

THE SHEPHERD NEAME ESSEX LEAGUE 2017 AGM MINUTES

Meeting held at Gidea Park & Romford CC on Sunday 26th November 2017

The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 11.45

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

In Attendance: A. Kennedy (Chairman)
C Greenhill (Secretary)
A Akram
C Hunt (Treasurer)
T Clarke
P Frame
G Jelley
T Kilby
P Middlemiss
A Pearson
T Sanderson

Representatives of 35 member clubs
Dan Feist and Graham Pryke from Essex

Apologies D Evans,

Absent Chelmsford, Horndon on the Hill, Ilford, Walthamstow, Woodford Green

2 MINUTES OF 2016 AGM AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes were approved.
There were no matters arising.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Andrew Kennedy (Colchester & East Essex)

An incredibly successful year for Essex all round with the County Side champions including many young players who have come through the League and still play for their clubs when possible. Wanstead were congratulated on becoming National Club Champions. On the final Saturday on the League three clubs were still in contention and Chelmsford were the winners. The Annual League Dinner was a sell out

The ECB are reviewing the format of Premier League and there is a shift towards limited over cricket. The ECB are pushing for more participation amongst juniors and women. The procedure for Overseas Players will be published by the ECB shortly but is likely to be unchanged. Some leagues fell foul of the regulations and were involved in court cases. Clubs seeking specific advice may have to contact the Home Office. CRICHQ have gone bust the software still works at present. The ECB will hopefully resolve any issues.

Arfan has contacted all Premier League Clubs and as an experiment the Premier 50 over matches will be played in coloured clothing with a pink ball. Eight of the ten clubs were in favour. Following the October Clubs Meeting 13 clubs from outside the league have expressed an interest in joining.

4 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Chris Hunt (Southend on Sea EMT)

The 2017 season has seen three treasurers in place, Michael Vandome started the season as treasurer. Andrew Jenner took over but after his sad passing at the start of the year I took over.

My main and immediate goal when I took over was to moderate the role. Previously, it was an entirely paper based role. This was delayed considerably by Barclays and their mandate process following a death. With great help from Cliff, this was eventually sorted and we set up online access to the account for the first time. The cheque book hasn't been used since this time. A thank you to all club treasurers for sharing club account details upon request when payments to them are required.

A big thank you to Cliff for his help in this transition and also for being the other signatory on the account. At this moment, he's the only one. We've tried a couple of times to get more but have been hit by the curse of the Barclays mandate forms several times. Will try again over the winter.

All league subs invoices went out early in the season. This was a little later than in previous seasons. Most were paid on time. There were a number which weren't. Late fines were excused this season due to the late sending out of the invoices.

A number of clubs raised questions around the different format of the invoices this season and the apparent increase in subs. While most clubs saw a general increase, this was due to the decrease in ball subsidy from sponsorship from previous season. The actual league fee decreased in the 2017 season.

Due to the shuffling of the treasures over the last year, there are a few questions which we've been searching the answers for which have delayed the publication of the final accounts. These will hopefully be out in the next month and will be circulated to all clubs as soon as they are. A big thank you to Tony Sanderson for his help in collating them.

One thing which arose from the review of contacts for this season was the level of liability insurance against the committee which needed increasing following "Frinton-gate". This will be increased to £1m from renewal on 1st December 2017. The increase in insurance premium for this is minimal.

The budget for 2018 will follow the final issuing of accounts for 2017. Our aim is to produce a budget which will break even and doesn't produce a surplus as it has the past couple of years. This will likely lead to a reduction in league subs and the dropping of the advertising levy. This will also be circulated to clubs as soon as we can.

For the interest of all, we currently have two active accounts (reduced from three this year) and their balances are: Current Account £23551.88, Savings Account £38952.33.

There's currently £1800 of outstanding invoices including a number of presentation dinner tickets and a couple of Autumn meeting fines. I'll be chasing these in the next month.

One final thing to urge is for clubs to move to on line payments. Of course, this is your choice but from the experience of the transition I've had to make from the cheque book and paper to electronic banking, I would really urge clubs to try to move to electronic payments. Of course, this will save me the time of standing in queues in Old Street during my lunch break to pay them in but it will also make your life as a club easier should someone need to take over the role of your treasurer.

5 REPORTS

a) SECRETARY

Cliff Greenhill (Loughton)

I have continued to send information by email where possible to save on postage.

Can all clubs please ensure I am advised by email of the current club contacts and any changes of email address. Please also advise Paul Frame. I can now send messages to all 40 delegates with just one email. Also please check regularly on the website as all

important messages are posted on there together with details of meeting dates. published in the online Handbook.

I would like to thank Dan Feist and all his staff at the County for their assistance. In particular, I would like to mention Graham Jelley, Graham Smith and Graham Pryke for their work to support recreational cricket in Essex.

We are grateful to the Development Department for the help they give clubs in many ways including improving facilities and pitches, training coaches, obtaining grant aid and supporting youth cricket.

There have been 10 Executive Committee Meetings this year. In addition two Management Meetings were held. Clubs were also invited to a series of mid-season meetings to air their views.

Michael Vandome and George Salmon had both stood down at the 2016 AGM. Andy Jenner took on much of the workload and sadly he passed away in February. It is only when volunteers of that calibre are no longer around that you realise how much they contributed.

Our thanks are due to Gidea Park & Romford, Harold Wood and Loughton for allowing us to use their premises to hold our meetings. Plus Gidea Park, Hadleigh & Thundersley and Loughton for review meetings.

Thanks also to our umpires who provide excellent coverage

The umpires reports on clubs facilities, discipline and hospitality have been distributed. They are most useful and clubs should take note of these marks.

Deryck Povey has consolidated summaries of the reports submitted by umpires and captains. He is thanked for a great deal of hard work. Clubs were asked to use lower XI reporting forms to report any concerns.

We had hardly any exception club reports for lower XIs in 2017.

Thanks to Tom Clarke who co-ordinated the production of on line information for 2017 with support from Paul Frame.

Thanks also to Paul Middlemiss for organising this year's dinner. It is great when the event is a sell out and lots of us have a book signed to "My dear old thing"

The draw for cup competitions will be made at the end of the meeting and displayed on the website.

The Play-Cricket site is again being improved to make it more user friendly please take advantage of the winter months to update your player details. Please encourage all your players to sign up themselves on Play-Cricket. We get additional funding if enough players sign up.

Paul Frame has worked tirelessly to keep results up to date It is disappointing that still far too many points were lost by clubs due to admin errors. About 120 points were lost due to teams dropping out and disciplinary penalties. A further 350 points were lost due to administration failings and concessions

The T20 against the County is scheduled for 2nd July. We have entered the CCC Competition and are looking for a captain.

Clubs are reminded that they must have a nominated fully trained Child Welfare Officer.

Clubs are also reminded that to take part in an ECB Premier Division and Division 1 they must be accredited with Clubmark. Dan Feist and his team will be holding meetings with clubs to update them on the requirements for 2018. They are considering possible dates in December.

The ECB are again offering Premier Leagues cash incentives to have clubs use computer scoring systems and especially on line scoring. More clubs seem to have people capable of doing this sometimes in addition to the traditional scorer. Clubs are again reminded of the regulations involving players in the Under 13 age group and under and especially those who are Under 11 and under. The ECB handout was distributed to all clubs and is detailed on the website. There could be major insurance issues if clubs ignore these regulations. Finally I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a successful new year.

b) FIXTURES SECRETARY

Tom Clarke (Harold Wood)

Tom Clarke distributed a sheet so that clubs could advise the number of teams they wish to enter. All fixtures will ten be produced as soon as possible and hopefully by Christmas. Clubs are still permitted to withdraw teams up to the end of March 2018. Clubs need to advise Tom of any dates when grounds are unavailable.

c) PLAY CRICKET

Paul Frame (Hutton)

Play Cricket is continually being updated. All is going well clubs do need to complete the admin tasks on time to avoid points deductions.

d) DISCIPLINARY REPORT

Tony Sanderson (Epping)

Offences were up on the 2016 season (2016 figures in brackets)

This did not mean that behaviour had deteriorated but that as requested the umpires formally reported more than the previous year.

First and final Warning	15 (5)
Level 1	17 (14)
Level 2	9 (6)
Level 3	1 (1)
Level 4	0 (1)

e) UMPIRES

Tom Kilby

Every 1st XI game had two umpires apart from one game where an umpire failed to notify that he was unavailable.

Courses in the new laws will be available after Christmas at the five local associations. Umpires are often willing to visit clubs to explain the laws and the ECB is producing on line basic training videos. Red and yellow cards if used will only be in games with panel umpires.

f) CRICKET BALLS AND SPONSORS

Andrew Pearson (Woodford Wells)

There were very few complaints only one ball had been returned. Clubs were reminded that any sub-standard balls that are returned to Dukes will be replaced free of charge. Andrew thanked Dilip for his sponsorship and also Shepherd Neame who are continuing their sponsorship into 2019. Please invite them to quote if possible. Thanks also to our other sponsors.

PROPOSAL 1 - The Form of the Championship

Proposed by Basildon CC and seconded by Wanstead and Snarbrook CC and Upminster CC

League Rule 7.3 to be amended as follows:-

7.3 *The League shall comprise the following:*

- i. *12 Divisions known as the Premier Division and Divisions One through to Eleven*
- ii. *Division 12 and below will be organised on a regional basis as from time to time arranged by the Executive Committee.*
- iii. *Only 1st XIs of clubs that have been ECB Clubmark accredited by the end of October of the preceding season can participate in the Premier Division and Division One.*
- iv. *No two teams from the same club can participate in the same division with the exception of Divisions 12 and below.*
- v. *All other teams can move freely within the divisional structure.*
- vi. *Promotion and relegation will be as detailed in Generic Rule 7 in the Playing Conditions of the League.*

In voting in favour of this proposal, clubs will also empower the Executive Committee to make the necessary consequential changes to Generic Rules 1, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 20 all of which make reference to the previous divisional structure.

For clarification the division names will change for the 2018 season however the first round of relegation and promotion to be affected by this new rule will take place at the end of the 2018 season. Retrospective relegation and promotions based on the 2017 league positions will not occur.

Reason: Please see attached document explaining the rationale behind this proposal.

Proposal 1 was defeated In favour 19 Against 16 needed a 2/3 majority to go through

PROPOSAL 2 – 4th XI Divisions Match Format

All 4th XI Division matches will be a limited over match of 40 overs per side and will use the same regulations as the 3rd XI limited over matches.

Proposed by Horndon on the Hill CC and Seconded by Gidea Park and Romford CC

If this proposal is successful then Part Two of Proposal 3 will not be included.

Proposal 2 was defeated In Favour 15 Against 17 abstentions 3

PROPOSAL 3 – Adoption of 2017 Experimental Regulations En Bloc

The Executive Committee proposes that the experimental playing regulations introduced for the 2017 season are adopted en bloc as permanent playing regulations. The regulations in question are detailed below:-

1. 1st /2nd/3rd XI Divisions - 95 over timed

To move the start of the last hour 10 minutes later to more accurately allow for an over rate of 17 per hour.

2. 4th XI Divisions – 40 over

To introduce a split format to the 4th XI divisions where the limited over matches will be of 40 overs per side and will use the same regulations as the 3rd XI

3. 3rd / 4th XI Divisions limited over bowling restrictions

No bowler may be allowed to bowl more than one fifth of the total overs.

4. Start times

- a. All matches in all divisions regardless of the format will start at 12.30pm.*
- b. The exception to this is that all 1st XI Premier Division 120 over timed matches at both the start and end of the season will all start at 11am.*

5. Duckworth Lewis in 1st XI limited over matches

All 1st XI Division 50 over matches will use the current 1st XI Prem Division limited over Duckworth Lewis regulations.

Reason: The experimental rules introduced in 2017 were successfully implemented and feedback from clubs has been positive.

If Proposal 3 is defeated the meeting will progress to Proposal 4. If Proposal 3 is passed the meeting will progress to Proposal 5.

Proposal 3 Accepted Unanimously

PROPOSAL 4 – Adoption of 2017 Experimental Regulations

Not needed

The Executive Committee proposes that the experimental playing regulations introduced for the 2017 season are adopted one by one as permanent playing regulations. The regulations in question are detailed in Proposal 3 and will be voted on in turn.

PROPOSAL 5 – GENERIC REGULATION A9 – Premier Division and Division One pitch marking

The Executive Committee proposes that Generic Regulation A9 has the following extra clause added:-

iii) If the pitch in a 1st XI Premier or Division One game receives lower than the required ECB minimum marks from the panel umpires on the day the following will apply:-

- a) If the pitch receives an umpires mark of less than 12 points then the home club will be deducted 25 points.*
- b) If the pitch receives an umpires mark of 12 or 13 points then the home club will be warned on the first occasion and 10 points will be deducted on all subsequent occasions.*

If there are exceptional mitigating circumstances that are beyond the control of the home club that have clearly contributed to the low pitch mark the Committee reserves the right to waive this penalty.

There is no right of appeal against the umpires marks and the subsequent penalties except in the case of a club communicating exceptional mitigating circumstances.

Reason: In the past two seasons there have been a number of pitches prepared by Premier Division and Division One Clubs that have not been fit for top level 1st XI club cricket.

If the above proposal is passed then the meeting will progress to Proposal 6. If not the above proposal will be voted on again with the exception that the regulation will only apply to Premier Division matches.

Proposal 5

In favour 19 Against 11 Abstained 5 Proposal was accepted

PROPOSAL 6 – GENERIC REGULATION A8a – Conceded matches

The Executive Committee proposes that Generic Regulation A8a is reworded as below:-

In the event that any club is unable to raise a side for an arranged fixture the non-offending club shall receive the maximum points (25 for a Time Based match, 20 for a Limited Over format match). In this instance Clubs must always cancel their lowest Essex League team's fixture.

In the event that any club is unable to raise a side for an arranged fixture (any XI) and calls off the fixture after Thursday evening it will be responsible for any costs incurred by their opponents.

Reason: This was a gap in our current regulations and needed to be closed following an instance of a club cancelling their 3rd XI fixture and playing their 4th XI fixture on the same day.

Proposal was accepted unanimously

PROPOSAL 7 – GENERIC REGULATION A8b – Cancelled matches

The Executive Committee proposes that that Generic Regulation A8b is reworded as below:-

If a ground arranged for a scheduled home fixture is unavailable, inaccessible or unplayable for any reason other than the weather then the visiting side shall receive the maximum points (25 for a Time Based match, 20 for a Limited Over format match) and the home side 6 points. This is subject to the League Executive's confirmation on each occasion.

Clubs may not switch their designated home grounds without the consent of the Executive Committee. Consent will not save in exceptional circumstances be granted for a switch of a higher XI (e.g. 1st XI, 2nd XI) game to a lower XI (e.g. 3rd XI, 4th XI) ground where this involves the cancellation of the lower XI game.

Reason: This Generic Rule 8b did not match Generic Rule 8a with regard to the points awarded to the non-offending side.

Proposal 7 Proposal was accepted unanimously

PROPOSAL 8 – Generic Rule 20 – Deadlines for submission of full scorecards and ticking the box for non 1st XI matches

Proposed by Hornchurch CC and seconded by Upminster CC.

Generic Rule 20b and 20c to be reworded and 20d and 20e added as follows:-

- 20b. *Any 1st XI home team not entering full match details including names of all players on play-cricket by 12 noon on the Monday following the match will have five points deducted.*
- 20c. *Any 1st XI team not ticking the box in the play-cricket results summary, which confirms the scorecard has been checked, by 12 noon on the Monday following the match will have one point deducted.*
- 20d. *Any non 1st XI home team not entering full match details (as far as is possible) on play-cricket and ticking their box by 12 noon on the Wednesday following the match will have five points deducted.*
- 20e. *Any non 1st XI away team not correcting information or adding missing information on play-cricket and ticking their box by 12 noon on the Friday following the match will have one point deducted.*

Reason - The aim of this is to allow the play cricket SNEL administrator to check home teams complete the scoresheets by Wednesday before penalties are applied and then Friday for away teams - this allows away teams to have time to check after completion by home teams - rather than having no time at all at present.

Proposal 8 In favour 20 against 10 abstentions 5 proposal was accepted.

7 TO ELECT THE OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE

There was a proposal to elect all the listed officers en bloc

All clubs were in favour and the committee were elected en bloc.

8 ELECTION OF AUDITORS

The auditors Edmund Carr Chartered Accountants were elected unanimously.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The draw for the League Cup was carried out and will appear on the League website. The draw for the T20 competition for Division 1 and 2 clubs was carried out and will appear on the League website. All other clubs can enter a county wide T20 There will be a T20 Under 19 competition supported by the ECB Paul Middlemiss explained that many trophies are in need of repair and some are not engraved correctly. He asked that clubs hand these in at the Spring Meeting (3rd Sunday in April) and the trophies will be cleaned up repaired and engraved. Graham Jelley advised that Chris Drummond is arranging a series of All Stars Roadshows (5 to 8 year olds) and Natalie Samaranayake is arranging Womens' Softball Festivals

Thanks were given to Gidea Park & Romford for the use of their pavilion for the meeting.