

9th April 2024

Minutes of the General Committee Meeting

Held at Brinscall C.C.

Apologies; Tracey Brooks, Becki Slinger and Bill Slinger. All clubs attended with the exception of Barrowford. Cricket balls were distributed, with the T20 balls due in May.

Minutes of the Last Meeting; These had been circulated and were approved as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

Grounds; Malcolm Venn, Acting Chair of the Ground Committee said that with umpires submitting weekly reports on the grounds, the GC were more concerned about assisting clubs improve standards, leading to Premier standards in the top division at least. A Grounds and Facilities survey is being sent to clubs, who should return it by the end of the month.

Concurrently the NWCL have been meeting with the LCF and ECB Ground Management Association who are also speaking with other major leagues in the County. It was agreed the NWCL clubs would support a scheme to improve grounds, with assessors from the GMA visiting each club during the 2024 season, compiling reports that would encourage clubs to prioritise their future work and expenditure. Additionally the ECB and GMA are working on an app called 'Pitch Power' which in future would allow clubs to carry out their own inspections. The cost of the £200 would be subsidised by the LCF and NWCL leaving clubs to pay £50. It is anticipated that an objective assessment of pitches would help clubs with grant applications.

Kearsley C.C. Appeal; Mike Bridges the NWCL Treasurer and Steve Pellowe from Kearsley C.C. explained their position regarding the levying of the 20% surcharge on an overdue invoice. The clubs agreed on a majority vote the surcharge should be capped at £175.

Finance; Mr Bridges reported a bank balance slightly in excess of £30,000. Invoices for League fees and LCF affiliation fees will be sent out this month, with invoices for balls and Handbooks in July.

Umpires; Team cards were distributed with more to follow later in the season.

Umpires must be paid before the games commence and no later than the tea interval, otherwise the second innings will not commence.

It was disappointing that there were only nine attendees at two courses for Club Appointed Umpires.

Clubs must send the names of two nominated umpires to Tracey before the end of the month.

Clubs should let Karen know at the Captains Meeting on 23rd April if their club wishes to enter the Indoor KO in January 2025. The matches are 6-a-side played on Sundays in January with the duration of each innings 12 overs, around 75 minutes.

Juniors; Matt and Tracey will let clubs know the arrangements for the start of the season.

Social Media Presentation; Simon Booth made a presentation regarding the benefits of a high social media presence to clubs. Details of the presentation will follow these minutes, but it was recommended that clubs publish their results and top performances, with occasional matchday updates, details of forthcoming matches and social events, new players and professionals, with links to other social media sites. Simon and Coby Donnelly are happy to assist clubs with their social media profiles.

Press; Reporter Graham Hardcastle and photographer Harry Maguire will continue to cover Premier and Championship matches, but due to scoring commitments Mitch Cregan will no longer be able to report on the Conference games. Three volunteers have come forward, but in order for the reports to appear online for the Bolton News and Lancashire Telegraph they need to be accompanied by a photograph. Clubs are asked to send photos of their Conference sides in formal or informal situations to raysue11@aol.com.

Handbooks; These are currently with the printers and should be ready for the start of the season.

Season Start; The start of the season had already been delayed, but clubs agreed unanimously to play the second set, scheduled for 27th April on Saturday 21st September. The Ramsbottom Cup Fixtures from 28th April will be played on 5th May. League matches affected by the weather will not be rearranged.

Clubs in the National KO have received advice from ECB and it was suggested that where a toss of a coin was necessary this could be carried out via Zoom.

Dates of Forthcoming Meetings;

Captains 23rd April 7.30pm Brinscall C.C.

Executive 7th May 7.30pm Tonge C.C.

Full Meeting 11th June 7.30pm Tonge C.C.