

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Cherwell League

Thursday 21st November 2019 at Bicester & North Oxford CC, Akeman Street, Bicester, OX26 1TH

All clubs represented except Brackley and Shipton under Wychwood

Apologies: David Pryor, Peter Toovey

Minutes of the 2018 AGM

These were passed as accurate and adopted by the meeting. Proposed by Witney mills CC and seconded by Bledlow Village CC

Chairman's Report – Brian Standish

The Chairman delivered his report which had been previously circulated to the delegates. He emphasised the League Management Committee's commitment to the continuing improvement of ground standards and the provision of non-playing umpires. He thanked the committee on behalf of the clubs for their efforts in running the League and explained that as per the constitution, we would not be having a vote on the committee election as there were only 11 candidates for the 11 positions. The full report is attached below.

Treasurers Report – Len Payne

There had been insufficient time prior to the meeting to prepare a full set of accounts so the meeting was presented with a draft balance sheet (management accounts).

Net assets were down by £7,819 and this was because the better grade of ball used this year was passed on to the clubs at cost. There was also an increase of almost £2,000 in cost for laptops which were provided to the teams in divisions 5 and 6. The presentation evening costs were up by £1,700 but the stripped back handbook resulted in a saving of £2,000. LP reminded the meeting that the League was able to provide interest free loans to clubs for the purchase of essential equipment.

The Treasurer informed the meeting that it was the LMC's intention to hold the subscription levels for 2020 again at the current rate (£125 for a 2 team club plus £25 per additional team) and that the League would continue with the same ball as last year at the same price.

The Treasurer then proposed that the accounts be adopted (and the LMC's recommendations on subscriptions and ball prices) subject to an independent accountant's report. The proposal was seconded by the Management Committee and passed unanimously by the meeting.

Election of Officers and Management Committee

See Chairmans Report above.

Constitution, Rules and Regulations Amendments – Ian Murdoch

There were 3 proposals in front of the meeting which had been previously circulated (full details attached in Schedule 2). The Secretary gave a brief explanation of the rationale behind each one and there was some general discussion on clarification of some points.

Proposal 1 regarding bowling restrictions in divs 7-10 was passed with the votes as follows:

For: 33 Against: 2 Abstentions: 2

Proposal 2 regarding eligibility of overseas players in the country for reasons other than cricket was passed with the votes as follows:

For: 31 Against: 6 Abstentions: 0

Proposal 3 regarding eligibility of players who have played in the HCPCL for weeks 17 and 18 was passed with the votes as follows:

For: 24 Against: 10 Abstentions: 3

AOB

Jim Howe addressed the meeting regarding the League's intention to continue to pursue improvements in the playing surfaces. He encouraged clubs to promote the upcoming groundsman's course at BNOCC and to use the expertise that was available within the League.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.22pm.

Schedule 1.

Chairman's Report

Chairmans Report to Cherwell League Annual General Meeting 2019

At the end of another season I am pleased to report that the League has progressed towards our aim for an environment conducive to the best possible conditions of play. The split season has been extended to all divisions and has been met with favourable reactions.

The use of Club Umpires continues to improve. I have again met some very competent Club Umpires and I have been pleased with the coverage of games. To recognise the involvement of these individuals we intend to add the names to the website from 2020. This requires the names to be added to the Umpire database and I would ask Clubs to notify Ian Murdoch whom you wish to add. It will be mandatory to Division 7 but clubs wishing to add for lower divisions is encouraged. I would like to thank all umpires who give their time to enhance our game.

Clubs need to ensure that their Club Umpires who cover more than 3 games have a DBS clearance and have attended a course. Also, Panel Umpires need to have an up to date ACO accreditation. I recently attended the ACO Level 2 as a useful refresher. Please contact Dave Billingsley if your club have a candidate for a course. ACO have run regional courses for Cherwell League Umpires so if your club has a demand please contact Dave. If "club umpires" wish to be involved in the neutral panel this can be accommodated and they should contact Neilson Hinks.

I am pleased that the use of laptops in Division 5 and 6 has led to more downloads direct to the website. This has greatly assisted the management of the games. I am also pleased to learn that some scorers in lower divisions have also embraced the technology. I remain keen to see scorers independent of the game.

The standards on grounds and facilities are available to clubs via the website. The Management Committee has been in discussion with several clubs about issues and has been pleased with the positive responses in most cases. Additionally, Management Committee members have visited the vast majority of our grounds during 2019. We have not made the progress I would like on recruiting a panel of groundsmen from different places of our playing area who can monitor, help and assist their local clubs with issues. I would encourage interested parties to approach Jim Howe. This panel would work with Jim to support the standards we seek to achieve. We are also looking for someone to oversee the monitoring of facilities. In 2020 we intend to work with member clubs to continue this process.

From the AGM Agenda you will see that the Management Committee has responded to discussions at the Forums. Please ensure that the club delegate is able to vote in accordance with the wishes of the club. The rationale for each proposal is contained in the order paper. I hope member clubs will support these Proposals.

I would like to thank the Management Committee for their work on your behalf. They volunteer to ensure that we have an aspirational league. The objective of the Management Committee in this is to help member clubs to focus on issues which will generate improvement. I trust that clubs can understand this when communicating to our volunteers. We were pleased to co-opt Lesley Pykett to the Management Committee in 2019 and her input has been invaluable. I am pleased that all of the

Management Committee is willing to continue. This does not exclude the involvement of others and if anyone feels they have something to offer to enhance our league they should e-mail Ian in the first instance.

I look forward to an interesting and challenging 2020. I hope that Clubs will enter the dialogue. I encourage clubs with second grounds to continue to improve standards there to meet with the criteria. We are hopeful that the initiatives on grounds, umpires and playing conditions will create acceptable standards on both first and second grounds. I hope we can work together to achieve our aim ~ an aspirational league, with an atmosphere which is challenging and competitive whilst remaining an enjoyable recreation, allowing all teams to achieve their potential.

Brian Standish

Chairman

Schedule 2. Committee Proposals for Rules Amendments

Committee Proposals for the General Meeting 2019

Proposal 1

Bowling restrictions (w/l games in division 7-10)

The committee proposes that the bowling restrictions for win/lose cricket in divisions 7 and below be amended to reflect the normal formula for win/lose cricket. In practice, this means

Replace 2.1 – 2.4 in the Divisions 7-10 45:45 Matches with the following

- <<2.1 At the start of the 45 Over Match no bowler may bowl more than 9 overs (one fifth of the total overs).
- 2.2 Following a reduction of overs, where the total overs are not divisible by 5, an additional over shall be allowed to the minimum number of bowlers necessary to make up the balance. For example, in a reduced 37 over match, 2 bowlers may bowl 8 overs, and no others more than 7 overs each.
- 2.3 In the event of a reduction in overs after the commencement of an Innings, any bowler who has already bowled more than the revised limit per bowler as calculated in 2.2 above, shall no longer be able to bowl in that Innings. However a bowler may complete an over in progress. For example: after 16 overs, rain interrupts play and the Innings is reduced to 32 overs. Both opening bowlers have bowled 8 overs. The revised calculation allows for 2 bowlers to bowl a maximum of 7 overs and 3 bowlers to bowl a maximum of 6 overs. Bowlers 1 and 2 have therefore already exceeded this limit. They count as the two bowlers who were allowed the extra over (7 as opposed to 6) and so any other bowlers are limited to 6 overs maximum.

- 2.4 In the event of a bowler being incapacitated or suspended and being unable to complete an over, the remaining balls will be bowled by another bowler providing that bowler did not bowl the previous over or part thereof. Such part of an over shall count as a full over only insofar as each bowler's limit is concerned.
- 2.5 In the event that a bowler exceeds his limit of overs (except in the circumstances outlined in 2.3 above), the penalties as written in the w/l/d rules will apply i.e. 10 penalty runs and 3 match points deducted for each additional over (or part thereof) bowled over the limit. If a bowler exceeds his/her limit by 3 overs, the offending team will have been deemed to have forfeited the match. If in the opinion of the League Management Committee a team has knowingly over bowled a bowler in an attempt to gain an advantage, or the over bowling of a bowler, whether intended or accidental, has materially and significantly affected the result of a game, the LMC may at its sole discretion, award the match to the opposition. In this instance, the offending team will receive no match points.>>

Rationale

An examination of the bowling statistics for divisions 7-10 found that in the 180 win/lose games in divs 7-10, on only 4 occasions did a team use 4 bowlers for the maximum number of overs (10) and in most cases used (at least) 6 bowlers. This suggests that the concession of not requiring the 5th bowler(s) to bowl 9 overs was unnecessary. To encourage maximum participation therefore, it is proposed to apply the conventional win/lose bowling formula. There was also some confusion as to what happens in the case of breach, so 2.5 has been added to clarify.

Proposal 2

Overseas Players

The committee proposes to amend the restrictions applied to visiting players who are not in the UK in connection with playing or coaching cricket (e.g. overseas students).

This will require the addition of a 4th category as follows

<<Category 4 - Any person who is legally resident in the UK from February 1st for the upcoming season and has not left the country for a continuous period of 21 days, and has a right to work or study on the UK, where this right is not for the purpose of playing or coaching cricket is entitled to play cricket in the Cherwell League in any division. The player must not have played in any first class match, at any level, in any country, between test playing countries, or have signed a contract to play first class cricket.

The League Management Committee may require proof to be submitted of the above before approving a player. These players will be registered as Category 4 players.>>

Proposal 2a

The committee proposes to lift the restrictions on Cat 3E players so that there is no limit to how many can play in a match and they can play in any division.

Rationale

The introduction of this category is to allow players to play who are working or studying in the UK but are not here in connection with cricket and would be otherwise ineligible to play.

Proposal 3

Weeks 17 and 18 Eligibility

The committee proposes that the eligibility criteria for weeks 17 and 18 for players who have played in the Home Counties Premier Cricket League be amended as follows:

Registration Rule 5.1.2 to be replaced with

<<If a player has played in the Home Counties Premier Cricket League (divisions 1 or 2), in order to be eligible to play in the Cherwell League in weeks 17 & 18, they must have played more games in the Cherwell League than in the HCPCL during weeks 1-16. In determining which team they may play for in the Cherwell League, the normal rules will apply in relation to all games played in the CCL.>>

If passed, this rule will be added to all sets of playing rules.