

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

REPORT ON SEASON 2011

There were runaway Premier Division winners in the Premier First XI competition in 2011 and everyone's tip for the title, Barnt Green CC, duly won with a winning margin of 65 points from second placed Wellington CC. At the other end of the Table it was blatantly clear from an early stage that Smethwick CC would struggle to retain their Premier status and accordingly were relegated with a very low total of 89 points. There was a scramble to avoid the drop from the side immediately above them and on the last day it was clear that Moseley CC would be relegated with a margin of 7 points separating them from West Bromwich Dartmouth who finished in tenth place. Congratulations should be extended to West Bromwich Dartmouth CC and also Leamington Spa CC, the promoted Clubs from 2010 who retained their Premier status.

As far as the First Division was concerned, two Clubs jockeyed for position for most of the season, i.e. Berkswell CC and Old Hill CC with Berkswell achieving promotion with a total of 363 points, 31 points different to second placed team Brockhampton CC who came in with a late run to clinch second place. Old Hill CC who had been handily placed for most of the season finished agonisingly four points short of the Brockhampton total, being rained off in the penultimate match when in a winning position which would have achieved a further ten points at that stage. It was a keen battle to avoid the drop to the Second Division but two points separated the Clubs in ninth to eleventh position. Evesham CC were the unfortunate side to be relegated with a total of 162 points and the three Clubs vying for the second relegation spot, Coventry and North Warwicks CC, Shifnal CC and Attock CC finished a long way behind the eighth placed Club, Bromsgrove CC. The eventual unlucky Club to be relegated was Attock.

The Second Division also produced runaway winners with Worcestershire Club, Ombersley CC, taking pride of place in the promotion stakes with a total of 381 points. They were closely followed by Whitchurch CC, some 39 points behind and there was a tremendous gap then with the third placed Club, Harborne CC only on 277 points, a differential of 65 points. The unfortunate Clubs to be relegated from this Division were Bridgnorth CC and Aston Manor CC, a very closely contested Division.

As far as the Third Division is concerned, there was an exciting finish between Brewood CC and Barnards Green CC as to which Club would eventually finish top with Brewood being triumphant by two points with a total of 374. The third placed Club, Tamworth CC, finished on 341 points, some 31 points behind second place. There was the usual exciting finish as far as the bottom placed Clubs were concerned in order to avoid the dreaded drop to the feeder Leagues with the unfortunate Clubs being Sutton Coldfield with 223 points, Handsworth with 199 and St Georges finishing a long way behind the rest of the pack with 110 points. Commiserations should go to Sutton Coldfield CC who were reprieved from the drop in 2010 but who missed out by one point in their efforts to survive this time.

At a recent meeting of the Management Board, the following Clubs were elected to replace the relegated Clubs. The League will be welcoming Stourbridge CC from the Worcester County League, Streetly CC from the Warwickshire League, and Penkridge from the Staffs Club Championship. The League wishes to extend its congratulations to Stourbridge CC, one of the old twelve Clubs in the Birmingham League prior to the formation of the new Premier League set up, who have now returned to the fold. Welcome back and we wish you well.

No Club has been promoted from the Shropshire League due to the ineligibility of the champions to be promoted. There has also been a reconstruction of cricket in Shropshire and it is hoped that normal service will be resumed in 2012 in readiness for a Club to be promoted from Shropshire for the 2013 season.

Second XI Championship

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

Premier Division Second XI champions – Wolverhampton CC, runners up Knowle & Dorridge CC.

Division 1 Second XI champions Dorridge CC, runners up Bridgnorth CC.

Division 2 North Second XI champions Oswestry CC, runners up Penn CC.

Division 2 South Second XI champions Barnt Green CC, runners up Brockhampton CC.

Knockout Competitions

Graham Williamson Trophy

Shrewsbury CC continued their winning run in this competition by a comprehensive defeat of West Bromwich Dartmouth CC in the end of season final at Sandwell Park.

20/20

A fantastic day of cricket for semi finals and final day at Bromsgrove CC in July which ended with a triumphant Wolverhampton CC beating West Bromwich Dartmouth CC in a closely fought final. The Management Board wish to extend their grateful thanks to the officials of Bromsgrove CC for the excellent hospitality and hosting of the 20/20 final in 2011 and the Club have been invited to continue this hospitality in 2013.

Cockspur Club 20/20 Competition

Unfortunately, no Birmingham League Club was able to reach the final stages of this competition. Old Hill CC won an absorbing day's cricket in the Birmingham League finals, winning what was at times a bad tempered match with Dorridge CC and going on to represent the League in the area final. Unfortunately, this success was short lived as they were eliminated in the next stage of the competition by Hyde CC in a tied game being decided on the run rate in the opening overs.

National Club Championship

Congratulations are extended once again to a Birmingham League Club being successful in the National Club Championship. Shrewsbury CC continued their successes in Knockout Cricket by once again winning the National Club Championship at Derby against a very good side, Cambridge Granta CC. As a League, the League is the most successful in the country in respect of the number of Clubs who have been National Club Champions in this competition and in its various sponsors.

Sponsorship

The League still does not have a major sponsor and the Marketing Committee are currently and actively seeking a new title sponsor for the League and if any Clubs are aware of an organisation who might potentially be interested in sponsorship, I would be grateful if they would please either notify myself or the General Manager.

In the meantime, continued thanks are extended to the Marrant group in respect of the supply of cricket balls and their continued sponsorship of the League, also to the ECB in relation to their performance related fee payments in connection with fair play providing pitch marks, knowledge and electronic scoring systems and the contributions to the Cockspur National 20/20 competition. In addition in season 2011, the League enjoyed sponsorship from Boundary Sports in relation to the Graham Williamson Trophy and also to Red Insure for their sponsorship of the League 20/20 competition. Both days were substantial successes as far as the sponsors were concerned and it is hoped that this sponsorship will be continued in season 2012.

The League Dinner/Presentation Evening

Clubs will be aware that no League Dinner was held in 2010 and following a referendum of Clubs, the Management Board decided that the most appropriate way of acknowledging Clubs successes in competitions and the presentation of trophies was to hold a Buffet Presentation Evening instead of a League Dinner. Accordingly, a League Presentation Evening was arranged at the Tally Ho Club in Edgbaston for the evening of 7 October at which the guest speaker was to be Jim Cumbes, the Chief Executive of Lancashire County Cricket Club and a player in the Birmingham & District Cricket Premier League with West Bromwich Dartmouth CC.

Discipline

It is pleasing to note that any disciplinary problems now appear to be dealt with via the League Disciplinary Code and Clubs own internal Codes of Conduct. However, it is sad to report that a major incident occurred in a First XI Match between two Clubs in the Second Division which could have had serious repercussions and consequences both for the individuals concerned and the Clubs. As a result, slight changes to the League Rules will take place in relation to season 2012 and discussions are currently underway with the ECB and the Regional Premier Leagues to have a standard Code of Conduct in respect of disciplinary matters which is likely to be introduced in 2013 covering all the Regional Premier Leagues.

A Vote of Thanks

As always I am grateful to the members of the Management Board and the Feeder Leagues for the work they have undertaken during last season and in particular, my personal thanks to Nick Archer, the General Manager of the League, for his continuing activities in relation to the administration of the League and his support to myself and the members of the Management Board. In addition, thanks must go to the Chairmen and members of the various sub committees, umpires, cricketing and marketing, ground facilities and registration for the hard work that they undertake on behalf of the League during the course of the season. Once again, the website continues to flourish under the watchful eye of David Abell, the League Webmaster who is currently undertaking a project to update and improve, if that is possible, the current website in time for season 2013. Watch this space.

The Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League continues to flourish and remain a leading Premier League and is pleased to be associated with the elite Premier Leagues in the U.K. under the auspices of the E.C.B.

R A B Viner
Chairman

December 2011