

**Minutes of
Bath and District Youth Cricket League
Annual General Meeting
15th January 2008**

Meeting commenced at 7.35

1. Roll Call

Bath, Biddestone, Bradford Town, Brislington (*seeking election*), Canal Taverners, Chew Magna (*seeking election*), Chippenham, Corsham, Frome, Hampset, Hinton Charterhouse, Keynsham, Lansdown, Midsomer Norton, Peasedown St John, Purnells, Rode, Shoscombe, Stothert and Pitt, Temple Cloud, Trowbridge, Warminster, Westbury, Winsley, Brian Harrington (President), Martyn Webb (Chairman), Jonathan Flagg (Secretary and League Administrator), John Nicholas (Treasurer), plus other guests (c15)

2.1 Apologies for Absence

Bathford, Timsbury

2.2 Absent without Apology

None

3 Minutes of Previous AGM, January 2007

The Minutes of the last AGM had been previously circulated and it was recommended by the League Management Board to accept them as a true record.

Proposed by: Rode

Seconded by: Keynsham

4. Matters Arising

There was no Matters Arising from the previous AGM or from other League business that would not be covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the Member Clubs' for their attendance and for participating in another successful season in 2007.

Martyn Webb continued stating that it was clear from the all the statistics and general commentary that the League was going from strength to strength and that the surge in teams that participated in the under 11 age group a few years back was now flowing through into the older age groups. This reflected positively on the league and local cricket, where the BDYCL is providing competitions, encouraging high participation but also creating an environment for development. However, the secret would be ensuring that the young people playing in the BYDCL feed through into adult cricket teams and continue playing the game despite many other challenges on their time.

The Chairman thanked the League Officers for their hard work, the League Sponsors, Target Accountants for their continued support, Keynsham for hosting the Cup Finals day and to Bath CC for allowing the League to use their facilities for the meeting.

The Chairman encouraged attendees to participate in the meeting and take the opportunity to feedback on their experiences of the season. A few additional and new volunteers would not go amiss but people's work within their own clubs was recognised and respected.

6. Secretary and League Administrator's Report

The Secretary and League Administrator's Report was circulated to Member Clubs and is appended to these Minutes. A roll of honour for the 2007 season and final league tables were also circulated.

Statistics regarding the league growth in recent times was shared and this reflected very positively on the strength of cricket in the local area. We have seen a growth in teams in our Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 age groups rise from 51 to a projected 94 in 2008 season and this excluded significant amounts of cricket played at Under 9 that was non-existence 5 or 6 years ago.

Season 2007 was blighted by the substantial loss of cricket to the weather during a season that had more than its fair share of rain. However, with the Member Clubs already fielding many teams and stretching resources this vindicated the League's rules to share points in the event a fixture is lost to weather, as it wasn't considered viable to rearrange and play over a 100 fixtures.

Otherwise feedback during the season was very positive and rarely negative, which was a general sign that everyone was pretty content with the League.

It was also pleasing to note the general spirit and fair play amongst Member Clubs continued to improve year on year and be very strong. The "win at all costs" mentality and Club's acting with pure self interest had left the League and was replaced by a good teamwork and the priority of encouraging high participation.

7. Treasurer's Report, Sponsorship and Subscriptions

The League Accounts for the Financial Year Ending 31st December 2007 were distributed to the AGM attendees and are appended to these Minutes.

John Nicholas, the League Treasurer remarked that the League's financial situation was healthy and in 2007 a surplus of £164.65 of Income over Expenditure was achieved.

Expenditure on trophies was the only significant change from the previous years figures and this was explained by the investment in a new perpetual Under 15 Knockout Cup Trophy (included backdated engraving of previous winners) and the re-introduction of an Under 15 Plate Competition, which brought about expenditure on associates mementoes.

Cup Final Expenses incurred related to fees charged by the Bristol Umpires Association for the provision of umpires.

The BDYCL remained hugely indebted to Target Chartered Accountants who helped balance the books and help the League invest in cricket.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his hard work and asked for the Accounts to be accepted by the meeting as a fair and true record of the League's financial performance and position.

Proposed by: Shoscombe

Seconded by: Peasedown St John

Sponsorship:

Whilst no formal confirmation had been received, the Treasurer was delighted to announce that the current League Sponsors, Target Chartered Accountants, were intending to extend their sponsorship of the League for the coming season.

Subscriptions:

It was recommended by the Treasurer, to the Member Clubs, that subscriptions should be maintained at their current level for the 2008 Season.

Proposed by: Midsomer Norton

Seconded by: Warminster

This proposal was carried by a majority vote of the Member Clubs.

A counter proposal to consider waiving subscriptions for the 2008 season was offered to the Member Clubs was proposed by Hampset Cricket Club in view of the League's good financial position. However, after a short debate it this motion carried little interest.

It was noted that the current subscription levels are fair and reasonable and in the absence of volunteers to take official positions with the League, it was prudent to. It was also mooted that it is unlikely to be palatable to our current or any future sponsors to make significant financial contribution to the League's efforts

The Chairman and Treasurer concluded by adding that the Management Board are happy to consider applying some the League's accumulated funds in furtherance of youth cricket in the area. If anyone required financial support to run courses, events, tournaments then any requests would be welcome and considered appropriately.

8. Election of New Member Clubs

The Member Clubs had previously been advised of applications for Membership from Brislington Cricket Club (1 x Under 11 team) and Chew Magna (1 x Under 15 team).

Applications were approved by a majority vote of Member Clubs in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed Chew Magna and Brislington into the BDYCL.

9. Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Playing Rules

The League Management Board's proposals for changes to the League's Constitution and Playing Rules were circulated to Member Clubs ahead of the meeting and are appended to these Minutes in full, although, can be summarised as follows:

- Introduction of a Child Welfare Statement within the Constitution, including the creation of a League Child Welfare Officer, adoption by the League the ECB Safe Hands Policy and adoption/implementation of the same policy by all Member Clubs.
- Change to league subscriptions collection process so as to become due on or before the pre-season meeting.
- Playing rule change – the Under 11 8-a-side rules would be amended so that the loss of a wicket would result in the deduction of 5 runs from the batting team total rather than 8 runs.

These revisions were proposed by the Management Board, seconded by Warminster and accepted by the Meeting en bloc.

10. Election of Officers

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconded
President	Brian Harrington	Peasedown St. John	Rode
Chairman	Martyn Webb	Warminster	Bath
Secretary	Jonathan Flagg	Hampset	Shoscombe
Treasurer	John Nicholas	Winsley	Keynsham
League Administrator	Jonathan Flagg	Bath	Hinton Charterhouse
Child Welfare Officer	Phil Hall	Rode	Hampset
Cup Administrator	None	<i>Left Vacant</i>	
Press Officer	None	<i>Left Vacant</i>	

There was only one nomination for each of the filled positions above and no Cup Administrator or Press Officer was forthcoming from the floor. It was agreed that these positions would be left vacant with the League's Management Board empowered to co-opt or elect people into these positions where appropriate.

The Chairman expressed the need for Member Clubs to encourage volunteers to support the League's activities as the current Officials were extremely stretched and that there was a lack of succession.

11. League, Cup and Under 9 Structures for 2008

The League Administrator circulated the League Entries received so far together with a draft of the league set-up and fixtures dates.

The Under 13 – League One was particularly under-subscribed with only 5 teams provisionally entered. Warminster agreed to move into League One but despite no other teams forthcoming it was agreed to run this League with 6 teams, each playing each other twice on a home and away basis.

Otherwise, the League structure was as per previous seasons with a relatively natural geographical split.

The 2008 Season is due to commence on 28 April and will extend into late July/early August depending on the individual league. It was agreed that this provided the right amount of cricket without overstretching resources or cricketers.

These proposals were accepted by the meeting and the League Administrator asked for any amendments to be advised to him by 25th January.

Once finalised, the entries and league structure would be circulated and then fixtures would be drawn by mid-February.

Whilst the entries to the league competition had been very well conducted by all cup entries were more haphazard. The League Administrator would be emailing Member Clubs requesting entries for both the League Cup and National Knock Out Qualifier

Clubs were reminded that once fixtures are drawn, they can move any fixtures by mutual agreement with their opposition and with the scope and size of the league, fixture clashes would be inevitable.

Under 9s was discussed and it was agreed to continue on a similar basis whereby individual clubs would look to host tournaments. The League Administrator asked that any events being held are advised to the League for its records and also was happy to act as a communication conduit.

12. Any Other Business

Calendar Dates and Pre-season Meeting – JF reminded everybody of the calendar dates and obligations of Member Clubs. Provided everybody did what they had to do then publication of fixtures and the handbook would take place as promised. It was mentioned that the pre-season meeting arranged for 8th April fell in the “Easter School Holiday” and this may create a problem. It was agreed to bring forward a week and will now be held on 1st April 2008

Inter League Cricket with Wiltshire Youth Cricket League – Chris Sykes, Chairman of Wiltshire Youth Cricket League, was keen to re-establish some inter-league cricket and would look to

start with a under 11 match between the Wiltshire Youth Cricket League winners in that age group and the winner (or highest non-Wiltshire team) of the BDYCL Under 11 League on 31st August. 2008. It was the general consensus that inter-league cricket would be welcome but would need more volunteers. It was agreed to explore opportunities and appetite during the season.

Sponsorship- John Nicholas appealed to all Member Clubs to publicise our Sponsors, Target Chartered Accountants, wherever possible in their match reports and within their Clubs.

Playing Eligibility – a question was asked of the rules on the playing of players in more than one team in the same age-group at one Club. The rules on this are very specific in that this should not happen, however, if the result was fixture not being played due to a lack of players rather having a game played, the latter would always been the preference. Provided that this takes place within the spirit of the league and is not to gain and competitive advantage and the opposition are advised and in agreement in advance, then this would not be a problem.

Wickets- there was currently some confusion over appropriate wickets sizes and equipment generally. Jon Flagg agreed to circulate the ECB recommendations.

Hampset Numbers – Adrian Jeffrey commented that Hampset was experiencing high levels of applications from junior players for membership, which could not be fulfilled. Any Member Club in the area that had capacity should contact Adrian and he would happily divert interest.

First Aid Course – Bath CC had a growing need for First Aid qualifications across their coaches and volunteers but this was currently unfulfilled with courses that had been arranged by various bodies. JF asked for an interest across Member Clubs for this type of course to be advised to him.

Website – The League Administrator advised the AGM that some progress had been made since the post-season meeting and the initial feedback had been very positive. Any email communications would now include links to the relevant sections of the website rather than circulation sizeable documents and if this creates a problem, then please let the league know.

Minutes – The League President pleaded to the Meeting to offer some support to the Secretary / League Administrator who not only is fulfilling several roles but is also minuting the events. This fell on deaf ears!

The Meeting closed at 9.15.