

BATH & DISTRICT
YOUTH CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes

Post Season Meeting

9 October 2007

Present

Bath, Biddestone, Canal Taverners, Corsham, Frome, Hampset, Hinton Charterhouse, Lansdown, Midsomer Norton, Peasedown St John, Shoscombe, Stothert and Pitt, Temple Cloud, Timsbury, Trowbridge, Winsley, Martyn Webb (Chairman), Jon Flagg (League Administrator / League Secretary), John Nicholas (Treasurer)

Absent with Apology

Chippenham, Keynsham, Purnells, Rode, Warminster, Westbury, Brian Harrington (President)

Absent without Apology

Bathford, Bradford Town

Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

- The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the Member Clubs for their attendance and for participating in another successful season. The purpose of the meeting was to report on the season but also to get feedback ideas to make improvements to aspects of the League.
- The Chairman thanked the League Officers for their hard work, the League Sponsors, Target Accountants for their continued support, to 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 from their experiences of the season.

Secretary / League Administrators Season Review

- Jon Flagg shared his season report as appended to these minutes and is self-explanatory.
- A key theme was the 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.
- There was very little adverse feedback during the season, which was a general sign that everyone was pretty content with the League.
- The general spirit and fair play amongst 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 giving access to as many young people to play cricket as possible.

Roll of Honour and Presentation of League and Cup Trophies

- The league trophies were presented to the winning clubs' representatives.
- A roll of honour for the season is contained within the above report, as appended to these minutes.

- A new trophy for the Under 15 Cup had been purchased and engraved as the previous cup was in a poor state. It is the intention of the League to replace the Under 13 Cup in the near future. The League Officers agreed to name the cup the Target Accountants Knock Out Cup due to their kind support of the League.
- This was won by Chippenham and Biddestone agree to collect and pass on.
- The shared Under 11 – 8 a side trophy, which was won jointly by Lansdown Sabres and Hinton Charterhouse, was taken by Lansdown and will be handed over at the AGM or pre-season meeting next year.

Financial Report

- The League's Financial Year End is 31 October 2007 and final accounts are yet to be produced.
- However, John Nicholas estimated that there would be a surplus of around £300 in the year and the resources.
- The Treasurer thanked Target for their significant support of the League, which enabled the League to prosper and maintain good levels of solvency.

Open Forum

Under 9 Kwik Cricket

- This was discussed and it was agreed that the current arrangements, albeit very loose, would continue with Clubs creating effective local hubs to organise various Kwik Cricket events on Sunday mornings through the season.
- Any events would be advertised across the Member Clubs to encourage participation and there was certainly a lot of experience around the Clubs and best practices that could be shared if any clubs were looking to establish a Kwik Cricket section at their Clubs or host an event an any one time.
- There continues to be a wish for an Under 9 Kwik Cricket Co-ordinator to help with communications and support events but there was nobody from the floor forthcoming.
- It was the consensus that those Clubs that had established Under 9 sections and run events had received good support from parents and provided a good opportunity to introduce new players and volunteers to their clubs and also provide a potential commercial income stream
- Experience from the Wiltshire base clubs was that whilst events in their area, whilst well organised but had overly competitive and too serious and the theme of encouraging participation and enjoying

Under 11 – 8 a side rules

- The League had received some feedback that the deduction of 8 runs for a dismissal in this form of cricket was considered too punitive. This was considered to be having a negative impact on the weaker players / team morale and driving the opposite behaviours that the game format is desired to have
- After a constructive it was agreed that a proposal for a change to the League Rules would be proposed at the AGM to amend the penalty to a deduction of 5 runs.
- A simple majority vote of the Member Clubs as to continue with the current rule or make this revision would decide the outcome.

League Structure

- Discussed but no changes were thought necessary or proposed.
- The tiering of the Under 15 and Under 13 leagues had fully bedded down and was considered a great success and provided ideal opportunities for all whilst providing balanced and competitive cricket.
- Jon Flagg indicated that the Under 11 – 11 a side league may need to be split if there were many more teams applying for this league.

Pre-season Meeting

- Whilst the absence of the meeting in 2007 appeared to have no adverse affect, it was still considered to be a worthwhile event.
- It was agreed to continue this event in 2008.

Potential New Member Club

- The League had received an approach from Chew Magna Cricket Club to enter an Under 15 side in the League in 2008 and would be seeking election and the League Secretary asked if there is likely to be any objection to their application.
- There was no negative comment from the floor and the formal application and election to the League as a Member Club would be considered at the AGM in accordance with the League Constitution.

Late Payment of League Subscriptions

- The League Treasurer and League Secretary were disappointed to report that despite the League Subscription Invoices being issued in April with the League Handbooks around 10 Member Clubs had not paid there League Fees by the due date and furthermore 6 remained outstanding as late as August.
- It was agreed that this was unacceptable and for ease of administration, it would be proposed at the AGM that the League Subscriptions will become due and paid immediately at the pre-season meeting.
- A change to the League Constitution would be proposed at the League AGM to take immediate effect for the 2008 season.

Timing of entries and release of fixtures

- Jon Flagg was concerned that Club's Fixture Secretaries and administrators were growingly troubled by the lack of availability of BDYCL fixtures but this was dictated by the closing date for entries. If fixtures were required earlier then we would need to move the closing date to December and hold the League AGM earlier.
- Fixtures were published 20th February this year.
- It was agreed that provided the fixtures were available by mid-February of 2008, then this would be acceptable.

Vacant League Officer Positions

- Jon Flagg stressed that whilst his current role was operable and the key matters were being dealt with, there was a lack of succession and perhaps the role was too big to find a replacement. Jon also commented that some opportunities for the League and improving it might well be missed due to a lack of resource.
- Volunteer help was still sought in areas such as media reports, co-ordinating Under 9 Cricket, helping with administration / secretarial work, cup organiser, setting-up and managing a website
- It is incumbent upon the Member Clubs to support the League with volunteer help to continue its worthwhile function and it was left with the Member Clubs to continue to publicise and seek support within their clubs.

Any Other Business

- *Website* – Jon Flagg still expressed that this was very much desired but the lack of resources/support meant that it was unlikely to happen in the immediate future but he would do his best to work on this over the winter. With the surplus of League funds and importance of this amongst Member Clubs but the lack of resource / volunteers, it may be worth paying a small fee to kick this project off.
- *Presentation Night* – whilst this operates successfully in other youth leagues, the general consensus is that we aren't losing a great deal by not having one and that with the lack of volunteer help it wasn't particularly achievable in any event. It was agreed to continue