



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

Minutes of a Meeting Held at Cuckney CC on Saturday 7th January 2012 at 2:30pm

Present. 42 members were present.

Apologies: A Astling, A Bennett, D Blizzard, R Dodd, J Fitz-Henry, R Hepworth, D Hodgkin, J Penrose, C Russell and B Wilson.

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

Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

Correspondence.

- John Leafe – Email relating to a problem highlighted by TMG where some verifiers, for whatever reason, have been authorizing CRB without the applicant being present! This must not happen and is totally unethical if not also illegal.
- Copies of a leaflet for the ACO Training Programme had been received and were available to members.

Sponsorship:

The Secretary reported that he had attended a meeting last Thursday, together with John Leaning, of a League Management Sub-Committee formed to discuss sponsorship.

Fred Clarke had reported on the position to-date.

Five of the nine Divisional sponsors had been signed up; the other four should be finalized within the next two weeks.

The Reader Ball discount and sponsorship was in place at £2500.

The Umpires sponsorship was scheduled to sign up by Tuesday of next week. The sponsorship would be for £5000 per annum for the next three years! As agreed at the last meeting we would supply each umpire with a new Umpires Coat with the appropriate Logo's and if possible a shirt again with logo's. These coats and shirts must be worn when officiating at any Bassetlaw & District Cricket League appointed match. The Secretary agreed to obtain quotes from local companies.

The two cup competitions will also be sponsored for £1000 each; again this is in the process of being completed as is the Handbook sponsorship which amounts to £2500.

The total sponsorship to the League would be £21000 per annum of which £5000 would be available to the Umpires.

At the League AGM there had been talk of a dispensation for some clubs who had stocks of balls available from last season and some who had already ordered match balls for the coming season. The League Secretary, Mr Gary France, outlined the position of the League. Any club who wished to use balls other than the approved Reader ball must write to the League for permission to do so. The league will inform the Umpires Association which clubs are allowed to use non Reader balls and for how long that dispensation will last. Should a club without dispensation use a non Reader ball then the umpires must allow the match to proceed but

report to the Association Secretary and the League Secretary that a ball not in accordance with the League Rules had been used.

Any other Business:

The training commencing on Monday had 8 candidates for level 1A and 6 for level 1. Gerry hoped that there would be more turn up on the night.

There was no other business.

Guest Speakers:

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Chris Grant and Tom Poyton.

Chris Grant – Chris is Chairman of Derbyshire County Cricket Club. Chris took over the role of Chairman in April, he had already made a highly successful career for himself in banking and finance in the City and he succeeded Don Amott as Chairman after the club made a loss of £187,000 in 2010. His first season showed a massive improvement with the club rising from wooden spoonists in Division Two in 2010 to 5th place in 2011. He has introduced a new policy which is encouraging Derbyshire youngsters and giving chances to them rather than to players signed from other counties. He has already laid in place a nine point plan for the improvement of the club which will hopefully complete the rejuvenation of Derbyshire County Cricket Club.

Chris began by explaining his background; he was born in Alvaston, Derbyshire in 1969. As a youngster he played for several local cricket clubs before going to Loughborough University and from there to work in banking in the City of London. He was able in 2007 to retire from banking and moved back to Swarkstone, Derbyshire. His home is only 200 yards from Swarkstone Cricket Club. He joined Swarkstone CC and assisted them in finding finance to build a new pavilion and for other projects. About this time Don Amott invited him to get involved at Derbyshire and he was co-opted on to the Committee; that was only 15 months ago. Don then resigned as Chairman and he was elected. He inherited a loss of £187,000 on a turnover of only £3,000,000 which cannot be described as a large business. The performance on the pitch was not acceptable. Whilst John Morris the then Head Coach was Derbyshire through and through he did not have the support of the dressing room. He therefore made the decision to change the coach. Karl Krikken was appointed Head Coach. He also found that young Derbyshire cricketers were not being given a chance at first team level. The decision was made to back young home grown players and a nine point plan was introduced, obviously players had to be good enough to play county cricket. The introduction of this plan would ultimately result by 2013 season in playing 9 England qualified players and 2 non England qualified players per game. That didn't mean that all the England qualified players would be Derbyshire born or even British!

Chris then introduced Tom Poynton and invited Tom to talk about his pathway to County Cricket. Tom started in Village cricket and progress to such an extent that he was chosen for Derbyshire Under 10's as a bowler! He continued through the age groups culminating at 16 in getting into the Derbyshire Academy. He made his first class debut at 17. Now has a three year contract with defined targets to aim for. This is what Derbyshire are trying to achieve for all their younger players.

Chris had then overhauled the financial situation the loss had to be eliminated and explained that they were a members club and provided the club broke even then that was acceptable. Players were put on the approved ECB minimum wage at least and given adequate contracts. He was delighted with the personnel on the coaching staff and had established a £25,000 specialist coaching fund. This would be used to bring in the best coaches in batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping to give individual coaching to players. The financial situation has

allowed Derbyshire to look for decent overseas signings. This sounds easier than it is. Overseas players no longer need to play County Cricket to make a living when they can earn a small fortune playing in the IPL for 8 weeks, this is affecting every County.

For next season Chris has set the club targets of winning 6 County Championship games and qualifying for one of the group stages of the one day competitions, these are not excessive targets and well within the scope of the team. He closed by saying that he had enjoyed his first year as Chairman and was looking forward with increased optimism to the challenges ahead. He thanked the Association for inviting him and felt honoured to have been asked.

There then followed a question and answer session.

Is the start of the season too early? This is entirely due to SKY TV wanting to have games on every night of the week; yes it is too early but money talks and SKY contribute a vast amount of money to Cricket they provide £68,000,000 out of £160,000,000 total ECB budget. How will you monitor young cricketers in the County? We have brought the County Club and the Derbyshire Cricket Board closer together. A J Harris, second X1 coach, has written to every League Club to inform the club if they have any player who may be of interest to the County Club. The ECB? Big supporter of the ECB what has been achieved at National Team level is tremendous. The problem for English cricket is the debt that County clubs are carrying of £180,000,000 and if interest rates increase then there could be serious problems. Decision Review System? Excellent, shows that the Umpires are virtually always right. Duckworth Lewis? No idea!! 20/Twenty? Vital for clubs financially but 4 day and Test cricket are the pinnacle.

There being no other questions the Chairman asked the meeting to show their appreciation in the usual way and the meeting closed at 4.15pm.

Date and time of next meeting. This will be the 4th February 2012, 2.30pm at Cuckney Cricket Club.