



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

Minutes of a Meeting

Held at Cuckney CC on Saturday 1st February 2014 at 2:30pm

Present: 40 members were present.

Apologies: R Beastall, A Bennett, G Graney, M Griffiths, D Hodgkin, L Jones, T Spence and B Wilson.

Minutes of previous meeting: These had been distributed via email and on Facebook.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Announcements:

The Secretary made the following announcements:

Loss of consciousness

Following the recent incident involving Hugo Loris the Tottenham Hotspur's goalkeeper we received correspondence from Ian Mather enquiring what our policy was should a player lose consciousness in one of our matches.

Our policy is simple; you advise the player to seek medical attention. We can do no other. We thought it prudent to ask the League Management committee what their view is and here is their decision.

"It was agreed that within the Laws of the Game there was no requirement for any player to be removed from the field. However, Umpires working together with players and Captains should apply reason and common sense to ensure that the right thing is done, based on individual circumstances and discussions with players and Captains on the day, as has always been the case throughout the history of the League."

ACO Dinner

This to be held at Trent Bridge, in the Long Room, on Friday 21st March 2014, cost £27.50 tickets available from John Hayes.

BDCL Dinner

To be held at South Forest Leisure, Edwinstowe on Saturday 22nd March 2014, cost £25.00 tickets available from Richard Martin.

Refresher Course

The refresher course scheduled to start on Wednesday February 12th for 3 weeks is full. Due to the demand another course has been arranged commencing Wednesday 26th March 2014 for 3 weeks. There are only 10 places left on this course so anyone interested needs to contact Gerry urgently.

Correspondence:

- i. Email received from Dennis Amiss thanking Paul Barker and the members for an excellent afternoon.
- ii. A letter from the office of The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH, thanking the Association but declining the invitation to speak at our meeting. Sir John did wish the Members an enjoyable and successful season ahead.
- iii. Notts Cricket Board - BDO Coach Development Programme, request for applications to the apprentice scheme for young coaches.
- iv. Notts Cricket Board – Notice of Club seminars “Effective Organisation Structure” to be held during March at Collingham and Trent Bridge.
- v. Notts Cricket Board – OSCAR nominations.

Umpires Rota's:

The Hon Appointments Secretary announced that he proposed to change the way umpires were notified about their fixtures. Instead of each umpire receiving two half season hand written rotas, the appointments would be published, along with the fixtures, in the League Handbook. This would be done by printing the individual umpire's number next to the relevant fixture in the handbook. It would be the responsibility of each umpire to ensure that they checked the handbook for their umpire number, which is printed next to their name in the list of registered umpires, and the fixture list for their appointments. Should an umpire be unavailable for any reason, as does happen from time to time during the season, they would continue to inform John and he would make the necessary arrangements for a replacement umpire where necessary. Clubs also would not be notified other than through the League Handbook. This new system should save considerable time and postage costs for both John and the league finances.

Assessment:

Lower Division assessments were now in place. All the necessary forms had been sent to the League Secretary and had been placed on the League website. All clubs had been informed and issued with the relevant documents. There had been a positive response from several clubs. This was a new venture and it would be a case of monitoring the reaction from clubs. Hopefully it will prove successful and be a help in improving the standard of umpiring throughout the league.

Guest Speaker:

Mick Newell

Michael Newell, born 25 February 1965, Blackburn, is the current Director of Cricket of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club.

Mick Newell was educated at West Bridgford Comprehensive School and represented Nottinghamshire between 1984 and 1992 as a right-handed batsman, leg-break bowler and occasional wicketkeeper. He was awarded his county cap in 1987 and a benefit in 1999. His best season was in 1987 when he scored 1,054 first-class runs at an average of 39.03

He was appointed 2nd XI manager and captain in 1992 and was promoted to 1st XI coach in 2002. He has led the club to County Championship titles in 2005 and 2010, County Championship 2nd Division title in 2004 as well as the 2nd XI Trophy in 2011. The club has continued to produce young cricketers for Test cricket.

Mick apologised for being late, he said it was something he didn't like and fined any of his players a pound a minute if they were late, today would have cost him £15.

He then began by talking about the England Cricket Team coaching situation with the shock news of Andy Flowers resignation. He personally didn't like the split coaching role. He believed this was the reason Flower has gone, coupled with the Kevin Pietersen situation. Flower would appear to want Kevin Pietersen out of the England set up, whereas Ashley Giles seems to want him in. Belatedly the England Management team have decided that the split role doesn't work and it looks odds on that Ashley Giles will get the job, but there will be a lot of interest from overseas coaches.

Hindsight was a wonderful thing but Mick felt that England had underestimated the Australians in the recent Test series. Last season's Ashes win of 3 – 0 flattered England and the games were much closer than that. In the one day series that followed, which Australia won, it was obvious that some of the England batsmen were unsettled by Johnsons pace. The signs were there that Australia were a better side than England gave them credit for and this current series has proven it. Hopefully England can bounce back this summer. England will want to beat Sri Lanka and India. He didn't think that there would be many changes to the England team, international cricket didn't work like that. It was difficult playing Test cricket and it wasn't possible to make wholesale changes to the side together with the changing of the coach. He thought that Cook, Bell, Trott, Anderson, Broad, and Pryor would remain along with Stokes. Who knows what Pietersen will do? Root and Fynn needed to reassess their game but he was sure they would come back. Tremlett should not have gone on the tour he just isn't good enough anymore. Who the spinners will be he had no idea.

Graeme Swann had phoned him the day before he announced his retirement. Swann has had two major operations on his bowling arm elbow and it was giving him a lot of pain. He had made the decision to retire at the end of the series anyway because of his elbow problems and with being three games down in the series Swann felt that it was the right time to go. He simply just couldn't bowl because of the pain so he didn't see the point in staying on. Mick thought that we would all be sick of the sights of Swann next year as he would no doubt be on every TV programme going!

Mick then talked about Notts and what had happened to them since he was last here three years ago. Notts' four day cricket had been pretty average, finishing 5th, 6th and 7th in the 3 years. Four day cricket is how he wants Notts to be judged and Notts have managed to stay in Division 1 for seven years, only Durham and Somerset have been in there longer and he is proud of that. But after finishing 2nd, 2nd and 1st in the previous 3 years there is a need to stop the downward trend. The main reason for the decline is he believes down to the lack of a fast bowler. Broad is away on England duty and doesn't play very often so this year Notts have gone for an overseas fast bowler in Peter Siddall. In 2013 Notts only took 20 wickets in 3 matches so there is a need to improve all around. Peter Siddall and Andre Adams will spearhead the attack this season and it is hoped that Jake Ball will continue to improve and develop into a true quick bowler. Notts' one day cricket has improved and the winning of the 40 over competition was a highlight. Limited-over's is seen as a way of introducing youngsters and bringing them through to first class cricket. Sam Wood will play as a spinner in the T20 competition and he is seen in the long term as a developing player to replace Swann.

The academy has been running for 12 years and in that time they haven't produced a quality batsman to break into the County side. Certainly they have produced bowlers, Ball, Fletcher, Carter and Sam Wood who could be classed as an all rounder. So there hasn't been a good class Nottinghamshire born batsman coming through the youth set up. Taylor although born in Notts was developed by Leicestershire. The Academy playing in the Premier League has been a great success. Playing against good quality adult players has helped them improve in all aspects of the game.

Mick then spoke about Kevin Pietersen (this was before the announcement that he had been told he would not play for England again) and the circumstances of his departure from Notts. Not long after his departure from Notts Mick looked through Pietersens then newly published autobiography, he didn't buy it! He was looking for references to himself after what had happened at Notts. He was somewhat disappointed to find only one reference, so he read it "Clive Rice was my hero and he was replaced by Mick Newell who played an insignificant part in my life"!!

With that the meeting took a fifteen minute comfort break which was followed by a question and answer session.

Why has Paul Johnson left Trent Bridge?

I felt that there was a need to restructure the coaching staff. Notts hadn't had a full time bowling coach for some time and to have a full time bowling coach there needed to be a restructuring of staff and unfortunately it meant Paul leaving.

Where is the priority of the players in terms of the format of cricket that they play?

This varies from player to player. I would like to think that the majority of Cricketers want to play Test match cricket for England and I still believe that's the case. However, there is a growing group of players in their mid twenties who think the chance to play for England as gone, such as Hales. I have tried to persuade him that if he buckles down in County cricket and scores runs regularly he may still get the chance. Morgan is another who has the talent to play Test Cricket but appears to be concentrating on T20 and 50 overs.

He was asked about a young bowler from Cuckney who was never going to be a six footer but could swing and move the ball.

There did seem to be an obsession with height, but there is still room for anyone who could move the ball. Notts will always look at any player with ability regardless of their stature.

Why was Chris Read left out of the England team when he was?

Well at that time all England teams selected for home Tests were selected by a three man team and Chris played against Pakistan at home. On the overseas tours the Head Coach selects the side and Fletcher chose Jones in front of Chris in Australia. England was beaten easily in the first three tests and Jones hardly scored a run. Chris came in for the last two tests and was never seen again. England then went to the World Cup and Moores, from Sussex, then took over as coach and bought Matt Pryor with him.

Are there any plans to name a stand or facility at Trent Bridge after Reg Simpson?

That's a good point and I will take that back to Trent Bridge. One thing that will not happen is the selling of the Trent Bridge name. The County Club are determined not to do that and the ground will always be Trent Bridge.

There followed a few supplementary questions, after which the Chairman thanked Mick for an enlightening and interesting afternoon and the members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

The meeting closed at 4.15pm, next meeting will be on 1st March 2014 at 2.30pm.