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**Poulton Cricket Club Group, @PoultonCricket, @PoultonCC**

*President: David Dunn   Chairman: Will Bathurst   Secretary: Rob Ireland  
Treasurer: TBC   CSO: Claire Kilby   Youth Section Manager: Lucy Ireland*

## **Poulton AGM 2022 Meeting Notes**

**THURSDAY 3 NOV 2022 7:30 PM-9PM** Cirencester Rugby Club

**Chair:** David Dunn/Will Bathurst

**Attendees:** David Dunn, Will Bathurst, Jody Lawrence, James McLoughlin, Georgie Shaw, Jayne Shaw, Claire Kilby, Lucy Ireland, Jon Maunder, Rob Ireland (Minutes), Roger Davies (Village representative), Bob Lambie, Liam James, Jake Harris, Max Arnold, Sue Bayliss, Fred Bayliss, Graham Clarke, Richie Woodmason (Willow Turf Care).

**Apologies:** Philippa Dunn, Louisa Pettit, James Bryant, Mark Leadbeater

### **1. Chair's Opening Remarks:**

DWD thanked those in attendance for their input in the 2022 season, acknowledging irreplaceable loss of Wayne Tinson and impact this has had on the club. Explained given this marks the end of his tenure as Chairman, he is looking ahead to his new role as President with handover to WB as Chairman, subject to election at this evening's AGM.

### **2. Discussion of published reports:**

2022 Chairman, Club Captain, Treasurer & Playing Captain reports all available on AGM page of website prior to meeting. Poor Wi-Fi signal limited access to this during AGM, however those in attendance acknowledged awareness and review of these documents as fair representation of the season. WB gave further summary of key aspects pertaining to Treasurer's report and how this will inform planning for 2023 season (see section 7).

**Agreed: Published reports are a representative summary of 2022 season**

### **3. Amendment to the Constitution to include ECB Anti-Discrimination Code:**

WB explained rationale for amendment and proposed that the new clause 3.5 is added to the Constitution as follows: 'The Club shall adopt and implement the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code of Conduct and any future versions of this policy.' This was agreed unanimously by those in attendance.

**Action: WB to amend Constitution with addition of clause 3.5 as listed above**

### **4. Election of Permanent Committee Roles for 2023:**

DWD and WB stated that the committee wanted to extend their appreciation to Rosemarie for her term as President and to thank her for supporting the club. The following were elected to committee for 2023 season during the AGM:

- President – David Dunn



- Chairman – Will Bathurst
- Honorary Secretary – Rob Ireland
- Youth Section Manager – Lucy Ireland
- Treasurer – TBC

Additional roles: Club Safeguarding Officers – Will Bathurst & Claire Kilby, Club Captain – Jody Lawrence, Social Secretary – Phillipa Dunn, Fundraising – Liam James, Sponsorship – James McLoughlin, Poulton Village liaison – Mark Chamberlain.

It was acknowledged that it is unfortunate not to have an identified Treasurer, however WB is able to facilitate this in his role as Chair with support of the core committee.

**Action: WB to communicate the above to wider club membership and sub-committees to meet in due course to prepare for 2023 season.**

### **5. Election of Captains for 2023 season:**

The following were elected as playing Captains for 2023 season during the AGM:

- 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain & Midweek: James Newman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Captain: Jake Harris
- Club Captain and Sunday Captain: Jody Lawrence

There were no nominations for 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain or Ladies Captain at AGM.

JL suggested that 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Captain could be rotated each week which would offer opportunity for younger players to be Captain which would be good for their engagement and development in the club.

DWD and WB added that Ladies Captain would be discussed further with PD (not in attendance).

**Action: WB to communicate the above to wider club membership, DWD and WB to discuss with PD.**

### **6. Agreement of membership rates for 2023 Season:**

WB proposed the following rates to those in attendance with rationale for reduced youth soft ball membership to build engagement of younger players in U7s and U9s sections as viable alternative to Allstars and Dynamos, acknowledging limited numbers and opportunities for U9s players in 2022 season. Match fees will also be reintroduced for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in 2023:

- Youth - Hard Ball Cricket at £60 (Under 11s up)
- Youth - Soft Ball Cricket at £30 (Under 9s & 7s)
- Senior Men- £100 with 1st/2nd XI matches subject to match fee of £5.
- Senior Ladies - £60
- Family - £160 Full, £90 two or more juniors, £100 playing children plus social parents.

LI suggested that £30 was good value so perhaps a higher sum could be considered. JL acknowledged that U7s/U9s would be a full season of cricket coaching and games rather than limited to Allstars/Dynamos shorter sessions.

LJ asked if Life Membership was going to be considered for the 2023 season. WB agreed to review this for the coming season.



**Agreed: No further adjustments to membership fees were raised – therefore WB's proposed fees, with £40 for U7s/U9s soft ball including a Poulton CC t-shirt, agreed in principle by those in attendance.**

**Action: WB to communicate this to club membership and amend on website. WB to consider Life Membership for 2023 season.**

## **7. Alterations to Club Development Plan for 2023 onwards:**

### **a. Reorganisation of Youth Section:**

WB explained to those in attendance that the Youth Section will be coordinated by LI for 2023. As discussed at October's Committee Meeting, 2023 will see reintroduction of Under 7s and investment in Under 9s recognising the importance of attracting young players and their families to the club. This will be instead of Allstars/Dynamos. Girls cricket will remain high on the agenda to ensure the club offers affordable and equitable 'Cricket for All'. Youth training for U7s-U13s will take place on Friday evenings which will require the engagement of coaches and players from across the club to make this a success. LI will be coordinating this in conjunction with core committee in the coming months to promote pre-season engagement with Primary schools. U15s training will take place on Thursday evenings with Senior training given cross pollination of players into senior teams. Ladies training will also continue as per 2022 season with further potential to engage girls in this session. We also intend to offer individual 1-1 sessions for Youth members on needs basis. Lead coaches for each age group will be agreed prior to the start of the season and a pool of support/skills coaches, senior players and parent volunteers will be identified.

Further discussion followed from those in attendance regarding whether there is a requirement for players supporting youth sessions to have formal coaching qualifications. Several senior players in attendance stated that they would be willing to support Friday Youth training although they are not qualified coaches. WB clarified so long as a qualified coach is present for the session, senior players over 18 just need DBS to support Youth training and are not obliged to have formal coaching qualifications to take part. It was however encouraged that those interested in pursuing coaching training would be supported by the club in doing so. RI is doing his Foundation (Level 1) coaching training this month.

**Action: LI, WB and RI to meet later in November re: Youth Section priorities for 2023. WB to communicate above to Club membership to promote engagement of adult players in Youth section.**

### **b. Investment in Englands - Appointment of Willow Turf Care:**

Richie Woodmason was introduced by WB, he explained his professional background and current portfolio supporting groundsman for 5 nearby clubs, including Stroud, Hatherly & Reddings to ensure they have top quality wickets.

RW has demonstrated commitment to supporting Poulton CC by offering us a day pre-season 2022 to help prepare for the season following the sad loss of Wayne and is in the process of completing end of season works and reseeded of wickets. WB, RW and GC shared the proposed approach with committee. RW focus would be on the Englands square and preparing wickets for fixtures. Further ongoing input would be required from Poulton CC members and volunteers to maintain other aspects of the ground at Poulton and at Ampney.



This more professional approach was deemed as worthwhile investment by those in attendance but WB emphasised that this will be significant cost for the club, which will need careful budgeting and funds to be allocated.

RI asked if RW remit would include Youth wickets – RW and WB confirmed that it would include Youth wickets.

GC thanked RW for coming and reiterated that it is difficult to define the boundary between Willow Turf Care remit and Poulton volunteer helpers for ongoing grounds works. GC suggested this would require coordination and planning. 86 games last season was a larger number than anticipated and impacted on the integrity of the wickets particularly with such a long dry spell during the season.

RW acknowledged there are often teething problems for clubs when the groundsmen have previously done everything. It is management with good communications – such as groundman WhatsApp groups.

It was noted that as we are aspiring to be a WEPL club, it is important for Poulton to be considered by others as a serious outfit and raise awareness of the high quality ground and facilities. This is demonstrated in our investment to make progress and take initiative.

JM added that the wicket is the most important aspect of the club but asked what the plan is for Ampney?

WB acknowledged that a plan is needed for Ampney as Willow Turf Care's focus will be the Englands wickets. WB explained that he has developed a robust financial plan for Willow Turf Care.

**AGREED: All those in attendance approved in principle that Willow Turf Care would be appointed for maintaining Englands wickets for 2023 season.**

**ACTIONS: WB to engage with RW of Willow Turf Care regarding 2023 season. WB to coordinate existing volunteers who have supported Poulton and Ampney in 2022 season to coordinate with RW for 2023 season and agree a plan for the Ampney ground.**

#### **c. Changes to income model (Fundraising, Beer Festival)**

WB acknowledged that the Club was known for it's wicket in the past and that with investment in Willow Turf Care in the near future we can offer high quality wicket again but this will not come for free therefore there is a need to outline how this cost will be met:

- £5 match fees for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI
- Hundred Club initiative - huge thanks to Liam James for getting this started – we must promote this across the club and the funds raised will be essential for our plans to improve the ground and facilities
- Beer Festival or another key event within the season as main fundraisers at the club – PD's hard work coordinating this event was integral to it's success in 2022
- Step up fundraising – repeating the model set by Simon Gordon Walker in the past engaging families and Youth section
- Irrespective of the club permanent committee positions, we must bring the club together and support development is vitally important.
- There is a need to professionalise and manage the club as a small business.
- Fundraising target is already matched by the Hundred Club, also offer more 1 to 1 coaching, involve James Newman and senior players, pool our coaches and support every Friday night as the future of the club.
- Cricket camps are a major income for the club and need to plan ahead for these in 2023
- 2022/2023 will also look at reorganising and improving the interior aspects of the clubhouse.



GC raised that benefit in engagement with sports committee/football club and wider Poulton village community with Poulton CC development plan.

WB explained that he has been engaging with Sports Committee and football club. DWD stated that there has been excellent engagement from village and great feedback following Beer Festival over the Jubilee weekend. WB explained that Mark Chamberlain – who is a Poulton resident and player/parent of Poulton CC will be taking on the village liaison role for the coming season.

JM suggested that a football game at Englands between Poulton CC and Poulton FC may be good idea. JL in agreement. LI suggested this could involve the Youth section.

LI suggested that it was important for key fundraising events to appeal to families and the Youth section. It was agreed that the silent disco at a previous Beer Festival was very well attended by families.

**Action: WB to liaise with football club about a friendly game later in the season JM and JL to identify players. LI to engage Youth section if desired. All committee to encourage sign up to the Hundred Club.**

#### **d. Pavilion Bar area re-model and kitchen updating**

WB: Keen to return the pavilion to its former glory and that plans are being adapted to ensure financially viable and make maximum benefit for all. Potential access to funding which WB has been following up and there will be more discussion at upcoming committee meetings. LI and CK raised that they had safety and hygiene concerns if remodelling plans still allowed open access into the kitchen areas given high number of children and potential for dogs to come into this area. WB agreed to consider this in his plans.

**ACTION: WB to follow up funding options and liaise with Sports committee.**

#### **e. Ladies team organisation sharing**

WB and DWD raised that Ladies Team organisation needs to be looked at with forward planning for 2023. PD's immense efforts were acknowledged and it was agreed that further support from Ladies and others across the club to make this important section sustainable is vital for 2023. Unfortunately it was not possible to discuss this further at AGM as there was no representatives from the Ladies section in attendance.

**ACTION: WB & DWD to liaise with PD. Committee to support ongoing development of Ladies section.**

#### **f. Club Socials**

PD will focus her immense organisational skills as Social Secretary for 2023 - engagement from across the club in vital to maximise enjoyment and fundraising initiatives associated to these events.

**ACTION: For further consideration with PD at next committee meeting. Events to be scheduled and details communicated across all social media platforms to members well in advance.**

## **8. AOB**



GC asked for the Club to recognise those who have supported the Club, namely: Rosemarie in her role as President, a fitting memorial for Wayne from the Club and also to extend our thanks to Cliff for his support for the ground earlier this season who has sadly had ill-health of late.

GC proposed that project management and delegation needs to be better and that better comms from Committee would help with this.

**ACTION: WB agreed that there is a need to extend our thanks to many individuals, but in particular to those mentioned by GC which would be noted in the minutes and followed up by committee.**

LJ asked if Winter nets were going ahead. Further discussion followed about the balance of enjoyment of winter nets as a motivator for senior and youth players to join the club but the potential financial loss if these are not well attended. Rendcomb have been approached by LJ but have no availability for Seniors. WB suggested the focus should be on events within the cricket season itself and early use of the outdoor nets in the Spring. LI added that there is merit in exploring Winter nets for Youth section as without offering winter nets we could lose players to other nearby clubs.

**ACTION: LI agreed to explore options for Youth winter nets – such as at Fairford and nearby Secondary schools. CK to ask Cirencester College if their new Sports hall has indoor nets. LS to consider if there is an appetite for adult winter nets and consider options to discuss at next meeting if viable.**

RD (Village representative) provided a valuable perspective as a Poulton village resident. Great enthusiasm and energy at AGM - he echoed WB sentiments that the Club should be run as a business. He raised that from the village you have a 'neighbour wall issue' from those properties adjacent to Englands who may look less favourably on the Club however the rest of the village is ok and enjoyed the Jubilee Beer festival. He raised that the playing field/ground is popular with dog walkers and enjoyed by residents during the Autumn and Winter months and that ongoing access is important to them, but the maintenance of the ground is beautiful and appreciated. If the Club expands there may be implications for traffic and car parking will need consideration.

WB and DWD thanked RD for his feedback and agreed that with Mark Chamberlain as village link from Poulton CC this should ensure ongoing communication channels are maintained.

LI introduced herself as newly elected Youth Section Manager to committee - acknowledging she has great communication and coordination skills but is not a cricketer or coach and will therefore need support of others across the club to succeed in her new role. In particular with buy in from adult players and volunteers for Friday Youth training sessions.

LS confirmed WB that you do not need a formal cricket qualification to support these sessions. WB in agreement but that DBS is needed. Several Team Captains and players in attendance indicated their support for Friday Youth coaching sessions.

**ACTION: LI to liaise with WB to develop priorities and rota for Friday evenings to ensure adequate support for these to go ahead.**

CK raised that the additional friendly fixtures, particularly for U11s, were really good and gave players the chance to play against clubs that they wouldn't have opportunity to access – such as Gloucester, Cheltenham and Malmesbury and extended her thanks to LI for arranging these. It was agreed that developing this Friendly 'Cricket for All' ethos is key for the development of the Youth section across different age groups.

**ACTION: LI to coordinate Friendly fixtures for Youth section next season ensuring this is balanced with sustainable approach to maintaining the integrity of the wicket.**





CK asked if a Bar Manager is being appointed from the committee as muted in previous meetings/discussions. WB confirmed that we would continue with the Bar sub-committee sharing the tasks and ordering etc for the coming season.

GS provided feedback that the cleaner is not adequately performing the key aspects of this role and that there have been issues with members leaving the bar/kitchen in poor state after using it leaving others to clear it up. It was agreed that a bar tick sheet of key tasks to do when setting up/closing down the bar and kitchen would be helpful. WB acknowledged the efforts of the bar volunteers and agreed that we are a Club and not a Service so it is the responsibility of the many and not the few.

**ACTION: WB and Bar sub-committee to agree priorities for 2023 season**

LI suggested that the Club should improve on valuing their volunteers which would, in turn, encourage others to offer their support. LI proposed that a complimentary drink/snack could be considered for those who have coached a session, completed a shift on the bar so that they are thanked in a timely manner. WB stated that he has budgeted for complimentary drinks and this could be formalised and run through the iZettle.

**ACTION: WB and committee to agree protocol for complimentary drinks/snacks for volunteers**

JM stated that communication needs to be improved.

WB stated that the new website needs more content although it does already show other social media platforms on the homepage. Some of the feedback from surveys indicates members find Spond and Whatsapp notifications irritating so a more considered approach is needed. LI suggested a noticeboard on the website, weekly email or Spond bulletin during the season with all information in one place and signposting members to extra information.

**ACTION: WB to update website and contact members with post-AGM comms letter.**

JB and WB agreed that comms and holding events during the season is key – unfortunately the dinner & dance needs to be cancelled due to low uptake and potential for the club to incur a loss. WB proposed that we have an evening event after the awards day at the club at the end of the season. It was also suggested that an informal club social could be considered over the Festive Period in the absence of the Dinner & Dance.

**ACTION: WB to approach RAU to cancel Dinner & Dance. Committee to consider alternative informal festive social if desired.**

LS spoke on behalf of the Committee to thank DWD for his energy and commitment as Chairman and all those in attendance agreed that his input has been hugely appreciated and we are delighted to have his ongoing commitment as President.

**Meeting was drawn to a close. WB thanked all for attending.**