



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

Minutes of a the Annual General Meeting Held at Cuckney CC on Saturday 1st October 2011 at 2.30pm.

There were 51 members present.

Apologies: were received from M Cannon, R Dodd, A Astling, J Penrose, A Rhodes, A Cope, W Cope, I Rich, S Leach, J Hayes, J Fitz-Henry, J Garton, D Flowers, T Spence, R Morris, G Bullock, D Whitlam, T Munro, P Dixon and H Burdett.

The President began the meeting by asking everyone to stand in a minutes silence in memory of colleagues who had passed away during the season.

Minutes: of the Annual General Meeting held on 2 October 2010 had been distributed at the meeting and also published on the website and were taken as read and confirmed by the meeting.

Matters Arising: None

Hon Secretary's Report: The Secretary then gave a brief resume of the activities of the committee and his thoughts of the past year. A copy of his report is attached at appendix 1.

Hon Appointments Secretary's Report: The Hon Appointments Secretary, John Leaning, thanked all the members for there cooperation and willingness to move from one match to another at short notice. Without that cooperation he felt that the job of appointing umpires to matches would be unworkable.

John then spoke about the new umpires coming through the training and assessment programme. He advised members that the pool of umpires now considered experienced and good enough to umpire at Championship level was increasing. As a consequence of this members should expect to have fewer games in the Championship than in previous years.

He also thanked both Gerry Graney and Brian Rivington for covering for him when he was on holiday.

Hon Treasurers Report: He informed the meeting that the Association had an excess of income over expenditure for the year and that he proposed no increase in subscriptions. A copy of the Balance sheet for the year had been distributed to the members.

He informed members of the sponsorship discussions at present ongoing within the League Management Committee and that it was envisaged that the Association would be part of this scheme. If we are sponsored members would be expected to display a sponsors logo in some form.

Joe Richardson Memorial Trophy: The President then presented the Joe Richardson Memorial Trophy to Brian Cartwright; Brian has been umpiring consistently for 49 years in the Mansfield & District Cricket League and for the last 33 years also in the Bassetlaw & District

Cricket League. Brian has also been a committee member for 25 years. A well earned and justified award.

Brian responded by saying that he was shocked and surprised and had had no idea that he would be presented with this award today. He had begun Umpiring when in the RAF and this had given him the bug to carry on when he was de-mobbed. He joined the Mansfield League which then played Saturday cricket and in 1978 Harry Kite convinced him to join the Bassetlaw. He has enjoyed most of it and is looking forward to completing 50 years next year.

Presentation of 20 year ties: A presentation was then made by the President to Arthur Whitehead (Blidworth Colliery Welfare CC) who had in fact completed 23 years service to the Umpires Association. The Association is always proud to make these awards in recognition of 20 years dedication to local Cricket.

Howard Walton Memorial Trophy: The President presented Steve Sessions with the Howard Walton Memorial Trophy in recognition of his having reached a high mark in the ECB Level 1 examination following the winter's course and in achieving excellent assessments for his first season as an umpire.

Presentation of ACO Level 1 and Level 1A certificates: Gerry Graney made the presentation to the Level 1 candidates and Peter McKenzie to the Level 1A candidates.

Successful candidates were;

Level 1; there were 17 in all, A Wilson, R Swann, I Bagshaw, A Barley, D Brumpton, A Day, M Carlisle, G Johnston, J Severn, M Townsend, P Chambers, M Layton, S Sessions, R Whitehead, G Bullock, S Leach, I Woodall.

Level 1a; there were 15 successful candidates, D Parnham, P Rice, C Darrington, F Lester, R Morris, B Lenihan, D Flowers, D Whitham, D Blizzard, A Wilson, R Kent, G Wright, J Singleton, R Hepworth, I Stallworthy.

Many congratulations to all of them.

Election of Officers: The following were elected unopposed:

President	MJ Smedley
Chairman	B Rivington
Secretary/Treasurer	E Devney
Appointments Secretary	JJ Leaning

Committee: Dick Arthur, Mick Bonsall, Martin Cannon, Brian Cartwright, Russell Dodd, Gerry Graney, David Hodgkin, Brian Lenihan, Ian Rich and John Singleton.

Proposals: The following proposals had been received for amendments to the Associations Constitution.

The Management Committee propose the following amendments to the constitution:

Para. 4. Change the word *seven* to *at least 14*
Last line now to read: to be received in writing by the secretary *at least 14* days prior to the meeting.

Para 5. At the end of the paragraph add the following:
All supplementary Umpires will be classed as Honorary Members.

Para 11. At the end of the paragraph add the following:
....and all other matches as arranged by the Bassetlaw & District Cricket League.

Para 12. Include after (*where appropriate*) the words:
....and/or other such evidence as necessary....

Para 13. At the end of the paragraph add the following:
All umpires must have a current valid CRB Certificate.

Para 14. At the end of the paragraph add the following:
The member so removed shall have a right of appeal to the Association Management Committee.

The above proposals were passed unopposed by the meeting. (A copy of the amended Constitution can be found at appendix 2 of these minutes).

Proposals for the Bassetlaw and District Cricket League AGM:

No proposals had been received.

Report of the 2011 assessment programme in the Championship and Divisions 1:

The Chairman reported that this had not gone as well as in the previous two years. Several clubs had not completed assessments and fines will be issued. Some clubs had not taken the assessment procedure seriously and had used the system to abuse the League Management Committee and to resort to personal abuse of Umpires. This was totally unacceptable. He admitted that in hind sight the failure to hold a Captains meeting immediately prior to the start of the season had been a mistake which would be rectified this year. He also agreed that clubs should be informed of why assessments were needed. This would be done initially at the League AGM also through talking to clubs throughout the season.

He thanked Gerry Graney and John Leaning for their efforts as Umpire Boundary Assessors. He also thanked Gerry and Peter McKenzie for the fantastic job they were doing in training new umpires we had had 17 successful candidates at Level 1 and 15 successful candidates at Level 1A.

Umpires individual assessments are now available for collection. The Chairman would be available to discuss any aspect of the assessment with individuals if they wished to contact him he would be happy to speak to them.

Announcements:

The Umpires training course will start on Monday 17th October 2011 at The New Inn, Winsick, 7.30pm and at Cuckney on Monday 9th January 2012 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm.



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

(Affiliated to the ECB Association of Cricket Officials)

Website: www.bdua.co.uk
bassetlawumpires@aol.com

President

Mr MJ Smedley

Honorary Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Bassetlaw & District Umpires Association

Saturday 1st October 2011 at Cuckney Cricket Club.

WEATHER

It is traditional to begin these reports by speaking about the weather. It was OK. I personally missed two games due to poor weather so all in all a pretty good year. However there were areas of concern where games have been interrupted by poor weather. I know I am probably preaching to the converted here but there have been problems with Umpires misinterpreting the League Rules. I think I am being a little kind in saying that, really some umpires don't know the rules. They have a handbook which they don't read this is unfair to the teams and players that we umpire, please read your Handbooks if you are unsure of anything then seek clarification from any of the Associations Officials. We cannot have umpires failing to abide by the League rules it is unfair to all of the clubs involved in the league.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Ladies and Gentlemen today you have the annual opportunity of electing your Officials and Committee.

Before I come to that can I take this opportunity to thank Peter McKenzie, who is standing down from your committee today. Peter has been a tremendous asset to this Association. During his time as Secretary he was at the forefront of the implementation of CRB. He steered, with others, the Association through the minefield of the ACU&S and ECB ACO merger. He, again along with others, gave the training of umpires a priority that has earned this Association a reputation that is envied throughout the region. He represented the BDUA at the Notts Cricket Board, the ACO and the ECB. He has been a professional in all that he does. I know I have only scratched the surface of all that he has done; his departure will leave a big hole in your committee. Thank you, Peter.

As I said earlier you have the opportunity to elect your officials and committee today. Your committee is not a 'talking shop' we need committee members who not only attend meetings but are prepared to become involved and to do things. If you are up for election today please bear that in mind.

MEETINGS WITH OTHER CRICKETING BODIES

Last week I and other members of your committee attended a meeting with members of the League Management Committee and I also attended one with the Notts Cricket Board both of which had as its main topic Discipline. The NCB meeting was the second of a series of meetings aimed at having a unified disciplinary code across all of the leagues and all Cricket in the county. Mike Smedley, our President, is the chair of this committee and deliberations are at an early stage but it is hoped to have meetings with interested parties over the next few months

and the aim is to have whatever is decided in place by season 2013. I know that sounds a bit vague but I can't give you any specifics because nothing yet has been agreed.

The meeting with the LMC was to review the season and discuss were we, that is the League and the Umpires, had got things right and were we may have got things wrong. At the same meeting last year it was agreed to introduce the AOF alongside the Disciplinary Report Form. We have not been entirely happy with the new procedure in particular the use of the two report forms, which effectively meant that Umpires were deciding on the level of seriousness of the offence as it happened. The Association felt that the decision on seriousness should be made by the Leagues Disciplinary Committee and that therefore a revamped report form should be used incorporating the AOF and Disciplinary report. The AOF will still be in use but will be part of the report form. This was agreed at this meeting. So there will be a new report form again this year. Hopefully this will simplify matters. I will write to all umpires when matters are finalized enclosing a new report form. You may think we are trying to crack a nut with a sledgehammer but when you read reports of what happens in other leagues, head butts, violence and solicitors involvement, we don't want that in our league. So we need to nip it in the bud, stop the small things so they don't escalate into serious incidents. The one area that we must be extra vigilant about involves young players, we cannot tolerate any abuse or sledging of young players by anyone. It is a very contentious area and a legal minefield; again nip it in the bud. When you meet with the Captains prior to the toss please stress this particular point that no tolerance will be shown with abuse of young players.

Other matters discussed were Assessment of Umpires by Captains. One of the main gripes of Clubs was that they don't know why they are doing it, there is no feedback. This we will rectify, it is vital that Captains continue to assess umpires performance; Brian and John will have more to say about that later.

UMPIRES TRAINING

Training will again take place at both Winsick (Hasland) and Cuckney organised by the Derbys and Notts Branches of ACO. There was a very successful course at Cuckney last winter with 19 successful candidates at Level 1 most have started umpiring in the Bassetlaw but some however are still playing and have not as yet become full time umpires. Some of them are here today to receive their certificates. Hopefully this winter will be as successful in terms of numbers. We have had 21 new association members this year, again some only umpire occasionally in the Bassetlaw. I am touching wood as I type this, we seem to have bottomed out in terms of numbers and there has been in the last two years a slight increase in membership, not all umpire full time, but the signs for maintaining and hopefully increasing numbers are at least improving.

All the various levels of qualifications provided by the ECB ACO now seem to have their course content in place. It has been a four year journey but they seem at long last to have got their act together. Notts Branch ACO is now able to offer Level 1, 1A and 2C courses. Advancement beyond this is dependent on whether umpires are recommended to the Premier Leagues by ourselves or are already umpiring in the Premier League and wish to progress further. Fundamental to all of this is Assessment again Brian and John will talk about that later.

WINTER MEETINGS

The winter meetings are usually attended by approximately 40 members which is about a 1/3 of our membership, which is a bit disappointing, it would be nice to see at least 2/3 of our membership here. Last winter's speakers included Paul Pollard, Mick Newell, Eddie Hemmings and Iain O'Brien, all were excellent in their own right and all gave an insight into the game as it is played at Test and County level. All had had some involvement with Bassetlaw Cricket. Two had been Test Cricketers, one was the Director of Cricket of the County Champions, and one had just been chosen for the 1st Class umpires reserve list. Not a bad line up. Paul will certainly have his work cut out to match that this year but I am sure he will give it a go.

WEBSITE & NEWSLETTERS

The website was revamped last year and is much easier to update; when I say easier it can still be a pain trying to get any photographs in the right place; hopefully it is easier for you to use. If any of you have any articles, photographs, etc that you feel may be of interest, I would be happy to include them on the website if suitable. A Newsletter is issued approximately every four months. The website and Newsletters are important in trying to keep you up to date with developments in both the Bassetlaw and Umpiring in general and we try to highlight any problem areas that have been encountered during the season. Please use and read both.

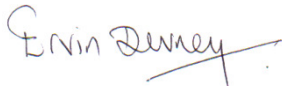
RECREATIONAL CRICKET

Speaking generally now about local cricket; what is the point of spending 'X' amounts of money on professionals in order to win a trophy, how does that benefit local cricket. Cricket as a pastime in large urban areas is dying. I give the following examples, Sutton in Ashfield a largish town, there are no cricket clubs in Sutton, (MHM is in Huthwaite). The demise of Council pitches and the failure of schools to provide cricket hasn't helped but a century ago Sutton was a hot bed of Nottinghamshire Cricket. In Mansfield there are only two clubs they are Mansfield & Pleasley and Nomads, this is the largest town in Nottinghamshire. They play on council pitches and I don't think it is any secret but they are having problems, the Council aren't spending money. Most of our clubs are from small urban areas, villages or works and ex works clubs. There must be a worry for the future of cricket when youngsters in towns don't have the opportunity to play. I wonder if this is reflected nationally, I would think it is. Our clubs need to develop their own players. Surely it would be better to employ a good cricket coach and have a good youth set up that feeds into the adult teams. It would be money better spent and local cricket would surely improve rather than spending money on professionals for quick success with no substance. It is something to think about.

THANKS

As this report traditionally starts with the weather it also traditionally ends with thanks. Firstly to Cuckney Cricket Club, to Bob Little and the most important Cuckney member Sharon who looks after our refreshment needs. To Paul Barker for his unstinting efforts in persuading speakers to come in the depths of winter for very little reward. Our President, Chairman, Appointments Secretary (a thankless job) and Committee members for the giving of their time and effort. To Gary France, the League Secretary, for the help and assistance that he gives me and the diplomatic way in which he does it, and finally Ladies and Gentlemen for all of your efforts, I know I say it every year but without you there is no meaningful cricket.

Thank you.



Ervin Devney
Hon Secretary/Treasurer



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

Aims

- 1 To create and maintain a spirit of comradeship
- 2 To secure uniformity of action
- 3 To improve the efficiency of all umpires
- 4 To endeavour to raise the standard of conduct in League Cricket in every possible manner

Constitution

- 1 That this Association be called the Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association.
- 2 The Association shall be governed by a President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Appointments Secretary and a Committee of ten, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3 Meetings shall be held on the first Saturday in each month from October to April inclusive or on any other dates to be decided by the committee.
- 4 The Annual General Meeting shall be held on the first Saturday in October each year
 - a Motions for the Agenda
 - b Nominations (duly proposed and seconded) for the Officials and the Committee
to be received in writing by the secretary at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
- 5 All registered umpires in the Bassetlaw League shall be members of the Association. All Supplementary Umpires will be classed as Honorary Members.
- 6 Membership shall be open to all duly appointed umpires of cricket leagues, in which neutral umpires officiate.
- 7 The Annual Subscription shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting and shall be subject to discount as agreed at the same Annual General Meeting
- 8 The Committee shall meet before each monthly meeting is held and at such other times as may be considered necessary to transact business.
- 9 Should an umpire find it necessary to report any matter to the League Secretary, (s)he must also send a copy of any such report to the Association Secretary
- 10 Any change of address shall be notified immediately to the Association Secretary and Appointments Secretary
- 11 The Appointments Secretary shall make appointments for all league matches, the Harry Tomlins Trophy and The John J Mallen Trophy and all other matches as arranged by the Bassetlaw & District Cricket League.
- 12 **INSURANCE:** claimants must be bona fide members of the Association. All claims should be accompanied by a medical certificate (where appropriate) and/or other such evidence as necessary and sent to the Association Secretary as soon as possible.
- 13 No new umpire shall officiate in a Bassetlaw League match until (s)he has satisfied the Committee that (s)he has an adequate knowledge of both the laws of cricket and the Bassetlaw League rules. All Umpires must have a current valid CRB certificate.
- 14 Any umpire can be removed from the registered list at the discretion of the Association's Committee. The member so removed shall have a right of appeal to the Association's Committee.
- 15 Should any question arise not covered by this Constitution, the Committee shall have full power to deal with same.
- 16 No alteration to this Constitution shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting.
- 17 **EACH MEMBER SHALL BE IN POSSESSION OF A COPY OF THIS CONSTITUTION.**

(Which can be downloaded from the Association website).