

Ditcheat Cricket Club Committee Meeting - 27th February 2026

Location: Manor House Inn

In Attendance: Henry Clark-Jones, Lewis Webb, Andrew Cooper, Chris Braithwaite, Ed Eisler, Nick Torday, Steve Crutchley, Andy Davis

Introduction from Henry

Comment

Following David Sage's departure as Treasurer Henry sought feedback from all corners of club involvement. Feedback was really positive though we were given the following suggestions:

- Make the committee more public / accessible
- Make committee meetings more efficient

Actions

To address the first point we will publish committee meetings on whatsapp and the website as well as listing the committee on the website. To address the second we will introduce voting at meetings to give everyone equal say, excepting the chairman who will have a casting vote and the power to defer / refer decisions (to be used sparingly). The constitution will be amended accordingly and also uploaded to the website.

Old Business

Lewis (Community Engagement Lead)

Item

Finding local volunteers

Comment

No volunteers signed up yet. Though Lewis had various ideas for engaging with the community.

Action

Lewis to join Rendezvous event to connect/inform participants with the cricket club.

Nick to ask Claire to make an announcement at Chair Yoga.

Item

Flyers

Comment

The idea is to make/distribute flyers around Ditchheat to inform neighbours of the home games. No progress yet.

Action

The plan is to create / distribute flyers in April.

Item

Piece in FTN

Comment

The idea is to regularly include club updates in FTN. No progress yet.

Action

Lewis to contact the FTN editor ahead of the next committee meeting. Learn submission deadlines and discuss a regular piece.

Item

Piece in Somerset Life Magazine

Comment

Idea / discussion with SL editor about writing a piece on the revival of village cricket.

Action

Lewis to keep us posted!

Item

Lewis taking over Instagram profile

Comment

No progress yet.

Action

Coop to hand login details to Lewis. Lewis to begin running the account: photos at nets etc.

Item

Wraxall sponsorship conversation

Comment

No progress yet.

Action

Lewis to discuss sponsorship with Wraxall Vineyard.

Andrew Cooper (Groundskeeping Lead)

Item

Sign for the end of the drive

Comment

The idea is to place a sign at the end of the driveway/entrance to the cricket ground to help raise awareness of home games.

An unmounted sign would cost roughly £200 which was deemed acceptable by the club.

Action

Coop will get a couple more quotes and consider mounting options.

Item

Shade for spectators

Comment

The idea is to create an area of natural shade near the container where spectators spend time on match days. It's currently quite exposed. The most popular idea is to plant a tree though this comes with added complications.

Action

Coop has found a tree supplier though we need to consider practical / administrative implications of planting: Steve Crutchley and Coop to discuss next steps.

Chris Braithwaite (Fundraising Lead)

<u>Item</u> Budget / fundraising plan
<u>Comment</u> Chris has developed a comprehensive fundraising plan for the club's 2026 season which was shared before the meeting. It discussed sponsorship and refreshments (see below) as well as an event / raffle. The event / raffle would be a traditional raffle book with prizes. Members would buy / promote tickets in their schools, workplaces etc. The raffle draw itself could take place at the village hall or pub and be part of a wider fundraising evening. The idea was well-received and we voted unanimously to take this forward.
<u>Action</u> Everyone to have a think about prizes and report back. At the next meeting we will take concrete steps towards making the idea a reality.

<u>Item</u> Refreshments at the ground
<u>Comment</u> The perennial question of supplying refreshments during games was raised. An area we need to improve on as a club. Chris will lead 'Carlos's Bar' by using the coolbox to bring drinks to the ground. Ned (absent from this meeting) has also proposed "tablecloth dinners" at the cricket ground: these idea was well received and the consensus was that the test match would be a good place to try out the format.
<u>Action</u> First step is to locate the coolbox. Nick to check his shed. Ed Eisler and Chris to explore the idea of sponsored match teas. Ned to present his idea for "tablecloth dinners" at next meeting.

Item

Sponsorship

Comment

Chris is taking over the sponsorship drive for the club. Last year we had sponsorship from the Manor and Andy Davis sponsored the roller. We also rolled over Ben Anderson's Ursus Productions sponsorship as last year's kit was not provided in time.

This year Chris is speaking with the manor about a similar offer, though with an advertising board rather than shirt sponsorship. Justin the groundskeeper will also pay for an advertising board (£125 and Justin will supply the sign), as will Nick Torday (£200 and we will supply the sign).

Action

Henry to introduce Chris to alternate contact at Manor (no response from initial contact).

Chris and Nick to take forward advertising board idea.

Andy Davis to provide sticker for the roller.

Ed Eisler (Club Development Lead)

Item

Club values

Comment

Following feedback from recent seasons Ed has launched an initiative to review the club's values and develop a strategy to help us stick to those core values. The aim is to clarify what we stand for as a club and to provide a clear basis for on-field and off-field decisions.

Ed initially surveyed the committee members and found that they value fun, community involvement and inclusiveness.

Action

Ed will continue to work from the initial survey data. And will present a first-draft strategy one-pager at the next meeting. From here the committee and wider club can agree on the club's purpose, mission, and direction.

Henry (Chairman)

Item

Yeovil Town Social

Comment

The Yeovil Town football social is seen as a fun event and a good way to keep members together over winter.

Henry organised and then reorganised the social when the fixture was changed by YTFC.

Action

No further action

Item

Subs update

Comment

At the last meeting Henry was tasked with initiating the subs request for this season.

So far 13 members have paid, raising £780. An essential amount of money for preseason pitch preparation. We hope to reach 35 paying members to be in line with prior year.

Action

Keep reminding people about the subs payment. Report back at the next meeting. Nick may take this on as new treasurer (see below).

Item

Net balls

Comment

Henry bought bowling machine balls for use at the Millfield nets. The first batch of balls were too light so he bought a batch of 'Bola' branded balls. The new balls work well though it's decided we'll keep the old balls for training sessions.

Action

No further action.

Item

East Somerset Premier League

Comment

During the 2026 preseason Henry coordinated with 5 other clubs to organise a social, Friday night T20 league. This was in response to members saying they wanted some

games to be more competitive.

The league has now been organised and features Kingsdon, Babcary, Sparkford, Martock, Queen Camel and us. Fixtures are set and playing regulations established.

There will also be an end of season social for all teams.

Action

Announce league to club.

Report back from next league meeting.

Announce end of season dinner.

Item

Coaching session

Comment

After a years long search Henry has found a local coach who is happy to offer Ditchat some sessions. He has offered a preseason session for free. We will see how the first session goes and find out if people are genuinely interested in being coached.

Action

Promote, complete the first session and go from there.

Item

Kit audit

Comment

We plan to have a cricket kit audit before the beginning of the next season. No progress yet.

Action

Complete audit in April.

Item

Somerset affiliation

Comment

After several years of affiliation with Somerset CCC we will review this status to see if we

want to continue the affiliation.

Action

TBD at next meeting

Item

New treasurer

Comment

Following David Sage's departure from the club Nick Torday has stepped into the role of treasurer.

Action

First step is to set up a new bank account. Update at next meeting.

AOB

- Steve Crutchley is keen to organise a golf day and a sixes tournament. Henry and Coop to get together to check dates / groundskeeping.
- Non-playing membership fees were raised. TBD at the next meeting.
- A 'nearest the pin' golf competition at the ground was muted, TBD at the next meeting.
- The question of which night we do nets was also raised, TBD at the next meeting.

New Business

We didn't manage to tackle the below items but hope to at the next meeting.

- Membership forms
- Another dinner
- New treasurer
 - what happens to safeguarding role? Safeguarding update
- Chairman's tenure
- Premium events
 - A couple of fixtures (test match, perhaps) which get the tablecloth treatment
- Potential friendly fixtures
 - Witham, Wookey, Batcombe, Heads and Tails
- Golf day / preseason dinner
- Match fees for league games
- Match fees for friendly games / our offering
- Refine match day captain's role
- Captains for league vs social games
- Play Cricket apps

