

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT

PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

30 SEPTEMBER 2009

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

REPORT ON SEASON 2009

Unfortunately, season 2009 continued the trend of wet and rainy cricket seasons following the previous three years and, once again, adverse weather conditions hampered the League activities. However, this did not deter Knowle and Dorridge CC from finishing worthy champions of the Premier Division with a points total of 374 being 83 points in front of the second placed club, Wolverhampton CC. This was an incredible achievement considering that the maximum points total that can be gained in any one game is 24 points and the margin of 83 points represents a cushion of more than 3 matches. The defending champions, Walsall CC who had won the competition for the previous three years, flirted uncomfortably with relegation at one stage but finished safe in ninth position. Unfortunately, Bromsgrove CC who were promoted from the First Division in season 2008, were relegated together with Leamington Spa CC.

In the First Division, the title race was keenly contested between four or five Clubs but Dorridge CC, Old Hill CC and Stratford-upon-Avon CC fell away towards the end of the season, leaving Smethwick undisputed champions and regaining their Premier Division berth. The other promoted Club, Wellington CC (previous champions of the Premier Division), were also promoted to regain their Premier Division berth. The relegated Clubs were Berkswell CC who were only promoted from Division 2 in season 2008 and unfortunately Harborne CC who will be playing in Division 2 for the first time.

In the Second Division, congratulations must be extended to both Brockhampton CC and Wombourne CC who ran away with this Division by a comfortable margin. These two Clubs were both promoted from Division 3 in season 2008 and will be playing in Division 1 following a meteorical rise through the Leagues. It should be borne in mind that this is one of the reasons why the Premier Leagues were set up in 1998 to enable aspiring Clubs to be able to play at the highest level and undoubtedly Brockhampton CC and Wombourne CC fit the bill. At the other end of the spectrum, the relegated sides were Penn CC and unfortunately the demise of Sutton Coldfield CC continues following their relegation from Division 1 in 2008. Their demise is particularly sad as they finished 50 points adrift of Penn CC in eleventh place.

In Division 3, congratulations are extended to Bridgnorth CC and Whitchurch CC in respect of their promotion to Division 2 and commiserations to Moseley Ashfield CC (a yo-yo Club), Milford Hall CC, Newport CC and Aston Unity CC who will be relegated to their respective Feeder Leagues. It is particularly sad to note the relegation of Aston Unity CC as was reported in my season report of 2008 as they were one of the original founders of the Birmingham & District Cricket League in 1888 and in fact the first winners of that championship. They join Stourbridge CC playing outside the confines of the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League but it is hoped that they will soon be able to rejoin the League family.

At a recent meeting of the Management Board the following Clubs were elected to replace the relegated Clubs. The League will be welcoming Bablake Old Boys from the Warwickshire League, Pershore from the Worcestershire County League, Brewood CC from the Staffordshire Club Championship and Oswestry CC from the Shropshire League.

Second XI Championships

Congratulations are extended to the following Clubs in relation to the Second Division championship.

Premier Division Second XI Champions	- Walsall CC
Premier Division Second XI Runners up	- Moseley CC
Division 1 Second XI Champions	- Kidderminster Victoria CC
Division 1 Second XI Runner up	- Shrewsbury CC
Division 2 Second XI Champions	- Wellington CC
Division 2 Second XI Runners up	- Dorridge CC
Division 3 Second XI Champions	- Wombourne CC
Division 3 Second XI Runners up	- Lichfield CC

Knockout Competitions

Graham Williamson Trophy

A new name on the Graham Williamson Trophy in respect of season 2009 as Kidderminster Victoria CC recorded a victory over Kenilworth Wardens CC. Congratulations go to both Clubs for making it an extremely enjoyable final.

20/20

Challenge Cup winners Walmley CC and Challenge Cup runners up Moseley CC.

Sponsorship

2009 marks the end of the sponsorship received from the Birmingham Midshires Building Society and our thanks are extended to that organisation for the help and support they have given to the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League over the last three years. Our thanks are also extended to the Marrant Group in respect of the supply of cricket balls and their continued sponsorship.

As the current sponsorship contract has concluded, the Marketing Committee are currently and actively seeking a new sponsor for the League and if any Clubs are aware of an organisation who might potentially be interested in sponsoring the League, I would be grateful if they would please either notify myself or the General Manager.

League Dinner

The League Dinner was held in the Holte Suite at Aston Villa FC on 10 October 2008 when the guest speaker was Henry Olunga of Zimbabwe. This report can also cover a further successful League Dinner held at the same venue on Friday 9 October 2009 when the guest speaker was David Fulton ex Kent CCC.

At a recent meeting of the Management Board of the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League it was decided that no Annual Dinner would be held in 2010 following representations from some Clubs in connection with the format of the evening. Announcements will be made in due course in connection with recognising Clubs who have won honours through season 2010 and the best way in which those achievements can be recognised.

Discipline

It is pleasing to report that no major problems occurred in relation to discipline during season 2010 and that it is fairly clear that Clubs are dealing with any disciplinary matters which arise themselves or have matters taken out of their hands by automatic suspension. However, some concern has been expressed in connection with inconsistent reporting by umpires in respect of situations where a report may be warranted and none given. This matter is being investigated by the Umpires Sub Committee but let us at least be grateful for the continuing improvement in this area.

Amendments to League Rules and Playing Conditions

The major change to League Rules in connection with season 2010 is in relation to Second XI cricket where a small majority of Clubs have indicated that they are in favour of regionalisation of Second XI cricket in Division 2 and Division 3 from 2011 onwards. This matter will be voted on by the Clubs at the forthcoming A.G.M. and a simple majority will result in a change but if the proposal is rejected, the status quo will remain. Existing Clause 3.3 will be deleted and will be replaced with the following:

“The League will also have a Three Division Second XI Championship with Division 2 regionalised into two sections. Promotion and relegation within the League’s Divisions will be independent from First XI’s. At the end of each season, the 24 Clubs who were playing Division 2 the following season will be determined on a geographical basis by the Management Board and will not be subject to negotiation. When a Club’s First XI is relegated out of the League into the Feeder League, the Second XI will also be relegated.”

A Vote of Thanks

At this stage, I would like to record my personal thanks to Nick Archer, the General Manager of the League, and to members of the Management Board and the Feeder Leagues for the work that they have undertaken during the last season. The administration of a League such as the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League is no easy task and Nick carries this out to perfection considering that he also has to juggle his other cricket commitments as well.

Additional thanks should go to members of the various Sub Committees, Umpires, Cricket Marketing, Ground & Facilities and Registration for the hard work that they undertake during the course of the season and also a grateful vote of thanks to Geoff Appleton for organising the umpires in the efficient way he does. It should be noted that Geoff will be retiring from this position in 2010 and the League's thanks are extended to him for the work that he has carried out on its behalf during the last few years. Finally, the League's website goes from strength to strength under the watchful eye of David Abell, the League Webmaster who is constantly seeking to improve the content and appearance of the website.

The Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League continues to flourish and to maintain its position as the leading Premier League in the country.

R A B VINER
CHAIRMAN

December 2009