



AGM

12/11/2008 – Minutes

Present:

Richard Boote [RB], Jon Gower [JG], David Gower [DG], David Proctor [DP], Mike Gabbay [MG], Guy Wilson [GW], Oliver Moore [OM], Mark Mellor [MM], Paddy Ell [PE]

Apologies:

Ujjal Roy, Jules Kelly, Hem Patel, Bully, Chris West, James Claro, John Baddeley

Chairman's Welcome

RB spoke of his amazement that Strongroom keeps going as long as it does, and that he wants the team to keep on going for as long as it can. Was sorry his own appearances were limited in 2008, but fatherhood meant he was retiring to Portugal for weekends – what a bind.

Captains Report

JG reported that 2008 was a very difficult season in that we lost 11 and won 6 overall. This poor performance was largely due to severe lack of player availability that struck Strongroom for the first time. At one stage three successive games were cancelled due to lack of players. A recruitment drive for new players through the Gumtree website was carried out, and a number of new players were eventually brought into the squad – but this also posed difficulties in balancing out winning the game and giving new people a chance in each game. Much debate around this topic, about whether Strongroom should continue, was Strongroom happy to recruit new players – as opposed to the organic 'friend of a friend' network that had existed and worked up until now. RB stated he was happy for the club to continue to recruit new players through the tinternet, and everyone else agreed that JG should continue to use Gumtree in 2009.

Highlights were a massive victory over Washington [bowled out for 30], beating Palm Tree at home, and a brilliantly close game against London Nigerians at White City. The 'lowlights' included losing to Gardeners and London Fields twice, Jesmomd Jaguars again, and generally losing to teams that we normally beat [Bohemians, Rose & Crown, London Fields]. Another lowlight was starting a game against LBS with 5 players [9 eventually turned up].

In terms of individual performances, three new players shone in 2008. Paddy Ell's pace bowling, Jules Kelly's batting and Ujjal Roy's all-round talents and overall enthusiasm. Seasoned campaigner DP also remarkably claimed two hat-tricks in a season! GW also notched another half-century, and Jolyon Rebbeck two 50's.

Treasures Report

DP reported that the finances were in good order, to the tune of £570 credit. RB requested that DP set up a new account, as the current one was set up so long ago that it was proving difficult to interact with.

Fixtures review

Much debate here around fixtures. JG recommended there should be slightly less for 2009, as we struggled in 2008 – but not too few, as that could affect recruitment of people looking to play a good amount of cricket. There was overall agreement with this proposition, so slightly less for 2009, probably around 20 games, with less in July & August, and avoiding the August bank holiday.

Subs review

Some debate here. Most agreed it should stay the same [£60]
£30 for students or first season players.

Kit

Again, there was call for the kit bag to be rationalised and minimised. Perhaps this will actually happen one day?!

Posts

- Captain – Jon Gower
- Vice Captain – Oliver Moore/David Proctor
- Chairman – Richard Boote
- Treasurer – Dave Proctor
- Fixtures Secretary – Jon Gower
- Kit Management – Paddy Ell
- Fielding Coach – Hem Patel

Nets

Yes – DP to book Lords. All agreed one net a week was best.

AOB

Intra-Strongroom game to be reinstated at start of season, with opposing skippers to be vice-captains DP and OM. Some suggestion of a cash prize for the winning team?!
Shirts – Hem to be approached to design and print new Strongroom shirts/caps.
