

Minute of the East of Scotland Cricket Association Annual General Meeting

Grange Club, Portgower Place, Edinburgh on Monday 26th January 2025 at 7pm.

Clubs Present:

Bass Rock, Boroughmuir, Carlton, Drummond Trinity, Dunbar, Dunfermline & Carnegie, Dunnikier, Edinburgh, Edinburgh South, Grange, Holy Cross Academicals, Kelso, Kirk Brae, Linlithgow, Livingston, Marchmont, Murrayfield Dafs, Morton, Musselburgh, Old Contemptibles, Penicuik, Tranent & Preston Village and Watsonians. (23)

Apologies for Absence:

Hawick & Wilton, Heriots, RHC, Selkirk and Westquarter & Redding. (5)

Clubs Not Present:

Edinburgh Academicals, Edinburgh University Staff, Gala, Haddington, Leith Franklin Beige, Melrose, Peebles County, St Boswells and Stewarts Melville (9)

Tudy Lindblade, the Chief Executive Officer of Cricket Scotland, was present along with two members of her team – Fraser Reynolds (National Development Manager) and Patrick Watson (Club Services and Officials Co-ordinator).

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, Trudy Lindblade presented the individual trophies, FairPlay awards and League winners' trophies for 2025.

In advance of the meeting, the Agenda, Minutes of the 2025 AGM and SGM, Accounts and revised draft FairPlay rule had been circulated to club secretaries by email.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Following a roll call (see above), Peter Kingsbury welcomed those present.

2. Minutes of the 2025 AGM and 2025 SGM.

The meeting duly APPROVED both Minutes.

3. President's Report.

Reflections on 2025.

Peter Kingsbury began by thanking Trudy Lindblade for presenting the awards.

Reflecting the events of the 2025 season, he congratulated Watsonians on winning the Championship and the EPL Play Off which meant they returned to the EPL in 2026. He congratulated all the teams that had won their Leagues and the other teams that had been promoted.

He congratulated Heriots on winning the Masterton Trophy and the National T20 Finals day; Edinburgh had also reached a national final – the Challenge Cup – where they had been defeated by Greenock. However, they had again lifted the Braw Skelp Trophy.

He indicated that whilst the game within ESCA was healthy, it was disappointing to note that there were a number of teams who were still not playing the game in the way we would like them to. There had been an increase in the numbers of disciplinary matters being referred to Cricket Scotland in light of their gravity, and in 2025 Cricket Scotland had imposed suspensions on seven players. He pointed out that whilst this trend was concerning, it showed that disciplinary matters were being taken seriously and appropriate punishments being issued.

In ESCA there had been an increasing in the number of disciplinary issues, but it was reassuring that these were largely around a very small number of clubs. He thanked Disciplinary Lead Keith Murray and Discipline Officer Graham Smith for their hard work across the year.

He observed that whilst it had not been a perfect season, it was clear from the comments submitted with the FairPlay scores that the vast majority of games were being played within the Spirit of Cricket.

He took the opportunity to thank the General Committee and Competitions Committee for their hard work throughout the year. He highlighted the work that Ramsey Allan had carried out as Chair of the Competitions Committee; he was now stepping down but was remaining on the Committee. He also thanked Annette Aitken-Drummond who was stepping down after five years as the Women and Girls representative on the Committee – she has done much to promote the Women and Girls game. He highlighted that the Committee were still seeking a replacement for Annette. He also thanked Uday Kumar Kuchadi for organising the Braw Skelp.

Whilst he had not been able to attend the Masterton Finals day, he believed it had been a great success and thanked Heriots for their organisation of the day at Goldenacre.

Personally, he had enjoyed playing for the 40 Club at Myreside against Watsonians, as part of their 150-year celebrations. The main square at Myreside was shortly to be lost to redevelopment of other sporting facilities and he lamented the loss at a time where there were not enough facilities available to allow all those who wanted to play on Saturdays to play on their chosen day.

He highlighted the fact that the numbers participating in ESCA were continuing to increase. In 2021, there had been 82 teams competing in the ESCA Leagues; in 2026, there would be 116 teams taking part (including the new Sundal League) and that included three new clubs. He indicated that in terms of the Saturday Leagues, ESCA simply could not welcome any new Saturday clubs/teams unless they had a home ground which they could use on that day; inevitably that meant the amount of cricket being played on Sundays will increase.

He took the opportunity to thank David Gibson for all the work that he did each year in ensuring the fixtures were put together and worked, trying as best he could to accommodate the needs of various different clubs caused by matters often outside their control.

Looking Ahead – 2026.

He expressed the hope that the 2026 season would be dry and an enjoyable one for all.

He took the opportunity to thank Grange CC for again hosting the AGM and for their support throughout the year.

4. Treasurer's Report.

Peter Kingsbury spoke to the Accounts which had been circulated to the clubs by email.

It was noted at the outset that there was a deficit on the year of £3,451 but that the financial position remained healthy with £32,724 held in the bank.

Peter indicated that the balls surplus was again as a result of Readers providing free balls as compensation for balls which had not been satisfactory.

He advised that the bank was now charging monthly fees on the Association bank account. However, the bank had allowed the Association to open a savings account and currently that arrangement was working in the Association's favour.

He highlighted that the deficit on the year was primarily due to increased funding given by ESCA, especially for Women and Girls cricket. This was not a problem at this stage, but he highlighted again the need to find a main sponsor if ESCA was to maintain and potentially increase support for the development of cricket; he indicated that anyone who might have an idea or links to a potential sponsor to contact him.

He went on to indicate that in terms of subscriptions, the proposal was to keep entry fees the same for the Leagues - £30 per team and the Braw Skelp £25. However, it was proposed to increase the Masterton Trophy entry fee to £50 to reflect the increased costs of holding a Finals day.

The meeting APPROVED the Accounts and the proposals for the subscription levels for 2026.

5. Cricket Scotland Update.

Trudy Lindblade presented this and began by apologising for her late arrival. She explained that following the late invitation to join the Men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka in place of Bangladesh, the office had been very busy in getting the team and support staff ready to travel to India and all that that entailed.

She indicated that it was important for Cricket Scotland to hear from the member clubs, and she indicated that she was keen, having now been in post for two years, to start looking forward beyond 2026 to long term strategic goals.

She highlighted the recently launched facilities consultation and encouraged clubs and individuals to respond. She indicated that she was a member of the Scottish Sports Governing Bodies Forum and mentioned that the Scottish Government, thorough their recently published budget, were to make more funding available to **sportscotland**; however, this was likely to be used to stabilise sporting bodies financially and there was no proposed capital investment towards facilities.

She indicated that this was seen as disappointing and there would be efforts going forward to lobby for funds for facilities.

She went on to highlight the achievements of the Scotland Under 19 Men's side who were currently completing their involvement in the World Cup in Zimbabwe where a rained out game against the hosts had ultimately cost the team the chance of progressing. The Women's squad were involved in the T20 World Cup qualifier in Nepal and were well placed to qualify for the World Cup in England in June. Qualification would bring more exposure for the Women and Girls game and a welcome financial boost from qualifying.

She returned to talk about the work that had been necessary for the Men's team to take up the opportunity to play in the T20 World Cup, indicating the squad had already been in training and this provided a great opportunity for global coverage for the team and other real benefits; it would, however, have to be remembered that they would be competing without real proper preparations.

She then referred to the move to support domestic cricket with the move to a new single platform for player registration and live scoring – PlayHQ. It was believed that this would make life easier for clubs operating with a single system that they could use and it would also have benefits for Cricket Scotland in terms of collecting data. The aim was to completely integrate the domestic game on the new system and Patrick Watson had been seconded to the team to ensure the system was in place and operating for the start of the season – see below.

She indicated that there continued to be a lot of work around integrity and compliance for Cricket Scotland to do and she thanked ESCA for the support provided to that work by Discipline Lead, Keith Murray and the Discipline Officer, Graham Smith.

In concluding she acknowledged the increase in participation in the game within ESCA and thanked all the volunteers involved in making sure that cricket happened throughout the season.

6. Play HQ.

Patrick Watson, Cricket Scotland's Club Services and Officials Co-ordinator, then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new PlayHQ system, how it would work and its benefits.

He reminded the meeting that the partnership with PlayHQ had been announced during the previous week and the platform would be used for registration and live scoring. He indicated that it could also be used by clubs for collecting fees from members, could be used to sign up for Cricket Scotland courses and clubs could communicate with members through the system.

The system had been used successfully by cricket bodies in Australia and New Zealand.

He confirmed that Frogbox could be used with the new system but that the main change was that each individual player would need to register on the system.

There will be online workshops with Cricket Scotland staff and support from Play HQ staff as well.

At present the provisional dates for club training - each club should have an administrator – are on 18th and 23rd February and 4th and 16th March.

Training for live scoring/game day will take place online on the 8th, 12th, 16th, 20th and 22nd April.

Dates will be communicated directly to clubs shortly.

The meeting was then asked for questions.

It was confirmed in answer to the first question that the information on the Scottish Cricket Registration system would not be transferred to the new system – everyone would need to re-register.

It was also confirmed that any documents that clubs had on the current system would remain there until mid-summer as the PlayHQ system did not yet have the capacity for these to be entered.

It was confirmed the new system would require parents to register juniors.

It was confirmed that the SCRS system would eventually be shut down. Concern was expressed that, despite what was being said, there was no actual benefit to any individual payer. In response it was suggested that in the long term the single system would be better for the payer/supporter/club. It was confirmed that Cricket Scotland would provide key communications for clubs to use in advising their members.

In answer to a question about the retention of data, particularly scores on the current Interact system, it was stated that no final decision had yet been taken on transferring historical scores to the new system, but an assurance was given that the scores would be retained and accessible for clubs.

It was confirmed that players could start registering with their club once the club administrator had undertaken training and was set up. The question of having photos along with player registration was raised and it was confirmed this was not envisaged at present – it was explained that the way the system was set up, either everyone would have to lodge photos, or no one – there was no ability for one League /Association do one thing and a different one another.

It was confirmed that as everyone would be registering for the first time, there would be no need to lodge winter transfers. It was confirmed that transfers during a season would be similar to what they are currently – each Association/League could set their own parameters – it was confirmed that a permanent move would be classed as a transfer whilst a temporary move would be a permit to play. As with the current system, the club a player was leaving would need to consent to the move.

It was confirmed that there would also be an App to run with the platform and the App could be used for late registrations and live scoring. The App would allow a late registration with a name, date of birth and email and the player would then receive an invitation to register on the Play HQ system for the club. It was confirmed that individual Associations could set rules around late registrations.

At the end of the questions, the point was again made about the need for good information to communicate to members about the benefits as there were concerns about what seemed like constant change without clear benefits to the individual.

Trudy Lindblade indicated that there would be no cost to clubs for using the system; Cricket Scotland believed this was a better system and had the benefits of a single supplier with support and it contained tools which clubs could use.

She acknowledged that sports' governing bodies generally had been poor in communicating this type of change and she asked clubs to work with Cricket Scotland and to feed back to help make things the best they could be.

It was confirmed that within Cricket Scotland, George Burns and Patrick Watson would be the contacts on registration@cricketScotland.com, and that there would be continuing support from PlayHQ.

7. Update on Plans for 2026.

A: League Fixtures

It was confirmed that the 2026 season would run from the weekend of 25/26 April to 22/23 August. This meant the League was starting a week earlier than other Leagues but this was because by the last

weekend in August, Edinburgh Leisure and school venues were not available because they were being used by other sports, mainly rugby.

David Gibson was currently working on the fixtures.

B: Ground Availability Challenges

Phil Yelland highlighted the challenges with Edinburgh Leisure and gave the example of Roseburn Park where some Saturday dates would not be available for public safety reasons or venues being used for other events - concerts at Murrayfield or a large-scale youth football tournament at Cavalry Park. He highlighted the fact that Edinburgh Leisure simply hire the pitches out and that ultimately it is the Council who decide whether a venue is available on a particular date.

He highlighted that this can mean, on occasions, a venue becomes unavailable at short notice.

He emphasised again, the need for clubs to be understanding and flexible about moving to play games scheduled for Saturdays to Sundays.

He advised that the annual meeting for clubs using Edinburgh Leisure facilities would take place on Tuesday 17th February at Meggetland at 6pm; he cautioned clubs attending that they would need to be realistic in what to expect from Edinburgh Leisure going forward given the known financial challenges.

He also reminded those clubs who were members of the Edinburgh Public Parks Cricket Association that the Association annual general meeting would take place on Monday 9th February at 7pm at Prestonfield Golf Club.

C: Masterton and Braw Skelp Trophies.

It was confirmed that it was intended to run the Masterton competition again with a Finals day on a Sunday in July.

It was confirmed that eligibility for the Braw Skelp was changing so that second teams of clubs who played in the Leagues could enter if their top team was in the Masterton Trophy.

However, it was emphasised that no player who played in the Masterton would be eligible to play in the Braw Skelp and the penalty for playing an ineligible player would be that the game(s) in which the player played would be forfeited.

D: Match Balls for 2026.

Peter indicated that the Readers balls would be used again in 2026 as the trial balls used in 2025 had not been regarded as being any better. It was hoped that there might be an alternative ball offer in 2027 through the Cricket Scotland Domestic Cricket Committee.

It was confirmed that clubs would use the Tiflex Magna ball in the Masterton Trophy and Braw Skelp.

He indicated that ball ordering for Leagues and Cups would be through the CricketStats portal.

8. Elections of New Clubs.

The meeting considered the application of three new clubs to join the Association :-

Botanics CC, The Edinburgh Academy and Winchburgh CC.

Each club spoke to their application.

Botanics would play in Division Nine with their home games to be played at Bangholm.

Winchburgh would also play in Division Nine at their new ground within the town – the artificial wicket was due to be laid in March.

The Edinburgh Academy would play at Newfield in the Sunday League where the aim of the team was to introduce more youngsters to adult cricket at an appropriate time and to be able to develop them.

The meeting unanimously approved the three new clubs.

9. Election of New Teams.

The meeting considered one application to join Division Nine from Marchmont CC 5s who would play their games on the smaller artificial wicket at Cavalry park following an agreement with Edinburgh Leisure.

The meeting approved their membership.

The meeting then considered and approved the following teams for the Sunday League:

Boroughmuir 3s, Dunfermline and Carnegie 5s, Heriots 4s, Kelso 2s, Kirk Brae 3s, Stewarts Melville 5s, Thorntons Penicuik 3s and Watsonians 5s.

The meeting duly approved all the applications.

Re- Election of a Team.

The meeting then considered an application from Linlithgow 2s who had failed to complete their fixtures in Division 5 in 2025. The meeting approved their application and they would play in Division Nine in 2026.

10. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members.

Peter Kingsbury indicated that details of the posts and those standing had been circulated as part of the Agenda. All those listed were standing un-opposed and a further volunteer had since put their name forward to join the Committee.

The meeting duly elected the following :-

President:.....Peter Kingsbury (Penicuik)

Vice President:.....Vacant

Secretary:.....Jon Turner (Watsonians)

Treasurer:Peter Kingsbury (Penicuik)

Past President:.....Kash Hussain (Edinburgh)

Committee Members:Ramsay Allan (Grange)

.....David Gibson (Stewarts Melville)

Honorary Vice Presidents (ex Officio):Allan Baxter, Pat Edington and Bill Polson.

It was confirmed that the following roles were filled by Committee Members:-

Competitions Sub Committee Lead:.....Basil Khan (Kirk Brae)
Discipline Sub Committee Lead:Keith Murray (Carlton)
Development Sub Committee Lead:Phil Yelland (Murrayfield Dafs)
Social Media and Comms Sub Committee Lead: ...Vacant
Finance Sub Committee Lead:Peter Kingsbury (Penicuik)
Women and Girls Cricket Lead:Vacant
Diversity Equality and Inclusion:Muhammad Arshad (Edinburgh)
Appeals Lead:Vacant.

The following are Non-Executive Advisors:

Ramsay Allan (Grange):Masterton Operating Committee
Uday Kumar Kadechi (Drummond Trinity):.....Braw Skelp
Phil Yelland (Murrayfield Dafs):.....Lothian Juniors and Edinburgh Public Parks
Vacant:.....South of Scotland.

It was noted that Paul Hutton (Boroughmuir) had agreed to take on the Appeals lead but his agreement had been too late for this meeting and the formal proposal would come to the SGM in April.

11. Rule Changes.

A: General.

At the outset of this discussion, it was confirmed that the Competitions Committee were reviewing the rules and would bring changes to the pre-season meeting which would take place in mid-April for discussion and approval. It was confirmed that any club wishing to propose a rule change needed to do so three weeks before the pre-season meeting in April. It should be sent to the Secretary and there would need be a seconder club for any proposed change.

An observation was made that current rule 7.5 around eligibility referred to rule 7.4.4 which did not exist. It was confirmed this would be picked up by the Competitions Committee who would be looking at the eligibility rules carefully after some concerns were raised particularly around lower teams playing on Sundays.

B: Amended FairPlay Rule.

Peter Kingsbury talked through the proposed rule amendment to the experimental rule. He explained that the Committee had looked at this carefully and reached the view that failing on an average score of 2.4 or less was not enough as there had been potential evidence of teams with a low average score potentially endeavouring to manipulate scores just before the halfway point of the season and at the end to increase their average score about the threshold. Accordingly the Committee were of the view that a team should be put on probation or penalised if their average score was below 2.4 or in a half season, they collected four or more scores of one or two.

A vote was taken at this stage and by nineteen votes to three the meeting approved the proposed change in the criteria for action.

A discussion then took place around the points penalty to be imposed where, after probation, a team was still failing. The suggestion was the penalty be increased up to a maximum of thirty points, in effect for a half season or a maximum of sixty points if a team failed both halves of the season after probation. It was explained that based on the comments on the FairPlay returns, the issues were not bad umpiring but things like bad language, send off, excessive appealing, over aggression.

It was noted that in 2024 a twenty point penalties had been imposed on two teams and that had cost both teams promotion.

It was confirmed that each year the penalties and criteria could be debated and, if appropriate, changed.

It was emphasised that the overall aim was to encourage improved behaviour and not simply to punish poor behaviour.

Dunbar CC, seconded by Tranent & Preston Village CC, proposed that the points penalty should be lifted to a maximum of 50 points per half season. A vote was taken and only three of the clubs present voted in favour so the proposal fell.

The meeting then considered the Committee proposal of the penalty being a maximum of thirty points per half season. Only one club voted against this and the Committee proposal was APPROVED.

A discussion then took place as to whether the revised criteria (i.e. an average of 2.4 or four scores or more of one or two, should be applied to the scores for the second half of the 2025 season. It was acknowledged that this appeared to be retrospective, but it was agreed that in the circumstances, this was not an unreasonable thing to do.

A vote was then taken and by eleven votes to eight the meeting APPROVED the proposal that the agreed criteria should be applied to the scores in the second half of the 2025 season.

Peter Kingsbury confirmed that the clubs who fell within the revised criteria and would fall into probation for the first half of the 2026 season would be advised in the following seven days.

12. AOCB.

No other business was raised.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm with thanks to the Chair.