

Meeting Minutes: Members Forum & Special General Meeting

Date: Thursday 26th June 2025

Location: Lord's Cricket Ground and Online

Chair: Richard Sykes

1. Overview and Engagement

- Member Survey Engagement:

Over 1,100 members responded to the recent survey, reflecting a strong level of engagement across the membership base.

2. Opening Remarks and Administrative Notices

- The meeting was split into two parts: the Members Forum followed by a Special General Meeting.
- No fire alarms were scheduled; attendees were informed to exit via the back doors if needed.
- A transcript of the meeting will be made available on the members' website.
- The Members Forum was scheduled to conclude by 8:00 PM.
- A moment of silence was held in memory of John Fingleton and other recently deceased members.

3. Cricket Performance Review

- Men's Team Performance:
 - Six losses out of 13 matches, underperformance despite a competitive squad.
 - First Team Coach Richard Johnson was relieved of his duties mid-season.
 - Dane Vilas appointed interim First Team Coach.
 - Only five batting points secured prior to the latest match.
 - No players progressed to international stage since Steven Finn.
- Women's Team Highlights:
 - Currently top of T20 and 50-over competitions.
 - Double-header event attracted over 3,400 spectators.

4. Domestic Game Structure – ECB Review & Proposals

- General Themes:
 - Current domestic schedule not delivering high-performance outcomes.
 - Proposals include reducing T20 Blast to 12 fixtures, regional pools.
 - Championship structure options: 12 to 14 matches, divisional or conference style.

- Challenges Identified:
 - Scheduling issues with conference models.
 - 70% of counties report excessive match days.
 - Financial pressure on non-Hundred host counties.

5. Member Survey Results

- 92% highly value Championship cricket; 19% value T20.
- 55% think the current volume is about right; 25% want slightly more.
- 66% want Championship cricket during The Hundred.
- Reduction in Championship likely to affect renewals.

6. Middlesex Player Survey Results

- 77% support a divisional Championship format.
- 46% want to retain 14 matches; 31% accept 12.
- 23% support ending the Championship with a final.
- 31% support regional T20; 19% want rotating groups.

7. Middlesex Proposals for Domestic Structure

- Option 1:
 - 14 Championship matches
 - 8 List A games during The Hundred
 - 10 T20 Blast matches
- Option 2:
 - 14 Championship & 14 Blast matches
 - 3 Championship games during 50-over competition
 - 8 List A matches
- No support for shortening the season or reducing Championship below 14.
- Strong support for divisional structure.

8. Operational Improvements

- Mandatory hotel stays post-away matches to support wellbeing.
- Example: Somerset-Hampshire trip required 3 hotel nights and 11+ hours of coaching for 2 T20 games.

9. ECB Decision Timeline and Process

- ECB targeting end of July for proposals.
- Agreement from 12 of 18 first-class counties needed.

- Other counties are holding member forums.
- No final ECB proposal issued yet.