

THE HENSALLS INSURANCE BROKERS SHROPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE

**Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on Monday 27th
November 2017, at St Georges Cricket Club.**

Present

As per Attendance Register (53 out of 57 clubs).

In the absence of the Joint Presidents, Clive Smith and Peter Wilkinson, the meeting was chaired by SCCL Chairman, Gordon Smith, who, before commencing the business of the evening, asked all present to be upstanding and offer a minute's applause in respect of everyone from the cricketing fraternity, including the following, who had passed away during the last twelve months.

2017 was an extremely sad year for Shropshire County Cricket League due to a number of bereavements.

James Corfield

James, from Montgomery, the winner of our "Most Promising Youngster" award 12 months ago tragically lost his life in an accident in July. James was just starting out in his cricketing career and was most definitely an accomplished all rounder, who I'm sure would have made a tremendous impact on Shropshire and further afield but for this tragedy.

Mike Teece

Mike was an Honorary Life Member of the SCCL having been given the award prior to the amalgamation of the 2 leagues, having served for many years on the Shropshire Premier Cricket League & Shropshire Cricket League Management Committees.

Ian Forrester

A former panel umpire and umpires' performance assessor, Ian passed away both aged 61 earlier this month.

Mike Robinson

Mr Oswestry Cricket passed away in September tragically 36 hours after his wife Lesley. Mike was a past Chairman of the SPCL, holding the position immediately

prior to the amalgamation. Although, Mike was very much an Oswestry man he was always available to offer any assistance he could to us and for that we were most grateful.

Brian Perry

From Mr Oswestry to Mr Wem Cricket, Brian passed away aged 74 earlier this month and I don't think any single player has made as big an impact on cricket in Shropshire as Brian. A loyal servant to Wem both on and off the pitch. To see the impact Brian made, one merely needs to look at the Wem CC honours board, which Shaun Astley posted on Facebook last week, to see that Brian was a remarkable player. He was also responsible for getting out the great Geoffrey Boycott when Shropshire famously defeated Yorkshire in the Nat West trophy at Wellington in 1984.

Eric Marsh

Eric was a player of great ability and he was responsible for the formation of the Shropshire over 50s and was number 1 in the record of players who have represented Shropshire at both Minor County & this level.

Alan Boswell

Alan was obviously better known as a footballer with Shrewsbury Town but he was a driving force behind Sentinel/Perkins and was responsible for the playing surface at Albert Road until a few years ago.

I also realise that there are probably a number of others with connections to our clubs that have passed away in 2017 and to them we are also most grateful for their contributions.

I have just been informed that the 17 year old daughter of Hinstock player, Ian Walton was tragically killed in a car crash near Market Drayton and we extend our deepest sympathy to Ian and his family

I would, therefore, be appreciative if we could all be upstanding and pay tribute to all who have passed away in the last twelve months.

Thank you.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Bishops Castle CC and from Stephen Bullin of Acton Reynald CC and Ian Slater of Willey Wanderers CC.

Apologies were also received from Joint Presidents Clive Smith and Peter Wilkinson, Fixtures Secretary Neil Bennett, Child Welfare Officer Simon Palmer, and from Management Committee members Darrell Corfield and Matt Porter.

The following three member clubs were not represented and did not send apologies: Harpers CC, Llanidloes CC and Newport CC.

In accordance with league rules, these three clubs together with Bishops Castle CC, for failing to attend the AGM, would be deducted 20 points per team, this to be effective from the start of the 2018 season.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 28th November 2016

It was proposed by Matt Jones (Cound CC, and seconded by Pete Starling (Allscott Heath CC), that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

This was carried.

3. Chairman's Report

Ladies and Gentlemen 2017 was once again a busy and interesting year for the SCCL.

I would like to begin by thanking the sponsors of our league competition, Henshall Insurance Brokers, for their much appreciated backing for which we are extremely grateful. Unfortunately, there is no representative from Henshalls present this evening, but we look forward to our continued association through 2018.

Our Senior and Junior Slams were "sponsorless" in 2017, but I am pleased to announce that we have secured a deal with Aaron and Partners, solicitors, as our sponsors from 2018. We look forward to this and with perhaps newly vamped competitions. Richard Barge of Aaron and Partners is in attendance tonight - thank you Richard.

Your committee met regularly throughout the year and I would like to thank them for their efforts in this voluntary role that is vital to keep our League running smoothly. Once again I would like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members, vice chairman Adam Phillips, Treasurer Mike Hall and Secretary Brian Kitson for all their hard work. Without their efforts I am sure things would not run as smoothly as they do.

I would also like to thank Mike Sheehy for his efforts in organising the league umpire panel, as he has done for many years. I know that some of you don't always appreciate the role of the umpire, but we would certainly have more problems without them. Mike covers all the Premier League matches and assists as many Division 1 clubs as he can.

As you are probably aware, a major overhaul of the Laws of Cricket came into effect on 1st October with the prospect of Red and Yellow cards. Details of how this will affect us at our level are still under discussion, and clubs will be invited to attend meetings early next year where the umpires association will instruct them as to how they will be affected by them.

Mike has handed out a guide to the changes to each club tonight for their information and hopefully these can be passed on to your team captains. Thanks Mike.

Two members of the committee have decided the time is right for them to stand down. Thank you Brian Gleeson for your commitment and work over a number of years.

Also retiring is our Fixture Secretary of many years Neil Bennett. Neil has gone about this onerous task most professionally and we are very thankful for all Neil's work. Neil, as one would expect, has said he will make himself available to assist his successor in this role. Again we much appreciate this gesture and one that I am sure that his successor, Phil Parker, will find helpful. Neil, on behalf of all of us, committee and clubs, thank you very much for all your hard work.

On the field, the Premier League title was not settled until the last round of fixtures when Whitchurch defeated St. Georges, thus pipping Ludlow who had earlier defeated Wem to the title, and an immediate return to the Birmingham League. Unfortunately, Sentinel found the competition a little too strong for them and were relegated back to the SCCL. We wish Whitchurch well and extend a warm welcome back to Sentinel.

Where the Birmingham League and our league will be in 12 months time still remains to be seen, and you will all have received the latest position from us in the past few days. It is looking more and more likely that the BL will be reduced to two divisions from season 2019 but this is reliant on the existing BL clubs voting for this at their AGM in January. This matter is not up for discussion tonight as there are too many areas still to be decided, but as always, we will inform you when we find anything out.

Division 1 was won by Bomere Heath, who make an instant return to the Premier League after relegation last season, having gone through the season undefeated.

I would at this point like to extend my congratulations to all League winners for their efforts in 2017, and I am sure you will all be pleased I am not going to go through every division individually!

The T20 Senior Slam finals day was held on a lovely July Sunday at picturesque Quatt Cricket Club, when Wem were worthy winners defeating Worfield in the final, having earlier beaten Beacon in the semi-final. Beacon should be very satisfied with their performance in reaching finals day in only their ninth year in existence. Worfield defeated Broseley in the other semi-final.

The T20 Junior Slam final was contested by the two best sides outside the Premier and Division 1, Allscott Heath and Pontesbury, on an overcast evening here at St.Georges. It was an excellent contest with Allscott Heath winning a close match. Pontesbury got their revenge when they pipped the winners to the Division 2 title.

The Junior competitions finals day was unfortunately hit by bad September weather and will now be hopefully played early in 2018.

Discipline remains a problem, and unfortunately some of our umpires are not going to stand next season or are considering their futures. This is due to poor player behaviour and how teams mark umpires. We need to work together to sort this out before we end up without enough umpires.

That concludes my report.

4. Treasurer's Report & adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31st October 2017.

The Treasurer had circulated copies of the accounts, and reported as follows (a copy of the summary of accounts is retained by the Secretary):

With the financial support of our League sponsors, Henshalls Insurance Brokers, your Management Committee have been able to continue to fund trophies for Player of the Month & Players of the Season, umpire training, a yearbook & an improved website during the 2017 season.

In addition, SCCL's agreement with the Shropshire Cricket Board (SCB) 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, was extended with both SCCL & SCB contributing a further £2,000 each into the fund. During 2017 some £1,200 of the original £4,000 was allocated for a range of facility improvements leaving a further £2,800 available for clubs to apply for.

With the support of our League sponsors, your Management Committee embarked on the above initiatives with the intention of maintaining our reserves at a figure of around £7,000 & posted a small surplus of some £470 during 2016/17, thereby maintaining our general cash reserves as at 31/10/17 at £7,462.

We were unable to find a replacement sponsor for our T20 competitions during 2017 but have secured sponsorship from solicitors, Aaron & Partners LLP, for those competitions in 2018.

Following the increase in annual subscriptions to £50 per team at the 2015 AGM I do not propose to make any further increases in subscriptions for the 2018 season & so we will retain our position as the League with the lowest annual subscriptions of the BPL feeder leagues.

It was proposed by James Parker (Worfield CC) and seconded by Brian Gleeson (Forton CC), that the Treasurer's Report and the accounts be adopted.

This was carried.

5. Election of Officers and Management Committee

a). Officers

At this point, the Secretary briefly took over the chairing of the meeting.

As neither of the two Joint Presidents were in attendance this evening, the meeting has had to be chaired by SCCL Chairman, Gordon Smith, and before moving to ratify the re-election of all the serving officers, we need to ratify the position of Gordon himself as SCCL Chairman for the next twelve months.

It would not be right for Gordon to propose that the current officers are re-elected en bloc having been properly proposed and seconded, so we need to obtain the approval of the meeting to Gordon continuing in the role for a further twelve months so that we may revert to the Agenda with Gordon proposing the election en bloc of the other officers.

It was proposed by Andy McIlroy (Bomere Heath CC), and seconded by Carl Starling (Allscott Heath CC), that Gordon be re-elected as SCCL Chairman for a further twelve months.

This was carried.

Gordon then took over the chairing of the meeting, and thanked the meeting for re-electing him for the next twelve months.

All current serving officers, with the exception of Fixtures Secretary, Neil Bennett, had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election for a further twelve months. Current Management Committee member, Phil Parker, had agreed to take on this onerous role.

Therefore, as there were no other nominations for any of the current posts, it was proposed by Mike Waldron (St Georges CC), and seconded by Chris Stevens (Bomere Heath CC) that all current serving officers be re-elected en bloc.

This was unanimously carried.

b). Management Committee (1/3rd)

There were five places to be filled. The nominees are as follows:

(i). Retiring members wishing to stand for re-election (3):

Ed Nicholas (Knockin & Kinnerley CC)

Mike Jenkins (Hodnet, Peplow & Tibberton CC)

Matt Porter (Ludlow CC)

Brian Gleeson (Forton CC) had indicated that he wished to stand down at this meeting.

A vacancy as a result of Phil Parker taking over as Fixtures Secretary.

ii). Other nominations received

David White (Madeley CC)

Ian Slater (Willey Wanderers CC)

As five nominations had been received for the five available places a ballot was not required and the three retiring members named above, together with David White and Ian Slater, were duly elected to fill the five vacancies, for the three year period up to the 2020 AGM.

6. Life Member

The nomination of Bill Hopkins to become a Life Member of the SCCL in recognition of his work over many years with the former Shropshire Cricket League and latterly with the SCCL had been proposed by the SCCL Management Committee.

This was seconded by Jamie Dowley (Iscoyd & Fenns Bank CC), and was heavily carried.

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.

Montgomery CC's 1st XI Captain, Sam Williams, made a moving tribute to their young up and coming player, James Corfield, who had tragically lost his life in an accident earlier in the year.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.29 pm,

Presentation of Trophies.

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 by SCCL Patron His Honour Robin Onions.

Finally, in concluding the evening's proceedings, the Chairman recorded his thanks to Brian Clarke from Kidz in Focus for organizing the photography, and to St Georges Sports & Social Club for kindly hosting the event.