dropped catches assisted the visitors to their total which just proved out of reach. I'm sure Chris Scott was again wondering if he was a witnessing a repeat of 2022 as the game concluded, this time in their favour.

At Letchworth against Herts we probably fielded our strongest side of the campaign, with the welcome return of Sam Thain for his only game, which gives the side a better balance. Maynard again made a remarkable contribution of 91, hitting one 6 that was still going up & out of the ground when it hit the roof of a house on the perimeter, a distance of at least 90m. Nick Huckle also made his maiden 50 and continued to impress with the ball. As against Essex, the Captain continued his role on the periphery, not bowling & batting at 9, just to prove the point he has confidence in his protégées.

And so to Sawston, and the final game, on the Monday after the u18's had narrowly lost in the semi-final of ECB 20/20 comp. It is a measure of the work of our Head of Development, James Williams, has done to say that once again at least 4 of the selection played less than 24 hours previously for the 18's to prove the pathway is definitely working. A cultured, effortless 95 from Henry Wilson, a belligerent 67 from Saif and a remarkable 71 from Freddie Doel, powered Cambs to 351 for 9, and with a tight performance in the field with Josh Porter picking up 4 for 53, Norfolk were soundly

outclassed, making their victory on the following Sunday all the more surprising but most welcome. Captain Clilverd's contribution? 4 not out from 1 ball batting at 11 & did not bowl......need I say more?

To say I was pleased with the performances again in 2023 is a massive understatement .......you can see these lads maturing before your very eyes, and with additions form last Season of Ben Robinson, Nick Huckle and Jack Hodgson, who has only just turned 17, the side is in a very good place. I'm told there are others in the wings – Reuben Thain & Doel prove this – so I'm hopeful we'll be in a good position to 3-peat in 2024. The culture & camaraderie of all involved is blatantly obvious – they all want to play for and support each other, demonstrated by Doel coming in for the last game & looking like he had played all season and using it as a platform to showcase his talent.

The next step for development is to try to formulate some longer games, possibly 2/3 days, which there has been some interest from the competition participants. This will however need to fit in with other age group comps and is of course cost dependent. The matter should be discussed when the competition meeting is arranged with Dan Feist.

In closing, some thank you's – Cindy has scored every game for us, James & Callum Guest have provided coaching & selection support alongside Ravi's input from the 18's. The players were pleased to don the new kit provided by PacAir/ Mitsubushi, so thank you to the Chairman for securing sponsorship to enable this. If you look like a team, you will hopefully perform like one. Last of all though and most significantly, Ben Clilverd, the Captain, has again marshalled this talented group to the title. He is greatly respected in the group; they listen intently to him and he is the perfect choice for the position. I hope when he returns for the summer the fire is burning and he wants to continue in the role to give us a hat trick of wins in the competition to emboss the recently refurbished shield.

Mr Chairman, I Move....

D P Swannell – Cambs CCC 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Manager

January 2024