

ANTHONY AXFORD NORTH WEST CRICKET LEAGUE
MINUTES OF THE FIRST AGM HELD AT BRINSCALL CRICKET CLUB
20th NOVEMBER 2023

Apologies; Simon Booth, John Hutchinson, Mike Bridges, Kearsley C.C and Settle C.C. who sent their best wishes to the league for the future. All other clubs attended with the exception of Barrowford.

President's Remarks; Mr Hinks thanked the Officials, Executive and member clubs for an excellent inaugural season.

Chair's Remarks; See end of minutes.

Treasurer's Report; Mr Bridges in his absence reported a bank balance of £24,700 with £6000 to come in from sponsors and the Presentation Evening. There will be a full statement of accounts in the New Year.

Discipline Report; Mr Boyle said there had been 25 incidents, 24 handled internally and one by LCF. Thirteen were Level 1 and ten level two. There had been one breach of GCR and the Spirit of Cricket. Three clubs had been warned about their spectators' behaviour. Malcolm Venn and Tracey Brooks were thanked for their support.

Umpires' Report; Mrs Knott said the season had begun with a training day at Astley Bridge. Who's The Umpire had been introduced but it had been a challenge to find two umpires to cover every match, despite welcome support from other leagues and our own clubs. Regular monthly meetings had been held at Tonge C.C. or Read Social Club, with a bowling evening arranged. Scorers were reminded they too are welcome to attend the meetings.

Registration Report; Mr Clarke said the season had run quite smoothly after the system had been set up by himself and Tracey pre season. Next season transfers will be electronic with Callum dealing with professionals, sub professionals and overseas players, Tracey dealing with amateurs. Clubs should look at the UK Border Agency website as there have been small but significant changes to the rules regarding overseas players.

Safeguarding; Mr Hutchinson submitted a report stating that there had been three reports during the season. Two of these had been handled via the normal disciplinary process and the other internally by the club to a high level of compliance with ECB Safehands guidelines. Clubs are reminded to keep their Safehands portal up to date, particularly with regard to team captains and junior team managers.

Junior Report; Mr Seigne said there had been competitions between the ages of nine and eighteen, with inter league teams at six age levels, and players progressing to County trials.

The Under 13s had won their inter league competition.. The Junior Committee will continue with just one change and the junior officials are willing to help clubs in the North and assist with league administration.

Proposed Rule Changes;

Match Rules - 1&2 passed, 3&4 withdrawn, 5-8 passed, 9 referred to a SGM, 10-14 passed, 15 failed, 16 withdrawn, 17-19 failed, 20 referred to a SGM, 21 failed, 22 referred to a SGM.

General Rules - 1-11 passed, 12 withdrawn, 13 referred to a SGM, 14 withdrawn, 15 passed, 16 withdrawn, 17 referred to a SGM, 18-21 passed, 22 failed, 23 passed, 24 failed, 25 passed.

Election of Officers; The officers were elected en-bloc as proposed.

Mr Slinger - Welcome to the first AGM of the Anthony Axford Cricket League.

Following on from our presentation on Friday, I would like to congratulate all winners and runner ups across all competitions as well as those who won individual prizes. The presentation was well attended and was an enjoyable event. Events like this do not happen overnight and on behalf of the league, I would like to thank Mike, Simon, Tracey and Coby for all their work in making the event such a success.

As previously mentioned at the start of this first season of the NWCL, we had managed to complete what would normally have been two years of work in about six months in order to allow the newly formed NWCL to start in April.

There were always going to be some bumps in the road, but we probably had not expected to have to delay the start of the season by a week and then be hit by the news that Settle had been in negotiations with the Northern League and would be leaving the NWCL for the 2024 season.

After that rocky start, we eventually got down to the business of playing cricket and were graced by some decent weather at least for May and June.

The feedback I received was that the joining of the two Leagues had brought about some new excitement, with the opportunity to play new opponents and visit new grounds. On a personal note, I must say that when visiting all clubs as an Umpire, I was made most welcome and received excellent hospitality.

During the season, excellent cricket was played and the push to be in the Premiership or the highest conference meant that games remained competitive to the very end of the season.

It was unfortunate that the middle and latter part of the season was plagued by poor weather that impacted on both the League and the latter stages of most of our Cup Competitions.

At the end of this initial season, we are in the position we wished in that it has established the two Senior Divisions and the three Conferences with promotion and regulation to be played for or avoided.

On your behalf I would like to thank our League Sponsor Anthony Axford for his support as well as all other sponsors that have supported this year.

I would like to thank the members of the League Executive for all their work in planning the fixtures, organising the Umpires, attending the numerous meetings, dealing with disciplinary matters, maintaining and developing the excellent League Web Site, running a highly successful Junior League as well as several junior Inter league teams and numerous other roles and work that enables the League to function.

As we look forward, we clearly would like another suitable Senior Club to get us back up to 24 teams and the 12/12 split between the two Senior Divisions.