

Meeting Minutes: Special General Meeting

Date: Thursday 26th June 2025

Location: Lord's Cricket Ground and online

Chair: Richard Sykes

1. Overview

- Special General Meeting held with over 100 voting members present, fulfilling Rule 22.1 requirements for valid requisition and notice.
- Resolution 1 passed with 620 votes in favour, addressing concerns about ECB cuts to County Championship matches and demanding Board commitment to oppose reductions.
- Resolution 2 passed with 407 votes in favour, emphasizing the importance of supporting the T20 Blast to engage younger audiences and counter The Hundred's dominance.
- Resolution 3 passed with 590 votes in favour, affirming the Board's intention to consider member opinions in decision-making while clarifying fiduciary duties.
- Board cannot be legally bound to Resolutions 1 and 2 due to fiduciary responsibilities, which require consideration of all stakeholders including players and sponsors.
- Members raised concerns about transparency in Board decision-making and requested publication of meeting minutes.
- Chairman agreed to enhance communication around Board voting decisions and support public disclosure of county voting.
- Concerns were raised about voting procedures, including the need for names/numbers on ballots and pre-meeting proxy disclosure.
- Historical context highlighted disconnect between Board assurances and media reports about match reductions, prompting member petitions.
- A post-meeting review was requested to address preparation issues and improve member representation in future processes.

2. Meeting Opening & Procedures

- Special General Meeting declared duly convened under Rule 22.1, with over 100 members and 21 clear days' notice provided.
- More than 100 voting members attended in person or by proxy, meeting Rule 22.6 requirements.
- Resolutions 1 and 2 proposed by members (advisory); Resolution 3 proposed by the Board.
- No amendments to resolutions were permitted during the meeting under Rule 22.3.

3. Resolution 1 Discussion – County Championship

- Paul McIntyre raised concerns about meeting preparation and requested a review with the Membership Committee.
- Historical ECB plans to reduce Championship matches triggered a petition after the Board declined to confirm its stance.
- Members cited disconnect between Board assurances and media reports implying a 12-match format was a “done deal.”
- Members demanded the Board vote against reductions and align with six or more counties to block ECB proposals.
- Calls for county-by-county vote disclosure were raised to ensure accountability.

4. Legal Framework & Fiduciary Duties

- Resolutions 1 and 2 cannot legally bind the Board due to fiduciary duties as a registered community benefit society.
- Board must consider the interests of all stakeholders, including players, sponsors, MCC, and staff.
- Chairman acknowledged open debate and agreed to disclose Board voting decisions and support open county voting.

5. Member Challenges & Concerns

- Peter Matza requested clarity on how stakeholder interests are weighted in decisions and called for meeting minutes to be published.
- Robert Evans questioned the rationale of presenting resolutions that cannot bind the Board.
- Allan Engel emphasized the Board’s responsibility to members and voiced concern over potential ECB incentives overriding member interests.

6. Resolution 2 Discussion – T20 Blast

- Paul McIntyre advocated for promoting the T20 Blast to counterbalance The Hundred and attract families and younger audiences.
- Emphasised that even those who favour Championship cricket recognise the T20 Blast’s commercial and audience value.

7. Resolution 3 Discussion – Board Consideration

- Resolution 3 reaffirmed the Board’s fiduciary duties and its intention to take member views seriously.
- The Board committed to transparent decision-making through forums, surveys, and ongoing consultation.

8. Voting Procedures & Democracy Concerns

- Members challenged the need to include names/membership numbers on ballot papers.
- Proxy vote figures were made visible at the time of voting, which raised concerns among members about the transparency and fairness of the process.
- Clarification provided: members could vote anonymously without personal identifiers.

9. Final Results

- Resolution 1 passed: 620 in favour, 101 against, 33 abstentions.
- Resolution 2 passed: 407 in favour, 189 against, 158 abstentions.
- Resolution 3 passed: 590 in favour, 82 against, 83 abstentions.
- All resolutions passed and will be taken into account in future ECB negotiations.