



HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL CRICKET LEAGUE UMPIRES & SCORERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 20th AGM held at Flockton Green WMC.

Wednesday 9th September 2009

Attendance

President, Chairman, Vice - Chairman, Secretary, and 15 members

Apologies

Steve Adler, Howard Moxon, Paul Taylor.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who announced that Wilf Holland – Life Member had passed away. A minutes silence was observed in respect.

President's Address – Trevor Heeley

Association defined by Oxford English Dictionary as: *Body of Persons, organised for joint purpose, Connection of Ideas, Companionship.*

It is the latter definition that has been so essential to me this year. The degree of sympathy, most sincerely expressed by so many members was very much appreciated after the death of my wife, Brenda. Throughout 51 years of married life, Brenda bore the brunt of my neglect as I pursued my many involvements with 9 committees, requiring constant minute taking (no type writer or computers mind), 33 years of referring and 45 years to date of umpiring!

As I stand before her treasured photograph, I repeat to myself, “if only I could turn back the clock”. I know I can't and whilst I am thankful for those 51 years together, I now acknowledge the cost of my neglect on my wife and family. So to everyone here tonight and those who will eventually read these words, I implore you to respect and treasure what you have while you can. Life is too short and time too precious to waste. Be aware of your limitations and be mindful of the feelings of those around you. Always give of them your best, thus enabling you to look back with grateful thanks and be so inspired to face the future, together with family and friends around you. Treasure not only the companionship of the association but more so that of your family.

As always a thank-you to all officials who have officiated throughout the year, but it is always annoying to see depleted numbers at our meetings, particularly when there are so many issues and problems that require resolving. Of particular issue is the insurance (or lack of it) for officials, leaving members open to risk as I'm sure numerous can testify to, when on the receiving end of a hard ball encased in leather. The weather was again indifferent to disappointing, but where would we be gentleman without those tea ladies, who have surpassed themselves again.

Finally I would encourage all members to look around you at work, play in the pub and see if any of friends or acquaintances would not also make good umpires.

Yours in cricket, Trevor Heeley.



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Minutes of 19th AGM

Minutes of the 19th AGM were read and passed as a true and correct record.

Proposed – Mick Tock Seconded – Ian Livsey

Chairman's Report – Peter Firth

The end of another season approaches, one which appears to have passed very quickly and without serious incident.

My thanks go to those members who have regularly attended our meetings and tho those who have not – why not, give them a try! During the season, the YCB ACO established a local branch covering Huddersfield and Halifax area, and I'm glad to report that the association are well represented in the guise of HARRY Marsden as Treasure, Gary Rank as Training Officer and Ian Livsey as a member of the Management Committee. I hope our members will attend these meeting also.

As we acknowledged at the start of the meeting, we recently lost Wilf Holland, one of our life members. Wilf was associated with the league as both a player and umpire for more than 50 years.

My thanks go to those who have administered the association and to those who have stood in at short notice. Particular thanks go to Gary Rank for training and Brian Cooper for his tireless work as appointments secretary for the league.

Finally may I appeal to those clubs who do not fulfil their league requirements by not providing umpires to make an effort to recruit some!

Secretary's Report

I have carried out the duties of Honorary Secretary to the best of my ability.

Attendance at meetings this year has again been good, but we don't appear to have attracted any scorers to our meetings despite the change in the name of the association.

Aprils meeting was particularly well attended with 34 members. For the remaining meetings we average 18-20. However once again, and no disrespect to anyone, it's the same old faces. Which is annoying, when we receive letters from the league requesting the association to clarify issues or seeking guidance, better attendance at meeting would ensure that these issues are not repeated. I speak specifically regarding issues on rain / weather affected matches. This year,as last year (and I also assume as in previous years) we have received a letter from the league asking the association to clarify action to be taken and suggesting that we hold a training course!

Thanks are due to Owen Dyson & Harry Marsden in carrying out the secretary's duties in my absence. Thanks are also due to Chairman Peter and Brian Cooper for organising the distribution of handbooks.

Don Kirby was once again a welcome guest speaker at our August meeting.



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The ECB ACOS is now up and running very well, I would take this opportunity to reinforce the Associations & Leagues wish that all members of the association make themselves members, if only from an insurance viewpoint.

Finally, I would like to suggest that if members still require printed copies of minutes etc, then an "administrative" assistant be appointed who can label up and post these on the secretary's behalf.

Treasurer's Report

I have carried out the duties of the Honorary Treasurer to the best of my ability

You will note that the bank balance shows a significant deficit against last year. This is mainly due to the purchase of score cards for the association. I had hoped that these could be "funded" by my company. Unfortunately this could not be achieved. It is the Treasurers intention to approach the league for the refund of postage costs and score card costs as the league has not committed any monies to the association this season as in past seasons.

To elaborate, the previous subsidies from the league were for umpire's insurance, YCB Insurance and postage costs. This year it was decided that umpires be recommended to join the ECB ACOS which includes insurance. In addition the league felt that as minutes were now published on the web site and members got e-mail copies. Postage costs would not be as high.

While not being able to meet the cost of the score card printing, you will note that I have managed to "absorb" any stationary cost for this year in terms of paper, envelopes etc.

Thanks to Harry Marsden for auditing the accounts.

The accounts were passed as a true and correct record.

Discussion: It was suggested that due to postage costs etc, the association should look to charge for membership. However, as most of the league umpires do not attend the meetings, it may not generate much income unless it was compulsory for all league umpires. This may then impact on the association efforts to get all members to also sign up to the ECB ACO. However it was stated that most of our league clubs get a good deal from their umpires and the clubs should be encouraged to pay the ECB ACO fees for them.

The score cards obtained by the secretary were a welcome addition and it was suggested that these also be sent out with handbooks next season.

Mick Tock volunteered to act as "administrative support" in order to distribute meeting minutes by post.

Election of Officers

All officials were re-elected unopposed.

Proposed on block by Ian Livsey Seconded , Harry Marsden

AOB

It was proposed that to avoid clashes with league meetings the association meetings be altered from Wednesdays to Tuesdays. It was agreed that for the 2010 season, meeting will now take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month,



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apart from the first meeting in April, which will be on the second Tuesday, in order that hand books can be distributed.

There are 4 proposals for league rule changes that may affect umpires next season.:

Rule 5 (Z)

Amend to read

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If it appears obvious that due to inclement weather, a ground will be unfit for play, then the two captains (or club representatives) can meet on the morning of the game to inspect the ground and reach a decision on the fitness of the ground. If they both agree the ground is unfit, the home club will notify the Umpires Appointments Secretary as soon as possible, but no later than 2 hours before the scheduled start of play. If the two captains (or club representatives) do not agree then both teams must turn up as normal. Any breach of this rule will result in both clubs being deducted at least 6 points.

Rule 6 (A)

Amend to read

Page 42

Each team shall nominate one umpire, who is a member of the ECB ACO, to act in league and cup matches (i.e. clubs with 2 teams must nominate 2 umpires).

Rule 6 (K)

Amend to read

Page 43

Any club failing to provide Umpire(s) for any match in accordance with the club's appointments shall receive 2 matches per team with no fine, and then a £5.00 per match fine will be imposed for the next 5 matches (3 through to 7) and then a £7.50 per match fine will be imposed for the next 5 matches (8 to 11) and then a £10.00 per match fine will be imposed on all other matches to the end of the season.

New Rule. *The Management Board to convene a subcommittee to investigate assessment of umpires with a view to a report being made to the 2010 AGM. This subcommittee should consist of the Management Board, representatives from clubs and members of the umpires association. Its brief should be to formulate a simple system which would help identify umpires' training needs and any other feasible uses.*

The first 3 changes were supported by the association. The new rule after lengthy discussion was not, however the association felt, that if all members were to join the ECB ACO, then training and support would be readily available through this body.

Date of next Meeting

The 21st AGM will be held at Flockton Green WMC at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st September, 2010 unless otherwise advised.