

THE SHROPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting held on Monday 30th November 2015, at Reman Sports & Social Club, Shrewsbury

Present

As per Attendance Register, (39 out of 59 clubs).

In the absence of both joint presidents, the meeting was chaired by SCCL Chairman, Gordon Smith who welcomed everyone, including SCB General Manager, Richard Cox.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Oswestry CC.

Apologies were also received from Joint Presidents, Clive Smith and Peter Wilkinson, and from Management Committee member Darrell Corfield. Craig Simms and Dave Ralphs were not present and did not send apologies.

Acton Reynald CC, Alberbury CC, Cae Glas CC, Calverhall CC, Church Aston CC, Corvedale CC, Coton Hall CC, Harpers CC, Llanidloes CC, Madeley CC, Market Drayton CC, Much Wenlock CC, Newtown CC, Overton CC, Prees CC, Shifnal CC, Welshpool CC, Whitchurch CC, and Wroxeter Grove CC were not represented and did not send apologies.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 24th November 2014

It was proposed by Ed Nicholas (Knockin & Kinnerley CC), and seconded by SCCL Fixtures Secretary, Neil Bennett, that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

This was carried.

3. Chairman's Report

Ladies and gentlemen 2015 has been an interesting year for the SCCL.

We were informed after the end of the season that our long standing sponsors FBC Manby Bowdler had decided to end their sponsorship deal with us. Unfortunately, they are unable to attend tonight's meeting but I would like to place on record our thanks and gratitude for all their assistance over four years of the current league and before that with SCL. They have been hands on sponsors and attended all functions which we invited them to. So to FBC Manby Bowdler thank you very much. The search for a new sponsor has begun and the committee are looking at a number of options for next season but if anyone knows of a potential sponsor then please let the committee know. On a positive note I would like to thank Timberframe Services Ltd for their continuing sponsorship of our T20 competitions.

Most of you will be aware that the Reman Sports and Social in its present format is to close on the 31st December this year and I would like to thank the Steward Steve Harris and the club committee for all their help in accommodating us for many years. Hopefully, as is being muted the Club will open in a new guise in the New Year and we can continue meeting here..

Your committee met regularly throughout the year and dealt with a large number of issues, dealing with them in a professional manner. Decisions were never taken lightly and I would like to thank the committee for their endeavours throughout the year, especially, the Sub Committee Chairmen. I would particularly like to thank Elwyn Jones for his work with the rules sub committee, Jamie Dowley for his work with Awards Committee, including for the first time teams of the season for all divisions, and for organising the trophies for tonight and for the Junior and Senior Slams and Nick Broadbent for his work with the Structure Sub Committee.

This year saw the formation of a new Facilities Sub Committee under the chairmanship of Adam Phillips which saw a number of clubs receive grants towards improved facilities. Adam was a real driving force within this committee and we are committed to continuing to help Clubs in the future.

I would like to thank the Treasurer, Mike Hall for his custody of our funds and for his commitment to the job.

I would also like to thank your Secretary for his unstinting work throughout this difficult year which has now finished. I don't know how many e-mails Brian sent out and phone calls he made or received but he dealt with all the issues with his usual professionalism.

I would just like to remind you that all the work done by your committee is done voluntarily with some members giving a great deal of time to ensure the SCCL is run efficiently.

On the playing side 2015 was the most exciting for a number of years with 3 Clubs still being able to win the league on the last game of the season and in the end Newport won by the virtue of a better playing record against Wem after both teams finished level on points with Reman Services close behind.

Bomere Heath hosted the Senior Slam and were victorious over Wem on a good days cricket with Ludlow and Frankton losing in the semi finals.

The Junior Slam in its first year was won by Wheaton Aston who beat Oswestry 3rds at Cound.

This competition proved to be a popular addition last season allowing the lower league clubs to have their own competition and I am sure it will be the same in 2016.

The junior section was very successful, with more games played than in past seasons, culminating in an enjoyable finals day at Condover where Whitchurch beat Condover at under 11, Pontesbury beat Shelton at under 13 and Shrewsbury defeated Knockin at under 15

The committee remain very concerned with the general behaviour of players throughout the leagues and will continue in its efforts to improve this. Meetings will be held to discuss the penalties that are available to the Disciplinary Committee for the forthcoming 2016 season.

We are particularly disappointed with a number of Clubs who are failing to deal with ill discipline themselves. Clubs have a duty to ensure that their players, members, supporters etc behave to the expected standard, some Clubs take little action themselves but leave it to the league when issues could be resolved by the Clubs themselves. Action taken by Clubs are normally accepted by Disciplinary Committee and save a great deal of time for all concerned. I would add here that some Clubs are proactive with their own discipline a fact that is greatly appreciated by the Management Committee.

Finally, I am sure that you will all have heard of proposals that the Birmingham League are proposing a restructure of their leagues from the end of the 2017 season, which would obviously have an effect on us. Your Management Committee have not yet been able to meet to discuss this matter, but will be doing so at the end of this AGM.

That concludes my report for 2015.

4. Treasurer's Report & adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31st October 2015.

The Treasurer had circulated copies of the accounts, and reported as follows:

With the financial support of our League sponsors, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP, & T20 sponsors, Lynx Trussed Rafter, your Management Committee have been able to continue to fund prize money for League and T20 competitions & trophies for Player of the Month & Players of the Season, umpire training and assistance in the provision of affordable quality cricket balls during the 2015 season.

In addition, SCCL's agreement with the Shropshire Cricket Board to jointly fund a small grant scheme (SGS) to help finance facility improvements for our smaller clubs, who are not readily able to access other grant funds, entered its 2nd year in 2014/15 & to date some £3,000 of the original £6,000 grant fund has now been allocated for a range of facility improvements, leaving a balance of £3,000 to fund further improvements.

With the support of our League & T20 sponsors your Management Committee embarked on the above initiatives with the intention of reducing our reserves to a figure around £10,000 & after the transfer to the SGS the SCCL posted a deficit of £2,683 during 2014/15, thereby reducing our cash reserves as at 31/10/15 to £9,075 (plus the available SGS balance of £3,000).

However, our League sponsors of many years standing, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP have decided not to proceed as sponsors for the 2016 season so we are now looking for a replacement.

As the League wishes to continue funding the above initiatives, whilst introducing a new yearbook & improving its website, it is essential that we increase our annual League subscriptions for the coming season from £25 to £50 per team to more adequately reflect the cost of the benefits provided, whilst establishing a contingency fund as a safeguard against the possibility that we are unable to find a replacement League sponsor in time for the 2016 season.

With the above recommended increases in place, we are confident that we will be able to continue to improve the quality of cricket played within the League during the 2016 season, whilst retaining our position as the League with the lowest annual subscriptions of the BPL feeder leagues.

The Treasurer concluded his report by recording his thanks to the League's Auditor, Helen Bruce who had taken over from the long serving Roger Bennett, for scrutinising his work.

It was proposed by Allscott CC, and seconded by Hodnet CC, that the accounts be adopted, and this was heavily carried, with none against.

5. Amendment to Constitution (two thirds majority required)

Item 3. Membership (page 95 of 2015 SCCL Handbook).

New para 3(b)

The following is proposed by the Management Committee:

All member clubs must have a written Constitution, and shall provide a copy to the League Secretary if requested to do so.

Existing para 3(b) to be re lettered 3(c) and amended with the following text:

All member clubs must possess Public Liability Insurance cover, for not less than £5 million, and shall produce written evidence of this to the League Secretary if requested to do so.

(all other paras to be re lettered accordingly)

These two amendments were taken together, and the proposal was seconded by Bill Hopkins (Trysull & Seisdon CC, and was heavily carried.

6. Election of Officers and Management Committee

a). Officers

Before discussing this item, the Secretary very briefly took over Chairing the meeting, explaining that as the SCCL Chairman, Gordon Smith, was Chairing the meeting in the absence of both of the league Joint Presidents, the meeting needed to ratify his position as SCCL Chairman, for the next twelve month period.

All serving officers, with the exception of Vice Chairman Nick Broadbent, had confirmed their willingness to serve for a further twelve months, and as no other nominations had been received, under normal circumstances, it would be proposed that the officers are elected en bloc. However, as Gordon was Chairing the meeting, it would not be right for him to do this himself, and the approval of the meeting was required to allow him to continue in the role for a further twelve months, so that we can revert to the Agenda, with Gordon proposing the election en bloc of all the other officers.

The Secretary then asked if everyone was happy for Gordon to be re appointed as SCCL Chairman for the next twelve months.

This was duly approved by the meeting, and Gordon then resumed the Chairmanship of the meeting, and the subsequent election of the officers en bloc was heavily carried.

b). Management Committee (1/3rd)

There were six places to be filled, five retiring members (including one vacancy as a result of Adam Phillips being proposed as Vice Chairman), who have expressed a willingness to serve for a further three year period, and one vacancy not filled at the 2014 AGM. The nominees are as follows:

i). Retiring members wishing to stand for re election

Darrell Corfield (Pontesbury CC)

Mark Davies (Shelton CC)

Jamie Dowley (Iscoyd & Fenns Bank CC)

Martin Murdoch (Broseley CC)

ii). Other nominations received

Nick Broadbent (Iscoyd & Fenns Bank CC)

Matthew Porter (Ludlow CC)

As two additional nominations have been received, the four retiring members named above, together with Nick Broadbent and Matthew Porter, were duly elected to fill the six vacancies, for the three year period up to the 2018 AGM.

Upon the conclusion of this item, the Chairman declared the formal part of the meeting closed, and invited the floor to raise any issues for discussion etc.

Robert Gough (Hinstock CC), asked if clubs could enter their results quicker on the Play- cricket website.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Gough for his comment, and re inforced this point to the meeting.

No other items were raised, and there being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.57 pm,

Presentation of Trophies/Buffer

In the second part of the evening, Jamie Dowley together with members of the Awards Sub Committee, organised the presentations of the season's awards, which were made jointly, in the absence of representatives from the league's sponsors, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP, by SCB General Manager, Richard Cox and SCCL Chairman, Gordon Smith.

Finally, in concluding the evening's proceedings, the Chairman recorded his thanks to Brian Clarke from Kidz in Sport for organizing the photography, and to Reman Sports & Social Club, for once again hosting the event, the final one to be held at this venue, and to Jacqui Whitley for providing an excellent cold buffet which he was sure, would be very much appreciated by everyone present.