

**Minutes of The Annual General Meeting of
THE BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE
held at Moseley Cricket Club
on Wednesday 21st January, 2009 at 8.00 p.m.**

Present:

All present signed the attendance register – a copy is held by The General Manager (GM)

Before the meeting commenced, **The Chairman** requested a minute's silence in memory of Malcolm F. White (Walsall C.C.) a Past President and former Hon. Treasurer of the League, who passed away, the previous week.

GM conducted a roll call of Clubs and all 48 Members were present.

1. Apologies:

S.J. Baker (Halesowen C.C. and Management Board Representative)
S. Derham (Old Hill C.C.)
M. Mansell (Kidderminster Victoria C.C. and Vice-President BDPCL)
K.W. Wilkinson (Kidderminster Victoria C.C. and President-Elect BDPCL)

2. Minutes of A.G.M. held on 23rd January 2008:

The minutes of last year's A.G.M. have been available to download from the League Website, since 7th January, 2009. **Chairman** proposed that they were taken as read and his proposal was seconded by **Phil Budd (Olton & W.W. C.C.)**. All present were in favour.

3. Matters Arising:

Nil

4. Chairman's Report:

A copy of the report has been available to download from the League Website, since 7th January, 2009. **Chairman** said he would not go through the report verbatim, but he did wish to congratulate Walsall C.C. on its third successive Premier Division title. He, also, referred to Brian May (Stratford-upon-Avon C.C.) who totalled 1136 runs (average 142.00) in Division One. He commended Clubs on the improvements recorded on the disciplinary front, during the season, and he sympathised with Worcestershire C.C.C., who, again, encountered problems with flooding, at New Road. Finally, he proposed a vote of thanks to the General Manager of the League, Nick Archer, and his fellow members of the Management Board, for "keeping the League at the forefront of League cricket in U.K." **Chairman** proposed that the remainder of the report was taken, as read, and all present were in favour.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report & Accounts:

A copy of the Accounts for the year ending 30th September, 2008, has been available to download from the League Website, since 7th January, 2009. **Hon. Treasurer** reported that, for the first time since the League was formed, in 1998, he has recorded a loss (£1,452.00). Income decreased by £7,000.00, due to smoothing of sponsorship monies, over a further 12 month period, and £7,000.00 will be carried forward to next year's accounts. He remarked how disappointing it was that accreditation fees from ECB had remained static since 1998, i.e. £1250.00 to each Premier Division Club and a £1,500.00 administration fee to the League. He expressed hope that an increase would be forthcoming in 2009, but he was far from certain.

The incentive payments to Premier Division Clubs, for fielding players under the age of 21, will not be available in 2009. There was a small amount of income from Bank Interest but this is likely to dwindle, further, in 2009. The League's money is with HSBC and he believed that it is, fairly, safe. Expenditure rose to £52,000.00, a rise of £1,200.00; a loss on the 2007 Annual Dinner accounted for much of that rise. The most recent Dinner, held in October 2008, reversed the situation and **Hon. Treasurer** expects to record a small profit on the event. The costs for the newly inaugurated Twenty20 Finals Day were £1,022.00 and he expressed the League's thanks to Kidderminster Victoria C.C., for staging the day, and to Birmingham Midshires, who covered the costs of coloured clothing, for the four teams and Umpires. The kit will be held by **GM** for use in future years. The Balance Sheet was strong, just over £35,000.00 and in September, 2008, liquid resources amounted to £50,000.00. Despite the strength of the Balance Sheet, he warned against complacency, confirming that the three year agreement with Birmingham Midshires ends in March, 2010. In the current economic climate, it will not be easy to find a new sponsor and he forecast a tough year ahead. The accounts have been, independently, reported and audited by **John Cox (Walsall C.C. and Whitehouse Ridsdale)**. In answer to a question posed by **Andy Barnard (Shrewsbury C.C.)**, he confirmed that the League made an annual plea for extra money from ECB, due to its strength as a Regional League, but had been turned down at every request. **GM** said that he has seen correspondence that leads him to believe that the administration fee will rise to £3,000.00, in 2009, subject to meeting improved criteria. **Claire Easter (Harborne C.C.)** proposed and **Phil Budd (Olton & W.W. C.C.)** seconded that the Accounts were adopted and all present were in favour.

6. Appointment of Auditor:

Hon. Treasurer thanked John Cox for his services and reported that Mr Cox has indicated his willingness to stand, again, at the same fee (£nil). **Hon. Treasurer** proposed and **Alan Neal (Old Hill C.C.)** seconded the proposal that Mr Cox is re-appointed and all present were in favour.

7. Appointment of President:

Chairman reported that the President-Elect, Keith Wilkinson, who lives near Bradford, was "snowed in" and was unable to attend. He had sent his apologies, particularly to Barry Stokes (Walmley C.C.) in his last act as President. The chain of office will be presented to Keith Wilkinson, at Kidderminster Victoria C.C., some time during the season. **Barry Stokes** spoke, briefly, and said how much he had enjoyed his year as President. He apologised to those Clubs that he had been unable to visit, in 2008, often due to the poor weather at weekends. He, particularly, enjoyed visits to Walsall C.C., Wombourne C.C. and Kidderminster Victoria C.C., to present trophies and he referred to his successor as "a formidable player and captain" with Stourbridge C.C., Old Hill C.C. and Kidderminster Victoria C.C., as he welcomed him, in his absence, to the position.

8. Appointment of President-Elect:

Jack Pettitt (W.B. Dartmouth C.C.) has accepted an invitation to become President-Elect in 2009 and he will become President at the A.G.M. in 2010. **Lawrence Silvester (W.B. Dartmouth C.C.)** reported that Jack Pettitt was unwell, at present, and unable to attend. All present wished him a speedy recovery.

9. Election of Vice-Presidents:

GM reported that the Management Board has received no nominations.

10. Vote on Proposed Changes to Rules:

The following changes to the Rules of The Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League were proposed by the Management Board:-

3. STRUCTURE

Add the following (words indicated in italics):-

3.4 Member Clubs must, also, run a Saturday 3rd XI in a Competition approved by the League, *during the season in which they achieve promotion.*

3.6 Amend the following:-

...31st December...to 31st October

3.7 Amend the following:-

...31st December...to 31st October

35 Clubs cast their vote and the proposals to amend and add to Rules 3.4, 3.6 and 3.7 were approved by 30 votes to two, with three spoilt papers.

11. Election of Management Board Representatives:

The following Management Board Representatives retire, by rotation, and all are eligible for re-election:-

Steve Baker (Halesowen C.C.)
Ken Lancaster (Sutton Coldfield C.C.)
Tim Phillips (Old Elizabethans C.C.)
Barry Stokes (Walmley C.C.)

All four have been re-nominated and a further nomination has been received in favour of:-

Andrew Biggs (Himley C.C.)

As a result, a ballot was necessary and 31 Clubs cast their vote. The result is as follows:-

Tim Phillips	-	28 votes
Steve Baker	-	27 votes
Barry Stokes	-	25 votes
Ken Lancaster	-	23 votes
Andrew Biggs	-	21 votes

Messrs. Phillips, Baker, Stokes and Lancaster are, duly, re-elected for a further three years.

12. Presentation of Trophy to Player of the Year:

The Player of the Year, in 2008, was Mohammed Sheikh (Walsall C.C.) who scored 459 runs, at an average of 30.60, and took 43 wickets, at an average of 13.28, playing a prominent role in his Club's third successive Premier Division title triumph. He was unable to attend the meeting, so the Captain of Walsall C.C., Paul Wicker, accepted the trophy, from Barry Stokes, on his behalf.

13. Presentation of Trophy to the Young Player of the Year:

The Albert Birkenhead Memorial Trophy was presented, by Barry Stokes, to Nathan Newport (Barnt Green C.C.) who, as an 18 year-old opening batsman, scored 426 runs, at an average of 32.77, in the Premier Division.

14. Presentation of Trophy to the Umpire of the Year:

Barry Stokes presented the Trophy to Bill Smith, who has, consistently, finished towards the top of the BDPCL markings, over the last 20 years, and stood in the Minor Counties Championship Final, between Berkshire C.C.C. and Lincolnshire C.C.C. in 2008.

15. Presentation of Fair Play Awards:

For the first time, Fair Play Awards were presented to 1st XI Clubs in all four Divisions, based on marks submitted, at the end of each game, by the Umpires. Barry Stokes presented trophies to the following Clubs:-

Premier Division - Leamington Spa C.C.	9.37
Division One - Sutton Coldfield C.C.	9.67
Division Two - Tamworth C.C.	9.45
Division Three - Kington C.C.	9.74

16. Any Other Business:

16.1 Annual Subscriptions

Hon. Treasurer reported that the Annual Subscription for Premier Division Clubs, in 2008, was £450.00 and the Annual Subscription for Clubs, in the other three Divisions, was £350.00. The Management Board has agreed that all Clubs should pay the same subscription, from 2010 onwards, and the annual subscription for Clubs in Divisions One, Two and Three will be £400.00, in 2009, and £450.00, in 2010, to bring them in line with the Premier Division Clubs. The Annual Subscription will be reviewed at the end of the 2010 season.

16.2 Registered Players

GM issued an envelope to all Clubs containing a list of current registered players. He explained that from the commencement of the 2009 season, all players must be registered on play-cricket.com as well as with the League, a mandatory requirement of ECB, and the League will not receive its accreditation fees and administration fee if any Club fails to comply. He urged all Clubs to register its players in advance of the season to prevent a last minute scramble. **GM** said that this was an ideal opportunity to tidy up each Club's List of Registered Players and he urged Clubs to be ruthless and de-register any player who had not played in a BDPCL match since 2006.

16.3 Category 3 (Exempt) Players

GM explained the contents of a note regarding Category 3 (Exempt) Players that was included in the above envelope. He asked Clubs to confirm if players on their List of Registered Players, classed as Category 3 (Exempt), are, still, playing for the Club. It is his belief that Clubs will be restricted to one Category 3 (Exempt) Player from 2010 season onwards.

16.4 Managed Migration System

GM queried if any Clubs have communicated with the UK Borders Agency and/or ECB, yet, regarding Overseas Players for 2009. Very few had and it appeared that many Clubs will not be registering an Overseas Player, in 2009, due to the increase in “red-tape” and a realisation that they received poor value for money in many cases. **GM** promised to forward any further information he receives, from ECB, to all Clubs, particularly with regard to Sports Visas, about which there is, still, no confirmation that they will be valid for cricket purposes, in 2009.

16.5 Playing Conditions

GM confirmed that the following changes to Playing Conditions will be implemented in 2009:-

- a. All 1st XI matches will commence at 12.00 p.m.
- b. All 2nd XI matches will commence at 12.30 p.m.
- c. No bowler shall be permitted to bowl more than 17 overs, in an innings, but his allowance shall not be restricted, even if the total number of overs, in an innings, is reduced from 55, in the case of 1st XI matches, and 50, in the case of 2nd XI matches.

There will, also, be a change to the points allocation in drawn matches, where the side batting second fails to reach 80% of the total of the side batting first. Further details will be confirmed after the next meeting of the Cricket Sub-Committee, due to be held on Monday 23rd February, 2009.

16.6 Management Board

Chairman expressed his thanks to members of the Management Board and the General Manager for their hard work, during the last 12 months, and to Moseley C.C. for hosting the meeting.

Meeting Closed:

9.15 p.m.