

NORTH WEST CRICKET OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting held at Read Constitutional Club on Monday 14th April 2025

PRESENT. Vice Chairman K Boyle and 24 other members

APOLOGIES: S Merry, A Dixon, B Slinger, D Gillett, C Fergusson, J Holton, A Patel, K Till, A Ali, G Wilkinson.

MINUTES of Meeting on October 21st 2024 had been circulated and were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING. We would not be following the Lancashire league in having a special premier league panel of umpires

CORRESPONDENCE . Minutes of the league meeting on April 7th, E mail from GMCL Over players wearing cameras and posting pictures on social media , E mail from Lancashire league regarding best practice for umpires regarding HMRC .

MATTERS ARISING. Advice from the LCC safeguarding officer was **where a player wished to use a camera on field , the camera must only be used if the club/player using the camera seeks and is granted permission to use the on-field camera from the opposition, the umpires, and scorers, a minimum of 48 hours prior to the start of the game . This permission must be in writing and available on the day of the match.** It was agreed the NWCOA would follow the decision made by the GMCL in not allowing players to wear cameras and not take word it was switched off. . The same would go for umpires.

The question of permission for live streaming was brought up and it was agreed we wait until the ECB guidance appeared as there were too many grey areas at present. There were forms on the ECB website but were digital signatures acceptable? There was a list of clubs who stream live on the NCWL website. Umpires should be asked if they minded being filmed . Cameras should not be mounted behind the stumps as this was often used to check on umpires decisions which is not what live streaming is about.

Attached is the best practice guide in regards to umpires expenses and HMRC ,from the LL for your information.

TREASURERS REPORT. Mr Boyle said report was in progress due to the fact more money would be received tonight for coats and subs. As of 3pm the balance at the AGM was £1208.73. He had received 41 subscriptions and 30 coat payments. He had paid out £30 room hire and £120 for lunch for the Training Day and so current balance was £2066.73.

FIXTURES. MR Keating said he had made appointments up to July and was pleased to say the new season would get underway with a full compliment of umpires . Obviously, there were still problems especially when the LL umpires could not officiate. There's a shortage of umpires in the Burnley Blackburn area and while some umpires from the Bolton area said they would travel , if there were any more that would do so, please let him know a.s.a.p

NEW RULES . All no balls would be a free hit in all competitions . The fast-bowling directive had changed and clarification of age had now been solved as it was age of the person on the day of the match, not on 31st August . As there was no handbook and the majority of our association did not want their contact details on the website , Tracey would let all captains know so that they could start

the process of problems with the ground at 10.30. this was when they should be letting the umpire know if there was a problem and find out at what time the umpire would be leaving for the game.

SCORERS No matters to discuss.

This was held by zoom and we had 14 clubs represented with a total of 19 captains attending. They were told about the new rules, thanked for their captains reports although putting poor decisions was not specific enough as that did not help our committee being able to help the umpire. When asked for comments a couple mentioned inconsistency of reporting offences and in playing with a wet ball. They were told our association was trying to stop the inconsistencies but people's tolerances level was different. As for playing with a wet ball then its up to the umpire to decide if the ball has become so wet its unfit for play. A suggestion was if it did not fit through the ball gauge then it needed to be changed for one of similar wear. Tony Tipping the discipline co Ordinator was present and spelt out to clubs that putting saliva on the ball was a reportable offence.

It was agreed by members that this was a level 2 offence and would result in 5 penalty runs.

The captains asked for a mid-season meeting again by zoom and members present said it should be compulsory . The meeting would be in June

UMPIRES COATS. TEAM CARDS were available.

DISCIPLINARY REPORTS. These were now available on our website and all hiccups from last year had been removed. Please make sure all things are reported , by all means have a quiet word with a captain in an unofficial capacity but otherwise it becomes a level 1 offence and a team warning .

A.O.B

EXPENSES . These were now £70 for league and cup matches with £105 if on your own . if you travel and find the game off then you are entitled to half expenses but if it has passed the 1 pm start time you are entitled to full expenses. Once a game has started there is no change from last year. T20 would be £35 and if on own £50

LATE START . Overs are reduced pro rata for the bowlers but if the game has already started the bowlers allowance stays the same no matter how many overs have been lost

It was proposed that Jim Heaton become an honorary member of our association which was greed to

There being no further business the Vice Charman closed the meeting at 8 25pm the next meeting to be at Tonge CC on June 16th.

Chairman _____ Date _____