



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

Notes of an Umpires Training Meeting Held at Cuckney CC on Saturday 5th March 2011 at 2:30pm

There were 74 members present, an excellent turnout, with several apologies for absence.

The Chairman opened the meeting by introducing the individuals who would be addressing them today. There would be three features to the afternoon; The new laws and amendments presented by Gerry Graney; The changes to the League Disciplinary rules and introduction of the new report procedures and forms with Gary France the League Secretary; and finally Disciplinary Report writing presented by Peter McKenzie.

Gerry began by explaining the two laws not covered by the DVD he was about to play. The DVD was then played; the DVD had been produced by the MCC and showed various scenarios and how to deal with them under the new law changes. The majority of these changes had been brought about by the increased use of television replays and referrals in the international and first class games, which showed anomalies perhaps missed by the human eye.

At the conclusion of the DVD there was a short question and answer session where members highlighted a few contentious areas. A full copy of the law changes can be found in the Downloads section of the BDUA Website.

Gary France started by summarizing how the League and Umpires had met soon after the end of last season to discuss matters of mutual concern. One of the outcomes of this meeting was an agreement to amend the disciplinary procedures of the League. With this in mind, consideration was given to the introduction of an Accumulated Offence Form (AOF) which have been utilised in other leagues throughout the country. As part of this consultation exercise during the winter, discussions and examples gained from various leagues of AOF player behavioural offences were considered. The Bassetlaw League decided upon four elements of behaviour for inclusion on the Accumulated Offence Form. One of the major agreements was that, if a player had three AOF's in one season, they would be banned for three weeks with no appeals process in these circumstances. The outcome of all of this was that a proposal would be taken to the AGM for approval by the clubs. This item was included on the agenda of the AGM and passed by the clubs for implementation this season 2011.

None of the above should take away from the Umpire the ability to manage the game with a quite word here or there to players, it is hoped that this will nip any problems in the bud and stop behaviour deteriorating. These Forms are for when players ignore the Umpires requests to moderate their behaviour. The full Disciplinary Report is to be used for major breakdowns of behaviour, e.g. repeat offences of AOF's during a game, violence of any kind should be reported (hopefully we will never have to deal with this kind of behaviour), any serious breach of the leagues disciplinary rules and/or the Spirit of Cricket.

Gary then went on to explain the other changes to the Leagues disciplinary procedures, that if a player or club member is banned from playing for 'x' number of games then the team would be deducted that number multiplied by 3, e.g. 6 match ban x 3 = 18 point deduction. It is hoped

that this will encourage clubs to manage their players and members in such a way that their behaviour is exemplary. Suspended match bans will not now be part of the options available to the Disciplinary Committee, reducing the fines imposed on clubs will be the clubs reward for taking independent action. As of this season a member of the BDUA Committee will be part of the League Disciplinary Committee. All options allowed in the Leagues rules will be used by the Disciplinary Committee if it deems it necessary.

All of the above will be in the new seasons League Handbook.

Again there was a short Q & A session.

After a short natural break the Chairman called upon Peter McKenzie to take the meeting through a report writing tutorial. He highlighted the areas that the Disciplinary Committee needed to know; full and relevant facts, what YOU saw and heard, not what somebody told you at Tea or after the match, never report hearsay. He explained what the purpose of the report was; that you should always consult and agree with your partner, if you have one; what are the key elements of any report; to write in short sentences; always refer to the code of conduct, spirit of cricket, the laws etc.

Again there was a short Q & A session.