Report of the Extraordinary General Members Meeting KNCB March 13, 2025 in Amstelveen, VRA Cricket, Nieuwe Kalfjeslaan 21b, starting at 7.30 p.m.

The attendance list was signed by:

Associations
Ajax S.C., ACC Amsterdamsche C.C., C.C. Bloemendaal, C.C. Groenendaal, Cricket Vereniging Holland, Dosti United C.C., Excelsior'20 RKSV, Groen en Wit Amsterdam C.C., HBS Craeyenhout, HCC, Hercules USV, Hermes DVS, Hilversumsche C.C., Hoofddorp Jaguars C.C., Kampong Cricket SV, De Kikkers C.C., Punjab C.C.R., Qui Vive C.C., Quick 1888, Red and White H.C.C., Salland C.C., Sparta Cricket 1888, SV Royal Punjab, VOC R.C.& V.V., V.R.A., V.V.V. C.C., Voorburg C.C.

Honorary members
S.W. Lubbers.

Members of Merit
A. Mohamed, J.H. Wories, B.H.J. Timmer, R.P. Lefebvre, W.E. Winckel.

Board
G.M. Landheer (chairman), W.E. Vorderman (secretary).

KNCB Bureau
L. Hendrikse, B. Kroesen, A. van den Dries, T. Heggelman, R. Lefebvre, P. de Leede, E. Buijs.

Committee members
H.P. van Arkel (Financial), A. Bernelot Moens (Dispensation).

Other
J. van Zuydam, G. de Jong, I. van der Elst (ALV assistance), H. Fuite (minutes secretary).

Authorizations were received from the associations
Ajax S.C., ACC Amsterdamsche C.C., Bijlmer C.C., C.C. Bloemendaal, C.C. Groenendaal, Dosti United C.C., Excelsior'20 RKSV, Groen en Wit Amsterdam C.C., HBS Craeyenhout, HCC, H.T.C.E.C.A., Hengelo M.C.C., Hercules USV, Hermes DVS, Hoofddorp Jaguars C.C., Kampong Cricket SV, De Kikkers C.C., MOP C.C., Punjab C.C.R., Qui Vive C.C., Quick 1888, Quick H.V& C.V., Red and White H.C.C., Salland C.C., Sparta Cricket 1888, SV Royal Punjab, VOC R.C.& V.V., V.R.A., V.V.V. C.C., Voorburg C.C., Zuid Hollandse Cricket Club, Zwolle C.C.

1. Opening

The chairman, **Guido Landheer**, opens the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomes those present.
On March 3, the board approved on behalf of the associations Dosti, Hercules, Rood en Wit, Salland C.C., Sparta, Quick 1888, Qui Vive, VRA, VVV and S.V. Royal Punjab received the request to hold a general meeting on the format of the competition for 2025 and beyond.

The **chairman** especially welcomes the honorary members; Steven Lubbers and also the members of merit: Akbal Mohamed, Betty Timmer, Willem Winckel and John Wories. Reinout Scholte has sent a formal letter in which he explains the reason for his termination. The **chairman** regrets his departure and emphasizes that this is a painful and significant loss for the KNCB.

The chairman mentions the cancellations received for this meeting:
Honorary members: Messrs. S. van Hoogstraten, D. Ohm, W. Neleman, M.B. Asselbergs and R.W. van Ierschot.Members of merit: Messrs. J.M. Mulder, A. Parulekar, L.W.G. Hartong, T. Hartman, R. Buijze. Committee members: Mr. E. van der Vegt and Mr. T. Hartman (both Appeals Committee), Mr. R. Buijze (Regulations Committees).

Associations: Gelre CC, SGS CC.He also indicates that Mr. N.R Potdar (board member Cricket Development) is unfortunately unable to attend due to obligations abroad for his work.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The proposal of Rick Verhaar (Ajax S.C.) to deal with agenda items 4 and 5 - with regard to the composition of the board of the KNCB - first is approved by the meeting, after which the agenda is determined.

4. Composition of the KNCB board - treasurer

The board nominates Jacques van Zuydam as treasurer of the KNCB, in accordance with the information shared in advance with the documents for this GMM. Jacques **van Zuydam** has the floor for the chairman: Jacques gives a brief explanation of who he is and what experience he brings with him. In addition, he expresses his enthusiasm about the possibility of adding value to the organization. The meeting agrees to this appointment, after which Jacques takes a seat behind the board table.

5. Composition of the KNCB board - expansion

The board proposes to increase the number of supervisory directors on the board from two to four, in accordance with the information shared in advance with the documents.

Jaco van Giezen (Hermes-DVS) sees the expansion as positive and asks about the difference between operations in the office and in the board. The **chairman** explains that board members steer strategically and do not perform operational tasks.
John Wories (member of merit) emphasizes that the board should focus on policy and not on day-to-day implementation. He points out that the organization of events takes a lot of time.
Betty Timmer (member of merit) misses the attention to business operations in the scheme. She is also of the opinion that the vacancy description for board member high performance does not fit well with the management statute. The **chairman** emphasizes that the subject of operational management will be discussed during the next GMM when discussing the organizational structure of the office. He asks Betty and the meeting to respond to the question at hand, namely about the expansion of the number of supervisory directors.
The **chairman** submits the proposal to the meeting, which agrees to the extension.

The **chairman** calls on the meeting to support the KNCB in finding suitable candidates for the various board positions.

3. Competition format 2025 e.v.

The **chairman** explains that, in accordance with the agreement in the GMM of 14 December, a digital meeting took place on 8 January with an explanation of the changes in the competition structure for the men. As described in the document shared prior to this BALV, a working group has been set up to develop a future-proof competition format. This research went beyond just the classification of teams and covers almost all aspects of the competition. The aim is to create a balanced, predictable and efficient structure, in which both T20 and 50-over cricket can develop optimally. On 8 January, the information was shared and the results of the working group were presented in an online meeting. After this, the proposal was shared in writing, asking for feedback. Two associations responded to this.
At a later time, it turned out that a number of clubs wanted to have this extraordinary GMM meeting about the competition format take place.

Cees Bieren (Red and White) has difficulty with the course of the process. According to him, some clubs have been confronted with a 'big bang' at too late a moment. He argues for a postponement of a year, so that the clubs can prepare better and certain details can be worked out better.

Steven Lubbers (honorary member, representative on behalf of Salland CC in this GMM) endorses this; he calls the process careless and indicates that he was surprised by these results. He asks which elements of 'plan Salland' from 2022 have been included in these plans.

Max de Bruin (ACC) expresses his concerns about the process and the lack of coherence. He misses the attention for the flow of youth and the development of talent and fears that the competition structure will lead to the attraction of more foreign players. He thinks it is a missed opportunity that the introduction of the points system is now being reconsidered, but is 'parked' for next season. That should also be implemented in one go. He emphasizes that he understands the plans and the basic principles and respects the proposal - his objections are not directed against the board - but he thinks the elaboration is substandard and argues for a postponement of a year, now that the timings are too short in his view.

Ewout Boendermaker (HBS) congratulates the board on the process and the result. He emphasizes that in previous GMM it was clear that this was being worked on and that everyone was able to give input for quite some time. He found the meeting in January extremely positive and thinks it is a scandal that we are now in this BALV. He sees no objection to continuing the introduction of the plans as they stand.
Cees Bieren (Red and White) adds that as far as he is concerned, the competition rules and schedule do not need to be changed; he argues for maintaining the 2024 system.

Ajid Skanda Kumaraswamy (Qui Vive) also indicates that he understands the choice of a different 'pyramid'. He fears bottlenecks for clubs with many teams and argues for a broader second division.
John Wories (member of merit) agrees with Max de Bruin. He disapproves of the active involvement of the board in this process. He also points out that the ladies have not been heard and he is curious about the national coach's vision on this plan. He argues for postponement and the establishment of a working group that restarts this process.
Akbal Mohamed (Sparta) emphasizes that the Dutch talents should be given priority over foreign players. He proposes to leave the league unchanged in 2025 and argues for a stable plan for youth development.

Richard de Lange (VCC) is a member of the working group that contributed to this plan and explains the process. He indicates that Reinout facilitated the process to arrive at certain insights and decisions with the group. He finds it remarkable that juniors play an important role in the discussion that is now flaring up, while 6 of the 10 clubs that have applied for this GMM do not have youth teams.
The promotion-relegation scheme was an extensive point of discussion within the working group: this was thought to be 50-50. The planning to present the plans has been moved to January for known reasons and with the approval of the GMM in December. It surprises him that there has been no response after the digital presentation in January. He recognizes the bottleneck that Qui Vive cites: however, that is a bottleneck in every setup. According to him, the points system must first be tested before implementation takes place. He generally acknowledges that there are always bottlenecks in a competition set-up, but states that the process was careful and provided room for input.

Mohsin Ghaznavi (VVV Cricketclub), with thirty years of experience, finds the competition format this year surprising. He notes that in the Dutch league last year, 47% were foreign players. He is concerned about the current league format, especially the large number of clubs that will be relegated from the big league in this format (5). He also argues for an extra rule for the big league, whereby a maximum of foreign players may be fielded per club.

Camille van der Harten (Kampong Cricket) endorses the words of Richard de Lange. Kampong has been promoted to the top class, but believes that – in the discussion about the competition structure – the individual associations' own interests should be overlooked. Kampong therefore supports the proposal and argues for a recording of the plan for the next five years, including a decision on the points system. He believes that this should not be postponed and proposes to continue.
The **chairman** responds to Steven Lubbers' question and indicates that the new plan pays attention to the third and fourth division at the regional level. He adds that this season new software will be used in the competition planning; This program has been discussed extensively within the team.

Steven Lubbers (Salland CC) states again that the current proposal contains too few elements of the Salland plan. He also claims that Salland was able to request a BALV with one e-mail last year and that

the board deliberately delayed the planning of this ALV. Now that the competition starts in April, he wants to postpone the plan that is on the table.
John Wories (member of merit) asks what the board will do about five to six paid players per team? The **chairman** acknowledges that clubs are increasingly investing in players from abroad, where the KNCB would rather see this invested in youth development: this is indeed worrying for the future of Dutch cricket. He emphasizes that the focus must be on the long term and that clubs are partly responsible for the chances of their youth players. He understands that clubs are often focused on the short term, but emphasizes the importance of a long-term approach.
Cees Bieren (Red and White) is pleased that investments are being discussed and emphasizes that this is a joint responsibility of the KNCB and the associations. He points out that some players move to other clubs due to financial incentives. That is why he again argues for a postponement of one year and proposes to further investigate good ideas, such as a points system and a maximum of foreign players. In addition, he emphasizes the importance of investing in youth cricket.
Nizam Qazi (Hercules Utrecht) argues that changes are necessary and that the current problem must be addressed. He notes that if there is a stop on foreign players, clubs are likely to find other ways around it.
Willem Winckel (member of merit), who was on the board when the top class was introduced, emphasizes that this led to promotion and a more positive competition. He argues for a postponement of one year and proposes to revise the competition structure, for example with one top class and two main classes. Without adjustments, he fears a nasty competition in the main league and the other classes.

David Woutersen (Excelsior '20) thinks that everything is now being made unnecessarily complicated. He summarizes that he has seen this discussion pass by from different roles before; as a player, as an employee at the KNCB and now as a board member of Excelsior '20. From each of these perspectives, he sees that clubs in this discussion mainly reason from their own interests and lose sight of the importance of 'cricket in the Netherlands'. When it comes to various topics that were discussed – club charter, rules about foreign players – some of the clubs always go into conflict because they put their own interests first in that discussion. He wonders aloud what the cricket world gains from postponement, except for 'more time'. He also wonders with what interest this discussion is being conducted by the associations, with the interest of cricket in the Netherlands or with their own interest.
Ewout Boendermaker (HBS) indicates that he finds it strange that Steven Lubbers keeps referring to 'plan Salland' now that the GMM of February 2024 has voted against it. According to him, 'Plan Salland' is no longer relevant in this discussion.
Jan Nuijten (HCC) asks what exactly any adjustments mean for the competition and for the schedule that is in front of us.
This is not **clear to Jaco van Giezen** (Hermes-DVS) either.

Adriaan van den Dries (KNCB) indicates that the schedule can no longer be completely 'overhauled'.
Cees Bieren (Red and White) emphasizes that this is not necessary, but that the proposed promotion and relegation rules should be set up differently for next season.
Nizam Qazi (Hercules Utrecht) agrees.

The **chairman** concludes that there has been a broad discussion about the proposal, the possible alternatives and about certain bottlenecks.
He proposes to vote on an advice to the board on the competition format of 2025 and beyond.

Now that the practical feasibility of any changes is important for the 2025 competition planning, the following question is submitted to the GMM - after some deliberation and a short adjournment of the meeting:

Is the GMM for or against the following advice to the board:
'Postpone the current KNCB plan by one season, so that it can be further refined in the coming months and finalised by September 2025 at the latest. Keep the schedule as developed and shared for 2025. Use promotion and relegation rules that are similar to those of 2024'.

The voting results are as follows:

For the above advice:	205 votes	(52%)
Against the above advice:	188 votes	(48%)

The **chairman** thanks everyone for their contribution to the discussion and indicates that he will take this advice into account; the board will make a decision on this shortly.

4. Closure

Cees Bieren gets the opportunity for the last word. He does this on the basis of the word CRICKET.

Communication, open and transparent. Make the changes and maintain them for five years.
Respect, here and on the field.
Invest in the talent of boys, girls, men, women and coaches.
Coaching, by training people, transferring knowledge and cooperation.
Evaluating, by learning and adapting, for example, processes and policy.
Team, the members, the board and the federation office; we are all one team.

He wishes everyone a wonderful summer with lots of sun, lots of cricket and lots of fun.

The **chairman** closes the meeting at 9.20 p.m.,