



## **Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association**

### **Minutes of a Meeting Held at Cuckney CC on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 2:30pm**

**Present.** 42 members were present.

**Apologies.** A Astling, A Bennett, R Dodd, M Griffiths, J Leaning, P McKenzie, J Penrose, K Scholes and J Singleton.

**Minutes of previous meeting.** Were confirmed.

**Matters Arising.** No matters arising.

#### **Correspondence.**

- **M Smedley** - Thanks for the presentation of the Crystal Decanter to mark his year as President of Notts CCC.

#### **Meeting with LMC.**

The Chairman gave a brief resume of the meeting which had taken place between the LMC and the Association Management Committee. The main points the Chairman highlighted was the agreement over the increase in the number of points to be deducted from offending teams in respect of weeks banned being multiplied by 3 to reach the number of points deducted. E.g. 4 match ban = 12 points deducted. The way to reward clubs for taking their own disciplinary action was to reduce the amount of fine imposed.

Accumulated Offence Form. We had tried to have this included on the Result sheet but the League were adamant that this should be a separate form. We did try to persuade them that most umpires will not complete a separate form but may have completed the result sheet to no avail. It is intended to have a meeting with all umpires in the New Year to discuss the Law Changes and the proposed new forms relating to discipline.

The Secretary advised the meeting that he had downloaded all of the Law changes and amendments on to the website, there were 63 pages to go through so plenty of reading over the Christmas Holidays.

#### **Any Other Business.**

Fred Clarke informed the meeting that he had attended another Umpires Association meeting recently in Yorkshire and the following incidents were mentioned; during the Yorkshire Council Final a bowler grabbed the batsman's helmet and dragged him to the floor and assaulted him. There was also an incident in the Yorkshire League where a batsman had hit the bowler with the bat. Obviously the umpires at the meeting were concerned and wanted to know what they should do if further incidents occurred. They passed a resolution that if any physical violence occurred during a match they would pull up the stumps and end the match, leaving it to the League Management Committee to deal with. The Chairman agreed that this would be

discussed with our League Management Committee and we would report back, but whatever action anyone took we would support them.

Alf Moffitt reported his concerns regarding the finances of the ACO. That the ECB had announced an increase in subscription charges to £30 per annum, also that the ECB had underwritten the shortfall in ACO finances by £188,000 in 2009 and an anticipated £210,000 in the current year. These amounts did not include salaries! What was the money being spent on? Unfortunately this meeting was unable to answer Alf's question as we were only affiliated to the ACO, the ECB ACO AGM was to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010 when the financial report would be available to all members. The best person to ask would, perhaps, be Peter McKenzie who was the Chairman of the Notts ACO Branch at our next meeting.

### ***Guest Speakers.***

The Chairman welcomed members from other leagues to the meeting and introduced Paul Pollard.

Paul began by thanking the members for inviting him and apologised in case he had said anything out of order in the past! Commenting on his inclusion on the first class reserve umpires list he started he had been asked 18 months ago to apply, he wondered why me, and was told that they thought he had the right character to do it! Discussing this with his umpire mentors he was told it was basically a question of concentration, just the same as playing, if you don't concentrate you miss something. He spoke with Chris Kelly and was fast tracked on courses and given a few games, and at the end of last season was told to apply. Which was quite a shock.

He got into Cricket by fluke. He had been a promising footballer with Forest Under 14's when he was injured playing for the Forest Under 17's at Sheffield Wednesday, as a consequence he was told he wouldn't be able to play football again. He was broken-hearted; it was all he had ever wanted to do. So he began playing Cricket in the nets at School, he was spotted there by the PE master Chris Evans who played for Gedling Village and he asked him to come along to Gedling on Sunday afternoon. Went along, no kit, just a pair of black trainers, batted at number 9 scored 30 odd, was then invited to Trent Bridge for trials with the Notts Under 14's. Ken Taylor must have seen something because he was included in the Under 14 squad. Within a year he had played for England Under 15's and Under 19's and then on the Notts staff. Ken stuck by him over the next two years when he hadn't scored a fifty for the seconds. He got into the first eleven and had won the championship in his first season.

After the end of his first season in the first eleven, he went to Australia, to play club cricket in Queensland. Greg Chappell saw him play and invited him to play for Queensland as their overseas player in the Standard Bank Cup semi final against New South Wales in Sydney. Went with the team to Sydney, no one spoke to him; on the plane, at the hotel or even at practice and he didn't even get a bat at practice. He was selected to play batting at No.6. 58,000 crowd. They field, first ball of the match Paul is in the covers, miss-fields the first ball, 4. Then all they kept doing was showing it on the big screen for the rest of the innings! NSW got 220. Queensland 30 odd for 4 Paul goes in and for the first 20 minutes couldn't hit a ball. Then everything just clicked and runs came got to 80ish and with 7 wickets down and 12 to win he played a terrible shot and got out. That's when it dawned on him what this game was about, as a professional it's your job to win the game; he felt he had let the team down. Queensland won on the last ball. Their overseas player returned and Paul didn't play in the final. It was the only game he played for Queensland.

As a player you always want to contribute and be in the game, as an umpire it's the total opposite you don't want to be noticed. He felt that this was the hardest part for him of being an umpire to be part of the game but not in the game. Whether he would get a 'buzz' from

umpiring, just standing out there for hours and hours without seeming to do anything. After having spoken to the late David Shepherd he decided that perhaps he could become an umpire.

Paul then mentioned discipline, and he was adamant that sledging and poor behaviour does not happen at the highest level of the game; he never experienced it in all his time in first class cricket. You get the odd idiot, and he named a few, and they are as nice as pie off the field, but in general there are no problems in first class cricket. The problems are lower down. Minor Counties is shocking! He felt the behaviour in the Notts Premier was equally poor. Below that it starts to get better.

Paul finished with a few of his career highlights at the expense of Paul Johnson!! Won every major domestic honour before the age of 22, no other player as ever done that. Youngest player to score a 1000 runs for Notts, Paul Johnson hates him for that! Paul said that if you ever see John just ask him! Previously held the record one day highest score for Notts, ask John, but John got it back. Derek Randall great bloke, crackers! Once took him to Worcester in the car, he got in fully kitted out, pads everything, he was breaking his kit in.

There followed a question and answer session.

Asked about the year he topped the Notts averages, Paul agreed that he didn't want the season to end. He talked about not being in form, and wondering where the next run would come from, that's when you need a bit of luck. Test players need to play more County games to maintain form and fitness. He commented that professional clubs do not take league cricket seriously enough. He would sooner play than net. In his day a lot of Notts players played league cricket when they didn't have a match. Now a day's not so, young professionals get there 30's and 40's, 2 or 3 wickets and that's it, what are they bringing to the club? It's not good enough they should be averaging 80 and taking 4 or 5 wickets. An amateur club in Nottingham paid £26,000 in wages last year, how do they do that? What good has that done that club? He spoke of the present Notts side and the good young players establishing themselves, it helps to have good players around you and Notts have. Spoke about England's changes. He asked if we would win the Ashes, Australia were there for the taking, they are finding ways to lose games. He though Abdul Qadir was the best spin bowler he ever faced. He once asked Glen McGrath what he did when he bowled; he said he just bowled to stop the batsman scoring. Paul thought Shane Warne was a genius. He coached with Denis Lilley in India and he was a fantastic. Richard Hadlee another great bowler, he told them not to appeal unless it was definitely out; Andy Pick said he would never appeal if that was the case.

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

The meeting closed at 4.20pms

***Date and time of next meeting.*** 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010, 2.30pm at Cuckney Cricket Club.