

Drakes Huddersfield Cricket League

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 2nd April 2014

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson.

Other Officers Present: The President; Executive Secretary; Administration Secretary; Finance Secretary; Disciplinary Secretary, and Child Welfare & Facilities Secretary.

Life Vice President: Roger France.

Clubs: All member clubs were represented.

Apologies: The Match & Registration Secretary and Vice President Geoff Crompton.

The Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting of the 4th December 2013 were taken as read, approved as a true record, and signed.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Outstanding Fines and any other related issues

The Finance Secretary advised the meeting that there were now no outstanding fines. All cricket balls and scorebooks had been collected, and after several payments were made by clubs on the evening, the only club with payment outstanding was Holmfirth. *After meeting minute: this debt has now been paid.*

Handbooks

The Executive Secretary explained that each club had received ten League Handbooks, this was less than in previous years, and done in response to the wishes of the member clubs. He explained that there were several addenda to the Handbook, and a list of these would be emailed to clubs in due course. Some corrections to note in the Handbook were:

- Mel Booth: email address - mel.booth@trinitymirror.com
- Secretary at Cawthorne: email address - secretary@cawthorne.cc
- Meltham representative: email address - simon.holmes@citb.co.uk
- Shepley representative: email address - david.hall14@homecall.co.uk

The Executive Secretary also reaffirmed that all correspondence for Cartworth Moor CC should be sent to the Secretary - Stuart Clayton.

Child Welfare courses

The Child Welfare & Facilities Secretary explained that two courses were being held at Slaithwaite Cricket Club on Wednesday 18th June and Thursday 19th June from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. The cost per person would be £15. As yet he has still not had responses from several clubs informing him if they need to send a representative on either of these courses. The clubs in question are: Almondbury; Almondbury Wesleyans; Armitage Bridge; Barkisland; Cartworth Moor; Holmfirth; Kirkburton; Kirkheaton; Lepton Highlanders; Linthwaite and Upperrhong. Could all please respond to the Child Welfare & Facilities Secretary (rpeaker@yahoo.com) as soon as possible.

The Child Welfare & Facilities Secretary also stated that, for those wishing to have their applications for a DBS check (previously CRB) accredited, there would be sessions held on Wednesday 9th April at Broad Oak CC and Friday 11th April at Cumberworth CC, both between 7.30pm and 9.00pm.

Players' Survey

The Executive Secretary informed the Council that the ECB would be conducting another player's survey this year, probably around early June. A link to the survey will be on the League website, and all DHCL players should be encouraged to complete the survey. The more responses made, the more influence we can have over ECB policy making, and the more money which may eventually filter down to member clubs. For these reasons, it is important that the name of the League is included in the survey.

Disciplinary Issues

The Disciplinary Secretary said that there were no disciplinary issues to report.

Ground Inspections

The Child Welfare & Facilities Secretary reported that he, along with the Administration Secretary, had now inspected the grounds of the four new clubs. He also stated that he had leaflets available from a local manufacturer of covers and sight screens, if any clubs were interested. The price for a 4.3m by 3.4m sight screen is £960 inc VAT and Delivery. The Chairman stated that this was an excellent price due the fact that the League were dealing directly with the manufacturer. He also said that clubs wishing to purchase any of the above, could apply to the League for an interest free loan.

League Dinner Report

The Executive Secretary informed the council that the Annual League Dinner would be take place on Friday 14th November 2014. The guest speaker is Peter Bowler, an ex-county cricket with Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Somerset who now works in the legal profession, and is also regarded as an accomplished after dinner speaker. He will be supported by Jamie Sutherland, a comedian from Liverpool. Ticket prices will be held at last season's price of £32.50, and the Executive Secretary reminded Council of the new rule change which committed all member clubs to the purchase of a minimum of four tickets for the Annual Dinner.

Modernisation Group

The Chairman said that although last season "one day" rules were introduced into the Sykes cup, a more traditional approach is currently adopted in league games, and due to a number of responses received from various sources, it appears that there may be an appetite to change some of the playing conditions which govern the game in our league.

The Chairman explained to the Council that with this in mind, a sub-committee from the Executive Committee had been formed to consider the current playing conditions. Some of the areas under discussion are: fielding circles; power plays; over restriction; leg-side wides; points system; "three hour rule"; results in games interrupted by rain. The group will formulate a list of recommendations which will be presented to the Executive Committee for discussion, and after this any agreed proposals will be put forward to a meeting, which is anticipated will include 1st and 2nd X1 captains, along with a senior cricket official for each member club.

The Chairman said that this initiative comes at a time when ECB are very interested in increasing participation and retention levels in the game, and it is important that we take on board the results of last season's player's survey, and do our best to make the game in our League as attractive as possible, especially for young people.

A question was asked as to whether all the proposals will be voted upon en-bloc. The chairman said that at this stage no firm decision had been made.

ECB Club Support

The Executive Secretary informed Council of an ECB website which included everything involved with the running of a cricket club. All representatives had previously been given a Club Support card which included the website address - ecb.co.uk/clubsupport. He also said that the quality of playing surfaces was something which came high up on the ECB player's survey, and the League had the opportunity to take out group membership of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), which would allow each member club to nominate a representative for annual membership. This would be discussed later at the Executive meeting.

Public Liability Insurance 2014

The Administration Secretary reported that most clubs had lodged their Public Liability details with him, but he was still waiting documentation from: Kirkburton; Kirkheaton; Lascelles Hall; Lepton Highlanders; Rastrick; Scholes and Shelley. He reminded all clubs that insurance details need to be with him by 12th April at the latest. Thongsbridge CC were reminded that their cover expires on 17th April 2014, extremely close to the start of the season!

The Umpires' Representative report

The representative from the UA informed Council said that membership of the Association had increased from 45 to 56. This, along with the commitment shown by some Club Umpires to umpire at other clubs than their own, should ensure that all fixtures for the opening game of the season will be fully staffed. He also stated that there would be a club umpire's course at Broad Oak CC on Tuesday 8th April starting at 7pm. All are invited to attend. This would be publicised in the Huddersfield Examiner.

Frequency of Council meetings

The Chairman expressed his feelings on the usefulness of having monthly Council meetings from April to October. Many representatives were making long journeys to attend the meetings which often seemed to serve little purpose, and were over within a short space of time. He suggested streamlining the number of meetings to include only meeting in April; July; September and December. This was well received by Council, and carried unanimously.

Any other business

- The Executive Secretary informed Council that the Match & Registration Secretary was on holiday at the moment, and would respond to all emails received in the last week by the Friday following the meeting - 4th April. He also reminded clubs that all player registrations should have been confirmed with the Match & Registration Secretary by 31st March, with all new clubs needing to complete individual registration forms for every player.
Other points to note were:
 1. An updated version of the result sheet to include the names of the four new clubs. was to be added to the League website. *After meeting minute: The Match & Registration Secretary would email all clubs with the new version.*
 2. The Team sheet & Match Report Form (TMRF) have been adapted slightly, and new copies will be available soon for distribution to clubs. Where possible all clubs should endeavour to use the new version.
- The Executive Secretary informed Council that due to the Easter Holidays, any uncompleted Sykes Cup and Paddock Shield Preliminary round matches scheduled for Sunday 20th April, would continue on the following Tuesday and not the customary Monday.
- The representative from the UA reminded all clubs involved in the Heavy Woollen and Crowther Cup competitions that they would need to complete ECB match cards before each game - our own TMRFs are not acceptable. The Executive Secretary said that he had a stock of these cards for any interested clubs.
- A question was asked about the necessity for every league club to have two sight screens. The Chairman stated that according to the agreed list of minimum standards, this was the case unless special dispensation was given by the Executive Committee.

The next meeting of the Council is Wednesday 2nd July 2014 – 7.30pm at Almondbury CC.