

Minutes of the Anthony Axford Bolton Cricket League

held at Tonge CC on Monday 27th March 2017

Present: Mr F Hinks (President), Mr J Hutchinson (Chairman), Mr P Andrews (Vice Chairman),
Mr R Taylor (Secretary) and 17 Clubs

Apologies were received from: Atherton CC and Little lever CC.

It was noted there were no apologies from Daisy Hill CC.

The minutes of the February BCL meeting were approved and signed.

Matters arising: there were no matters arising.

Handbook: All adverts except one had been taken out of the 2017 handbook. Mike Buckley asked for photographs for the handbook from Walkden (Hamer Cup winners) and Little Hulton Under 11's. This was a matter of some urgency as the handbook was in its final stages of being put together.

Registrations: two transfers had gone through. Tracey Brookes reminded those present that ALL players MUST be registered – senior and junior. If players were not registered the club would incur a fine. There were no exceptions! Please put player's names on CricHQ. She suggested that junior players' details were collated first then put on CricHQ.

Scorers course: a course relating to CricHQ would be at Bradshaw CC on Thursday 30th March at 6.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. Please attend. The 6.30 p.m. course was for 1st team scorers. It was essential all those scoring attend. Clubs will need to bring ipads/tablets for this evening's course.

Grading of professionals: Ray would do this at the next meeting. However, Mike Buckley went through the names of professionals and which club they were at. One or two were to be confirmed but most were in place.

Penalties for ineligible overseas players: the Vice Chairman went through the conditions regarding who was eligible and the criteria necessary to sign an overseas player. The ECB will undertake a sweep of all clubs at some point. The player pathway was the key to who was/was not eligible. If there is any doubt, contact Emma Bidgood-Davies at the ECB. It was noted that the Chairman of any BCL Club was legally responsible for who was signed and clubs were advised to check carefully! Any club wishing to sign an overseas amateur should give ALL necessary details to the Secretary – name, date of birth, who the player currently plays for etc. The deadline for this is Wednesday 8.00 p.m. The League will not penalise a club retrospectively if the player has been checked with the Home Office or ECB and appears to be eligible.

Competitions: Farnworth Social Circle had got through to the semi final of the National Knock Out competition which was held at Derbyshire CCC and had won one game and lost the other so unfortunately did not make the final.

Bolton School had been booked for the BCL Indoor competition 2018.

BCL Development: interest had been shown from a number of clubs with a view of joining the BCL. Discussions were underway with the Chairman and Secretary involved.

Grounds: the Grounds Committee were meeting on 2nd April at Farnworth CC. Clubs will be informed as to when their ground inspection will take place.

Lostock CC would have a visit from Derek Darbyshire. This was already agreed. The road was still to be surfaced. The pavilion was to be handed over around April 1st/2nd and the fencing was to be completed.

The Secretary informed the meeting that as a contingency, Bolton CC was available should Lostock have any difficulties.

Junior cricket: those umpiring junior cricket would get together for a chat about rules etc. There would also be instructions for Team Managers (10 point plan). Eagley CC won the junior U11 indoor competition.

From the end of May, DBS checks can be done on line.

Finance: some of the match balls had arrived and clubs were asked to pay. Invoices would be made out and sent to clubs where necessary. Some clubs had paid. Others were paying by Standing Order. The Chairman was concerned about payment and a deadline of April 7th was set. At the umpires meeting on April 10th the remainder of the cricket balls would be delivered then.

Hamer Cup: the President informed the meeting that Heiniken were sponsoring this year's Hamer cup final to the tune of £2000. There would be a beer tasting evening at Walkden CC on a Wednesday evening and all clubs were invited with up to five people from each club being able to attend. There would be food as well. If clubs decided to take up a product from Heiniken, they would reimburse clubs up to the tune of £300 - £400 if an invoice was produced showing a purchase of something had been made (e.g. a lap top for scoring). How this would work would be explained on the night.

The Chairman will report back at the next meeting the situation regarding sponsorship during 2017 season.

The BCL website: The Vice Chairman informed the meeting a Manchester based company was developing the website. A draft would be available for inspection. It would go live on April 29th. This would be paid for by sponsorship.

Fantasy cricket: Players should be picked from the list which will be found on CricHQ. Neil Bonnar (Bolton News) has secured sponsorship for this. There is a £400 first prize to the winner when the season has been completed. The Vice Chairman encouraged clubs to put in their Fantasy Team as well as individuals. Please register your interest by May 7th. There would be a maximum of 150 participants. The points for players would be done on the MVP basis. Clubs/individuals nominate five first team players including a wicket keeper, a professional or overseas amateur and this will be done from both Premier and Association players. Entry is free. Please email the Vice Chairman.

Umpires: possibly up to 50 for the season but clubs should be aware that already on the weekend of May 29th there would be a shortage of umpires. All first team games would be covered. Umpires course for Junior Coaches is at Bradshaw CC from 7 to 9 p.m.

League Cricket Conference: The Secretary updated those present.

Umpires/Captains meeting: this would be April 10th at Tonge CC at 8.15 p.m. Ist and 2nd team Captains to attend. If Captain is unable to attend a senior player should be sent in his place. Non attendance will not be accepted!

Lancashire Groundsman's Association meeting: it was reported at this meeting that clubs were occasionally being broken into and ground equipment stolen. It was advised that photos be taken of all equipment – the machine/equipment and number if appropriate, and put onto each Club's website. Make sure your ground equipment is distinguished as belonging to your club!

A.O.B.

1. First teams MUST use the new Tifflex ball.
2. Second teams to use the Readers ball or Tifflex ball if desired. If in doubt, consult with the Umpires officiating the match to make sure BOTH teams are aware of which ball is being used.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: