

Darlington Building Society
North Yorkshire & South Durham ECB Premier Cricket League

Minutes of Management Meeting held at the Springboard Centre, Stokesley
on Wednesday 11th October 2017.

PRESENT

President C W West, A B Bainbridge, S Brenkley, T Briddock, S Donlan, JJ Dykes, N Hutchinson, G Smith and D Stanwix. (9)

APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

Apologies were received from C Nicholls and DS Oliver.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2017 were approved to be signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

Bishop Auckland

The meeting recorded receipt of a response from Bishop Auckland CC in relation to the findings of the recent inspection of their facilities, during which concerns were expressed at the state of the outfield. The Club gave assurances of various actions to ensure the required improvements, which included purchase of a suitable mower, and off season activities by a qualified groundsman to include scarifying and also outfield rolling if the latter was deemed necessary.

Trophies

The president reported that the Premier Division trophy had been found to require repairs due to damage, initial estimates for which were £80 to £100. The necessary works had been commissioned and Barnard Castle CC had undertaken to meet the costs as outlined.

Grant Applications

The president reported that a late application for grant for coaching and umpire courses had been received from Richmondshire CC. Given that the available funds for 2017 grants had already been allocated the Club was advised that, on this occasion, the grant for the umpire course would be met, but that the coaching course costs could be submitted as part of the 2018 process.

Resolved: that the meeting ratified this decision.

FIXTURES SECRETARY

Mr Hutchinson reported as follows:

Fixture Requests

All clubs had been issued with the necessary forms of application for the 2018 season and a number of responses had already been received.

The meeting requested that in the setting of 2018 fixtures, and as far as was possible within the constraints of the fixture allocation system and ground availability, consideration be given to trying to ensure that clubs in close proximity to each other were not both playing at home (or away) on the same day, the aim being to increase support by trying as far as possible to avoid clashes.

RESULTS SECRETARY

Mr Smith presented his report as follows:-

Averages

Copies of the draft player averages for the 2017 season were provided. It was agreed that these be issued to clubs and they be given a short period of time in which to check and request any amendments.

Hornby Cup

A request for a change to the competition entry regulations was received from Thornaby who asked if the the cup could be opened up to second teams with a first team in the Premier Division as they wished to have the opportunity of adding to their recent record of winning the cup three years in a row.

Resolved: The request be declined.

TREASURERS REPORT

Mr Stanwix reported as follows:

Bank & cash balance of £27,514 the total being after payment of all club entitlements at the end of the season. It was noted that some £2,000 was due from those clubs having a debit balance. All outstanding creditor accounts were settled, and the process of drawing the accounts together for the auditors was well under way.

UMPIRES CO-ORDINATOR

National Officiating Honours

The meeting received with considerable pleasure a report on the presentation at Lord's cricket ground of the 2017 national OSCA for Officiating to Albert Pagan.

It was also noted that just the week before Michael Gough had won the PCA Umpire of the Year award for a seventh consecutive year.

These outstanding achievements were recorded on the front page of the League website and the president suggested this significant 'double' for the NYSD provided a wonderful motivational tool in the never ending search for new umpires.

Match expenses

It was reported by the president that a number of local leagues had increased their umpiring scales for the 2018 season.

Resolved: that LMC undertake a review of umpires fees expenses in February.

CRICKET BALLS

Supply Contract

The president reported that the current contract with Dukes regarding the supply of cricket balls was due for review and he had been in discussions with Dilip Jajodia, the company's owner, regarding renewal discussions. Dukes had suggested that because of the continuing volatility in the currency markets and the slow progress with Brexit that the same terms apply for 2018 as applied for 2017, with a new contract to be discussed in 12 months time.

Resolved: that the president be authorised to accept the proposal for 2018.

Administration

It was reported that Neil Hutchinson had undertaken to take over the administration of the ordering and issuing of League match balls. Thanks were expressed to him for taking on the duties, and to Steve Donlan for his previous services in this regard.

REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

MCC Fixture

The president reported that the MCC had written to confirm their wish to continue the annual fixture next season, but that the date currently on offer potentially clashed with Premier Division cup fixtures, a situation which had weakened the squad available last season.

Resolved: that the offer of a 2018 fixture be welcomed, but that MCC be asked to reschedule.

DISCIPLINE

Sedgefield

The president made a detailed report on a complaint received from an individual which involved allegations surrounding events on the periphery of a match on 8th July. Investigation of the complaint had been complicated by some police involvement and by evidence of a prolonged and protracted dispute between the individual and the Club. The DRC had finally received confirmation that the police involvement had been concluded with no action being taken, which allowed DRC to now reach conclusions based on the individual's submissions, umpire reports, the police confirmation and statements from the Club.

Resolved: it was unanimously agreed that in light of all the information gathered there were insufficient grounds to take the matter further. Accordingly the complainant would be written to advising that, after detailed consideration, the League would not be taking any further action.

Maltby

It was noted that the series of disciplinary issues involving players from the Club during 2017 had resulted in an invitation being issued to the club to send representatives to this meeting. Before the officials were invited into the meeting the president reported on a further issue which had been brought to the League's attention concerning the final day of the season and an alleged attempt by an individual from Maltby to influence a result in a game involving another club which could have had an effect on the promotion prospects of his own team. Investigations had suggested that efforts may have been made to ensure that Shildon had sufficient players to ensure the last match against another club with promotion prospects took place. It was agreed to include this issue in the discussions with the Maltby representatives.

Maltby Representation

The president welcomed Chris Francis (Chairman) and Ciaron Irvine (Vice Chairman) to the meeting and, in thanking them for coming, he expressed the view of the committee that it was very appreciative of the way the Club had handled the disciplinary issues raised with it by DRC. However the record of the behaviour of certain Club players during the season gave the League concerns about how the Club intended to manage the issue going forward.

The Club Chairman thanked the meeting for the opportunity to address those concerns, and during his presentation he offered assurances of their intention to return the Club to its normal high standards of behaviour, and explained much of the methodology proposed. He also gave assurances that the matter of the alleged attempt to influence the result of the final matches, if this had occurred, was done entirely without either the knowledge or the support of any of the Club's officers or officials.

Resolved: that no further immediate action was deemed necessary as regards the Club's recent behavioural record, other than the automatic deduction of 30 points from the Club in the records of the 2017 season in accordance with the automatic penalty rule.

The committee fully accepted that Club officials had been unaware of the alleged manipulation issue and further information on that would be sought. The committee would consider what further action, if any, would be taken once they had this further information and had considered recent precedents in respect of the other disciplinary matters.

ECB and COUNTY BOARDS

Meeting

The President reported that there was to be a meeting of all northern Premier Leagues on October 24th at Elland Road which he would attend.

Managed Migration

It was reported that the ECB were currently finalising the correspondence to be issued to clubs deemed to have registered players considered to be in potential breach of their visas in the 2017 season.

Performance Related Grants

It was reported that a number of returns on this issue were due to be submitted by the month end. The president would collate.

All Stars Cricket

Roadshows for the 2018 scheme were taking place across the country shortly. The meeting expressed disappointment that the nearest roadshow was to be held at Elland Road, Leeds, the distance to which may deter clubs situated further north from attending. NB – subsequent to the meeting the Roadshow had been postponed.

YPL Championship Finals

The President reported on Great Ayton's involvement in the much-rearranged finals. After the initial weekend match had been washed out the semi-final had been played at Scarborough the following weekend where Wakefield Thornes had proved comfortable winners.

PRESENTATION EVENING

All clubs had been provided with posters and tickets for the event.

The president confirmed that Mark Arthur, CEO of Yorkshire CCC, had accepted an invitation to attend as a guest with his wife, as had Bob Jackson, chairman of Durham CB, and his wife. Darlington BS and Teesside University would also be represented.

The format would be dinner, Ryan Sidebottom, Steffen Peddie, presentation of awards and draws. A suggestion that an 'In The Room' draw be made at the end of the evening was agreed, with a prize of £250. Whilst there would be no Hall of Fame induction on the evening the president proposed that the retirement of Albert Pagan and Dave Beach after a lifetime in the game be recognised officially by the League by way of 'Lifetime Achievement' awards in the DCCC TV section. This was agreed unanimously.

NYSD Team of the Year – to be selected by S Brenkley and D Stanwix and supplied to the president.

Gone But Not Forgotten – the president would be sending a reminder to clubs concerning this much valued part of the evening.

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

These would be voted on by all LMC members via a confidential poll to be completed by the 18th October. As usual shortlists of three would be drawn up and the results announced on presentation night.

DURHAM CCC TEES VALLEY AWARDS

The president had received confirmation from Durham that these would continue and details had already been sent to all cricket organisations in the Tees Valley region.

CLUB OF THE YEAR

The process for collating markings was now underway.

SPONSORS

Both the DBS and Teesside University agreements were due for review at this point in time and the president advised that meetings were currently being arranged to review the 2017 season and to ascertain the position going forward.

HISTORICAL DATA COLLECTION

Steve Charlton had confirmed that all pages in the history section of the League website were now up to date and in database format, ready to start inputting information from clubs. Mr Brenkley reported that much of the data had now been received from 10 clubs, and the task of laboriously loading this onto the website was underway. The meeting recorded its thanks to him, and also to Mr Charlton who had a considerable workload in this project.

125th ANNIVERSARY

It was reported that the NYSD's 125th birthday was nearing. The date was the 3rd November 2017, and it was agreed that the website should record this fact as a matter for celebration.

CWO DATA COLLECTION

The G Sec reported that he was in a process of advising clubs of their status with regard to the requirements on CWO's to maintain their DBS checks and up to date attendance at refresher courses. This process should serve to update the league records and to prompt clubs to book in at safeguarding courses in the region in the close-season which it is hoped will be arranged.

RULES PROPOSALS

The president reported the outcome of the consultation meeting recently held to ascertain member Clubs' views on the league structure. The meeting then went on to consider LMC proposals for the AGM, and also the proposals which had been submitted by individual Clubs. The proposals will be issued to clubs by mid-October and clubs will be reminded that the date for submission of any amendments thereto is November 1st.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next monthly LMC meeting should be brought forward to be held **at 7pm** on Wednesday 8th November.