



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

Minutes of a Meeting Held at Cuckney CC on Saturday 2nd April 2011 at 2:30pm

Present. 42 members were present.

Apologies: A Astling, A Bennett, J Fitz-Henry, J Garton, B Haynes, D Hodgkin, T Munro, J Penrose, and J Singleton.

Minutes of previous meeting. These had been published on the website and were taken as read and confirmed.

Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

Correspondence.

- Tom Munro – 19 successful candidates on Level 1 course.
- Tom Munro – 7 successful candidates on Level 2c course.
- A further email from John Leafe, County Welfare Officer, regarding CRB. The fee for CRB will increase to £44; this will have no effect on individual members as this is sourced by the ECB.
- Confirmation had been received from Marshall Wooldridge Ltd that the insurance premium had been paid.

Any other Business: There was no other business.

Handbook Amendments:

The old entry for Ransome & Marles on page 19 should be deleted; there is a new entry for Newark Ransome & Marles on page 17 which has the correct details.

Rose Leisure has changed their Secretary and the details have been included in the handbook on a small insert. The new Secretary is Geoff Hopkinson Tel: 01427 811167.

Guest Speakers:

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Iain O'Brien;

Iain Edward O'Brien was born July 10th 1976, Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand. A former New Zealand, Wellington, Middlesex, Leicestershire and Glapwell Colliery player.

The Chairman introduced Iain as follows; A Fast Medium Bowler, Iain played his first test in 2005. In all he played 22 test matches and took 73 wickets. He spent many seasons playing in the Bassetlaw League with Glapwell Colliery and is well known to many of us. Iain is now married to an English girl and lives locally in Matlock.

He retired from Test Cricket in 2009 and joined Middlesex in the belief that he would be classed as an English resident. Unfortunately things didn't work out as he had hoped and the ECB

continue to class him as an overseas player. No doubt Iain will talk about that later. One plus point for Iain is that Ricky Ponting doesn't like him, hopefully he will talk about that too.

He is a well known 'blogger' and 'tweeter', and also commentates on TV and radio.

Iain began by saying he was a pretty serious kind of guy so not to expect too many jokes this afternoon.

Cricket has been his job for 12 years now, he began his first class career with Wellington aged 24½ nearly 25 in 2004 and made his test debut at 28, which is very late compared with here. If you're not in the system by the age of 17 or 18 in England then there is very little chance that you will get the opportunity to play at County level. He felt that English County Cricket was missing out on a lot of talent at league level.

His test debut was a two test series against Australia and he didn't perform well and thought that would be it, two tests and no more. He was very proud of the fact that he got 20 more tests with New Zealand, he felt that showed he'd got something about him. He worked hard at his game and tried to improve. He made a conscious decision to improve his batting, not by scoring runs but by being able to occupy the crease and build partnerships with the better batsmen in the team. He worked on not getting out to the bouncer which he simply hated facing. One of his favourite stats is the 4th or 5th longest duck in test cricket at 76 balls, he was proud of that because it helped his team he and Brendon McCullum put on 76 in 50 minutes and he was abused by the Aussies, not bad.

He talked about the pressure on test players, and the number of them who suffer depression. The self-doubt which surrounds all players from time to time that adds to those pressures. Sport Psychologists are now part of the 'back room' staff for every test playing country. He used the New Zealand squad Sports Psychologist and found it beneficial, so much so that he still occasionally goes back to him to help him with his game.

He is immensely proud of what he has achieved and to be successful at something you love doing is a great feeling.

There followed a Q & A session, Iain retired basically to have a family, his wife living in England meant he had to walk away even after having had his best series ever having taken 15 wickets against Pakistan in a three series. Asked about Ricky Ponting, he said it began at Adelaide, Ponting was 77 not out and at Adelaide when you get to that you should go on to 140 at least. He got him out, caught at midwicket by the tallest man on the field, no one else would have caught it, and he just reminded Ricky that he had "***** missed out" no more than that just a passing comment, Ricky didn't like it and has held a grudge ever since. He was disappointed that he is classed by the ECB as an overseas player, married to an English girl and living here. If he had married someone from another European Union Country he would have been able to play. That's how ridiculous the rules are! Iain had enjoyed his time playing in the Bassetlaw with Glapwell and had made many friends there. He wondered what we as umpires felt about the review system, he liked it, and it had proved that the umpires were generally right, in the discussion that followed it showed just how difficult it was to get every decision right. Asked if he felt batsmen should 'walk' or not he said it was entirely up to the individual, in every dressing room he had been in no pressure was put on anyone either way.

With that the Chairman asked the meeting to show their appreciation in the usual way.

Date and time of next meeting. This will be the AGM 1st October 2011, 2.30pm at Cuckney Cricket Club.