

DARLINGTON
Building Society

North Yorkshire & South Durham ECB Premier Cricket League

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
Billingham Synthonia Cricket Club on Monday 27th November 2017

PRESENT

President C.W. West, General Secretary J.J. Dykes, Treasurer D. Stanwix, Fixtures Secretary, N Hutchinson, Results Secretary G. Smith, Umpire's Coordinator D.S. Oliver and Vice President A.B. Bainbridge.
Committee Members S. Brenkley, T. Briddock, S. Donlan, and representatives of all clubs in the League.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 28th November 2016, which had been previously circulated to all clubs, were signed as a true record.

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2017

The report was received and adopted. On behalf of the member clubs the president thanked the general secretary, who was officially retiring after this meeting, for the work he had done for the League during his term of office.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Copies of the final audited accounts were distributed to clubs before the start of the meeting. The president gave an overview and explanation of the key items comprised in the accounts. There were no queries raised from the floor and the final accounts for financial year 2016/2017, as presented and certified by Anderson and Barrowcliff, were unanimously adopted.

HONORARIA

Honoraria for 2017 had been set by the LMC as follows:

General Secretary: £800
Treasurer: £500
Fixtures Secretary: £500
Results Secretary: £500
Umpires Coordinator: £750

In accordance with Rule 11, the honoraria were ratified by the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a) **President** – Mr. C.W. West had been nominated by Normanby Hall and was seconded and duly re-elected.
- b) **General Secretary** – There had been no nomination received for this position. The president advised the meeting that the various duties would be split between committee members whilst the position continued to be advertised, and asked for agreement from the member clubs that should a suitable candidate be identified during the next 12 months the LMC be allowed to make the appointment without reference to the clubs. The meeting signified its agreement to this proposal.

As only one nomination had been received for each of the following positions, the president suggested that the nominations for re-election of existing officials should be taken en bloc and this was agreed by the meeting. The nominations were:

- c) **Treasurer** – Mr. D. Stanwix had been nominated by Normanby Hall
- d) **Fixtures Secretary** – Mr. N. Hutchinson had been nominated by Normanby Hall
- d) **Results Secretary** – Mr. G. Smith had been nominated by Normanby Hall
- e) **Umpires Coordinator** – Mr. D. Oliver had been nominated by Normanby Hall

The nominations were seconded with all being duly elected.

- f) **Hon. Auditor** – Anderson Barrowcliff had been nominated by the Management Committee and were seconded and duly re-elected.

g) Management Committee –

The president suggested that the nominations received by the due date for re-election of existing committee members, of which there were five, plus one new nomination which had the support of the LMC, should be taken en bloc and this was agreed by the meeting.

The nominations for re- election were:

Mr A. B. Bainbridge nominated by Normanby Hall

Mr S. Brenkley nominated by Normanby Hall

Mr T. Briddock nominated by Normanby Hall

Mr M. Christon nominated by Normanby Hall

Mr S. Donlan nominated by Normanby Hall

and the nomination for election was:

Mr M. Jobling nominated by Richmondshire

All the above were seconded and duly elected.

The meeting then considered the three nominations which had been made after the due date for the two remaining representative positions. These were:

Mr S. Gill nominated by the LMC

Mr J. Crowther nominated by the LMC

Mr D. Pennock nominated by Great Ayton

All the above were seconded and after votes were cast Mr S Gill and Mr J Crowther were duly elected.

The president thanked the re-elected officials and members of the committee for the outstanding work they had done over the last twelve months and continued to do on behalf of the member clubs. He also thanked the retiring committee members Mr D. Austin, Mr S. Clarke, Mr K. Forbes and Mr C. Nicholls for their sterling services during their respective terms of office.

CREATION OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S POSITION

The meeting considered the proposal by LMC that the League should create a role of Chief Executive Officer in line with the practice of many other senior cricketing leagues. The president referred to the previously circulated details on this matter, and outlined the thinking behind the proposal, which was seconded and duly adopted by the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The president provided the meeting with a summary of the main national developments in the recreational game over the last 12 months, in particular the lucrative media rights deal struck by the ECB for the period 2020 to 2024, something that would provide significant financial benefits to the recreational game as well as the professional game, although he cautioned that the benefits would not be fully seen until 2020 as the ECB undertook the lengthy process of negotiating County Partnership Agreements which would lead to new MOU's for the CPA partners which included ECB Premier Leagues.

The national outcomes for 2017 linked to participation and growth would be available to all shortly, but they were generally positive, with the ECB's flagship project of All Stars Cricket being particularly successful in its launch year with over 37,000 youngsters aged 5-8 registered. The ambitious target for 2018 had been set at 100,000 and it was suggested that all clubs should consider the wider and longer term benefits of ASC, particularly the significant boost to volunteer numbers that clubs in the scheme had experienced. All NYSD clubs not in the scheme were encouraged to revisit their options.

The ECB's recently issued paper on the future of ECB Premier Leagues, which all clubs had received a copy of, was also referred to as this would provide the framework for the new MOU. The LMC would be responsible for supporting the development of all member clubs in pursuit of the aims and objectives set out nationally. The priorities highlighted in the paper were strong leadership focusing on grounds, facilities, coaching, officials, financial rigour, discipline and ensuring the players get the game they want - formats, start times, travel etc. The president identified that these were all things that the NYSD had prioritised as long ago as 2004 and would continue to do so in line with national policy.

However, it was stressed that the LMC can only do so much, and the need for strong leadership and the inspiring of members and players should be a key priority for clubs themselves, with the president highlighting just two areas from the ECBPL paper that many of our clubs could address relatively easily – their own websites, which are their 'window on the world' (some are excellent, some are poor) and provide a prime means of promoting themselves to the wider community, and coloured clothing. Youngsters love coloured gear and it can be a prime motivational tool – clubs were urged to be imaginative in producing their 'signature' coloured gear, and not just settle for the easy option. Clothing that captured the imagination of players and supporters alike would have long term benefits.

The address ended with a reminder that the rule proposals coming before the meeting had emanated from the wishes of the clubs during the recent consultation process and would hopefully help clubs with the challenges they face. It was the responsibility of all to ensure the game moves with the times and remains relevant. The president stated his conviction that there is a collective will from the very top of the game, through the counties and leagues to work together to re-energise the game we all love, and on the back of that we must all take responsibility for delivering the shared vision of cricket and that clubs are the most crucial part of the mix - their role is pivotal.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE 2018

Resignations

Yarm CC had recently given notice to withdraw their second team from Division 4.

Applications

Bedale CC had formally applied for their second team to join the Saturday League in 2018. The LMC proposed acceptance into Division 4. The proposal was seconded and carried unanimously

Rockcliffe Park CC had formally applied for a third team to join the League in 2018 giving them two teams on Saturdays, and one on Sundays. The LMC proposed acceptance into Division 4.

The proposal was seconded and carried unanimously.

The above decisions resulted in there being 9 teams in Division 4 and the meeting considered the potential structure of that division. Based on the outcome of a show of hands on a number of options it was determined that the LMC should develop a couple of formal options which would then be circulated to clubs with teams in Division 4 in 2018 for them to vote on the option they preferred, the eventual format to be determined by the outcome of the majority vote of those clubs.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE 2019

Applications

Nunthorpe CC had formally applied for two teams to join the league in the 2019 season, with one playing Saturdays and one Sundays.

Representatives of the Club were allowed to address the meeting to outline their plans and answer questions. They made particular reference to the solutions being implemented to address their drainage problems and the financing of the club. They also gave undertakings with regards adequacy of covers, scoreboard and sightscreen provision, and then left the meeting before the proposal was voted upon.

The LMC proposed approval subject to a list of criteria which had been provided to the club being met, these criteria to be reviewed by a ground visit by the LMC in 2018.

The proposal was seconded and carried unanimously.

ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO RULES AND PROPOSED NEW RULES

These had been circulated to all clubs in early November with full explanatory commentaries attached. The LMC placed the proposals into a running order to simplify the process of consideration.

LEAGUE RULES – PROPOSED BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UNLESS NOTED

Rule 13a Length of Match

The first proposed alteration was to reduce the overs in Divisions 3 and 4 matches to a maximum of 80. The proposal was seconded and carried. For 20 Against 12.

The second proposed alteration was to reduce the overs in Sunday league matches to a maximum of 80. The proposal was seconded and carried. For 23 Against 9.

Rule 13a Match Points

The first proposal by Billingham Synthonia CC was for points awarded to the winner to be 20 plus any first innings bonus points gained. An alternative proposal by Richmondshire was for points awarded to the winner to be 15 plus all bonus points gained during the match.

Both proposals were seconded and, on a show of hands, the Richmondshire proposal was carried by 13 votes to 11.

The successful Richmondshire proposal was then voted upon against the existing rule having been duly seconded. The existing rule was successful by a significant majority. For 28 Against 8.

Rule 13a Bonus Points

The LMC proposal that in Saturday league matches in the Premier and Divisions One and Two one bonus point be awarded for each 45 runs scored was seconded and carried unanimously.

The LMC proposal that in Saturday league matches in the Divisions Three and Four one bonus point be awarded for each 40 runs scored was seconded and carried unanimously.

The LMC proposal that in all Sunday league matches one bonus point be awarded for each 40 runs scored was seconded and carried, the contrary proposal by Marton CC having been withdrawn.

Rule 13d Bowling Restrictions

The LMC proposal that in Division 3 and 4 league matches bowlers be restricted to a maximum of 10 overs (one quarter) was seconded and carried unanimously.

The LMC proposal that in Sunday league matches bowlers be restricted to a maximum of 10 overs (one quarter) was seconded and carried unanimously.

NB – the rules relating to innings of more than 40 overs in duration in cases where the first innings is declared remain unaltered i.e. 25%

Rules 13e & 13f Fielding Restrictions

The LMC proposal that fielding restrictions be extended to include all Premier and Division One league matches was seconded and carried unanimously.

The LMC proposals regarding suitable fielding restriction wording amendments in both league and cup competitions were taken collectively, seconded and carried unanimously.

Rule 18c The Toss

The proposal by Richmondshire CC that the visiting team be given the choice of batting or bowling first was seconded and defeated on a show of hands 16 to 14.

Rule 21 Start Times

The LMC proposal that in Saturday league matches in Divisions Three and Four the start time be 1.30pm throughout the whole season was seconded and carried by 19 to 8.

The LMC proposal that in all Sunday league matches the start time be 2.00pm throughout the whole season was seconded and carried unanimously.

The LMC proposal regarding suitable wording amendments was seconded and carried unanimously.

Rule 27a Professionals

The proposal by Thornaby C C to allow both professionals to be either EQ or Overseas was seconded and failed on a show of hands. Voting was restricted to Premier and Division One and resulted For 5 Against 15.

Cup Competitions

The LMC proposal that all cup competitions except Kerridge and Fifteens be operated on a 20 over basis was seconded and carried unanimously.

Structure of Sunday Divisions

The LMC proposal that the current Sunday Leagues be restructured into a three section league, with a premier division and two regional conference divisions, was seconded and passed by a show of hands. For 21 Against 8.

The meeting was then asked to vote on whether the re-structure should apply from 2018 or 2019 in line with the two schemes of arrangements provided to clubs. The voting resulted as follows – 2018 – 20 in favour, 2019 – 9 in favour. It was therefore determined that the new structure would apply in 2018.

Sunday Divisions - Player Eligibility

The proposal by Wolviston C C that where a club's first team played in Division One, their first team players be allowed to play on Sundays under the same restrictions as if they were second team players was seconded and failed on a show of hands. For 7 Against 15.

Third Team Cup Ties – Player Eligibility

The LMC proposal that LMC be allowed to revisit this subject and review the appropriate rules to take account of decisions made at this meeting was seconded and carried unanimously.

NYSD Masters

The proposal by Normanby Hall C C amending player eligibility was seconded and passed by significant majority. For 13 Against 1

The proposal by Normanby Hall C C requiring batsmen to retire having scored 50 was seconded and passed by significant majority. For 13 Against 1

The proposal by Normanby Hall C C to reduce umpire requirement to one per match failed to achieve a seconder.

Player Loan System

The proposal that a controlled system of player loan be implemented by LMC subsequent to the AGM under advice to clubs was passed. For 16 Against 13.

Duckworth/Lewis Stern System

The proposal by Billingham Synthonia C C that a DLS system be adopted when playing time has been lost in a match was seconded and failed on show of hands. For 10 Against 17.

Safeguarding

The LMC proposal that the League adopt the wording of the formal rules agreed with the league and issued by Durham Cricket Board was seconded and adopted unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sunday Cup Ties

Upon query from the floor the president confirmed that the restructuring of the Sunday leagues would allow LMC to include Sunday cup matches in the fixture list for Sundays early in the season, thus hopefully addressing the cup concession problems brought about by player eligibility issues last season.

Managed Migration

The meeting was advised that an ECB letter on this subject would be received by all clubs within the next 7 days. The president was currently in correspondence with the ECB on the content of this letter and the League would issue an update before Xmas.

Cricket Bats

The new law on the width of cricket bats was being debated by the NYSD with the ECB. A moratorium on its introduction to recreational cricket would hopefully follow. Clubs would be updated when further news was received.

Laws of Cricket

The new laws and what they meant for the NYSD would be disseminated to clubs, officials and scorers in the New Year.

Insurance

Details were given of a potential insurance scheme for clubs which might be effective from 2019.

Fast Bowling Development Programme

More than 20 players had been nominated for this free programme being run for NYSD clubs by Durham CCC in December. Nominations (to the president) could still be made.

Safeguarding

Clubs were reminded of their responsibilities, particularly in respect of their CWO's. Safeguarding courses were available at Teesside University in January and clubs had been provided with the details.

There being no further business the president thanked all for attending and passed on his best wishes for the forthcoming festive season.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm