

# **THE HENSALLS INSURANCE BROKERS SHROPSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET LEAGUE**

## **Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting held on Monday 26th November 2018, at St Georges Cricket Club.**

### **Present**

As per Attendance Register, (56 out of 59 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.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Overton CC and from Stephen Bullin of Acton Reynald CC.

Apologies were also received from Joint Presidents Clive Smith and Peter Wilkinson, and from Management Committee member Matt Jones and SCCL Secretary Brian Kitson. In addition, Dave Williams, of league sponsors Henshalls Insurance Brokers also sent his apologies.

The following three member clubs were not represented and did not send apologies: Much Wenlock CC, Newtown CC and Overton CC.

In accordance with league rules, these three clubs, for failing to attend the AGM, would be deducted 20 points per team, this to be effective from the start of the 2019 season.

### **2. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 27th November 2017**

It was proposed by Tym Fern (Wroxeter & Uppington CC), and seconded by Bill Hopkins (Trysull & Seisdon CC), that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

**This was carried.**

### 3. Chairman's Report

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to start my report by thanking our sponsors, of the League, Henshalls, for their continued support. This money allows us to be able to provide all that we do for the benefit of all of you, our clubs. I am also pleased to announce that Henshalls have announced that they are willing to continue with this sponsorship for another 12 months, with the prospect of another 3 year deal to follow. Some of you have already spoken to Henshalls about providing insurance and have been pleasantly surprised with the quotes given and proceeded to take up the offer. I know that Dave Williams is planning contacting you all with details of what Henshalls have to offer your club. I believe the quotes are very competitive and all business that Henshalls secure, means money to the League.

I would also like to, at this point, thank Aaron and Partners for their sponsorship of the two Slam competitions and I am pleased to say that they will once again be sponsoring the competitions in 2019.

Season 2018 proved to be challenging for your management committee and I would like to thank the committee for their efforts on your behalf during the past 12 months. We were hit with Broseley asking to be removed from the Premier League because they had lost most of their first team players from 2017 as well as some of their second team. The committee tried desperately to fill this void and approached a number of clubs to no avail. We were left with no alternative but to go with an eleven team Premier League. This proved to be a mistake and on reflection when we could not fill the gap we should have told Broseley they could not be replaced. Hindsight is a wonderful thing!!!

This led to problems in the top division of the second team league and the eventual creation of "The Broseley Rule" which had a few amendments made to during the early part of the season. I can tell you that I was almost driven to distraction by the problems created by this. I would like to thank Jamie Dowley, our rules Chairman, who found himself almost weekly sending e-mails out with decisions about complaints about some clubs not "playing the game" when selecting their second elevens to play when their first eleven had the "free week". Thanks Jamie. I would like to assure this meeting as long as I am your Chairman, and I think I speak for the other three executive officers as well, there will never again be an odd number of clubs in the Premier League.

The bad weather prior to the start of the season also caused problems and it was decided, by your committee, that clubs could with the agreement of their opponents postpone their opening fixture and rearrange it for later in the season provided they informed Brian with the date of the rearrangement by the end of April. This was almost a complete success but we had complaints and moans from clubs who had rearranged but did not inform Brian and were therefore not allowed to change. The committee took a bit of flack for this but it was important to everybody else we stuck to the rules.

England being involved in the World Cup Quarter Final against Sweden on the 7th July also caused problems but it was decided that start times and tea intervals could be moved to allow as many players as possible to see the game. My game started at 9.30 Pontesbury v Shelton and we finished before 2 o'clock. I enjoyed the cricket but my day went downhill from then.

The Premier League title race went to the last week of the season with a winner take all clash between Wem and Quatt at Wem. The match was a bit of an anti climax with Wem winning convincingly. So congratulations go to Wem who were worthy winners over the season. Quatt ran them close and were a couple of points ahead going into that last match. Congratulations also go to all the other Division champions for their successes.

2018 also saw the first season of the Aaron and Partners sponsored Senior and Junior Slams.

The junior Slam was won by Montgomery who-beat Hodnet Peplow and Tibberton in a one sided final played at Bomere Heath..

The Senior Slam was played under a new format, admittedly not without a few problems and was won by Quatt on a lovely July day at Wem. I think the new format was welcomed in general and we will be using that same format for 2019 but with a tweak here and there.

In my report at last year's AGM I said that we did not know where we would be in relation to the BL in twelve months' time. Well as you know the BL now only has two divisions of first elevens with all second elevens returning to their respective County Leagues. We therefore welcome back Wellington, Newport and Whitchurch first elevens along with their second teams and the second teams of Shifnal, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth and Oswestry. We have gone back to a linear system and have come up with a structure for 2019 based on each team's performance in 2018.

Discipline continues to be a problem both on and off the field. Derogatory comments about the Management Committee or other Clubs or players are against the terms of the Pre-Season agreement signed by all clubs and I can assure you that if there are derogatory comments made then action will be taken if the perpetrators are identified. The running of this League is a time consuming task and Committee members don't deserve to be slagged off by all and sundry.

A disappointment for me and my fellow Executive members is the lack of support we receive from clubs who find that they or some of their members fall foul of the disciplinary system. It would be enlightening if clubs would look at things from the rules point of view instead of arguing the case for leniency.

Likewise teams playing ineligible players cause a lot of work and upset. The last two years Sunday division winners have been changed because of ineligible

players and clubs should take great care with their selections especially near the end of the season.

Finally I would like to congratulate all trophy winners on their successes during 2018 and offer my sincere congratulations to this year's winner of the lifetime achievement, Pete Starling of Allscott Heath.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report & adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.**

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, our 20:20 sponsors, Aaron & Partners LLP & the ECB your Management Committee have been able to implement a programme of ground inspections for our lower division clubs & introduced regular newsletters to replace the league hand-book whilst continuing to fund trophies for Player of the Month & Players of the Season, umpire training, & an improved website during the 2018 season.

We have also continued to distribute the jointly funded (with the Shropshire Cricket Board) small grant scheme (SGS) to help finance facility improvements for our smaller clubs, who are not readily able to access other grant funds. During the financial year a further £1,200 was distributed leaving some £1,600 in the SGS for future facility improvements.

With the support of our sponsors & the ECB your Management Committee were able to deliver on the above initiatives whilst still achieving a surplus of just under £5k for the year, which ensures that SCCL has adequate reserves to meet the challenges of a re-structured league in 2019 & beyond. Accordingly the current year's surplus of £4,992 has increased SCCL's general cash reserves as at 31/10/18 to £11,854.

On the basis of the healthy financial position identified above I do not propose to make any further increases in subscriptions for the 2019 season, so they will remain at £50 per team, &, as such, we will retain our position as the League with the lowest annual subscriptions of the BPL feeder leagues.

It was proposed by Elwyn Jones (Frankton CC) and seconded by Tim Barber (Pontesbury CC), that the Treasurer's Report and the accounts be adopted.

**This was carried.**

#### **5. Election of Officers and Management Committee**

##### **a). Officers**

As neither of the two Joint Presidents are able to be 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 Peter Starling (Allscott CC), that Gordon be re-elected as SCCL Chairman for a further twelve months.

**This was carried.**

Gordon thanked the meeting for re-electing him for the next twelve months.

All officers of the league had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election for a further twelve months.

**Therefore, all the officers of the league as listed on the Agenda, were unanimously re-elected en bloc.**

**b). Management Committee (1/3<sup>rd</sup>)**

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

**i).Retiring members wishing to stand for re-election (4):**

**Jamie Dowley** (Iscoyd & Fenns Bank CC)

**Darrell Corfield** (Pontesbury CC)

**Martin Murdoch** (Broseley CC)

**Nick Broadbent** (Cae Glas CC)

**ii).Other nominations received**

**Lee Pickford** (Beacon CC)

As five nominations had been received for the six available places, a ballot was not required, and the four retiring members named above, together with Lee Pickford, were duly elected for the three year period up to the 2021 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.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30 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 by SCCL Patron His Honour Robin Onions.

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