

Thames Valley Cricket League – 2008 Annual General Meeting

AGM Minutes 2008

Minutes of the TVCL 2008 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2008 at Slough Cricket Club. Meeting commenced at 19:50 hrs.

Committee Members in attendance:- **Neil Doody** (Chairman), **Raj Patel** (Secretary), **Martin House** (League Treasurer), **John Goodman** (Fixture Secretary), **Philip Newfield** (Vice Chairman), **Wilson Carlisle**, **Barrie Hatch**, **Mike Salmon**, **Rod Dye**, **Graham Hall**, **Jeremy Davis**, **Nick Piper**

Representation by Member Clubs:- 47 Clubs present. **No representation from:-** Burnham, Caversham and Redingensians, Farnham Royal, Henley, Marlow Park, Maidenhead & Bray, Odiham & Greywell, Reading, Stoke Green, Teddington Town

1) **Apologies for Absence**

None

2) **Minutes of the 2007 AGM held on 5th December 2007**

The minutes of this meeting had been distributed with 2008 AGM notices. They were approved without amendment and duly signed by the Chairman. Adopted unanimously.

3) **Matters Arising from 2007 AGM Minutes**

Ref section 9- Election of Officers. Amend '2007' to '2008'.

4) **Chairman's Address**

The Chairman opened the meeting by reflecting on the 2008 season and acknowledging Beaconsfield 1st XI as worthy winners of the Div 1. Henry Olonga was the guest speaker at the 2008 Dinner which was once again well attended. 8 new clubs had joined the TVCL, contributing 20 new teams. The Chairman concluded by reading out a short statement on the disciplinary problems that the League had had to deal with during the 2008 season.

5) **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary had distributed his report with the 2008 AGM notice and there were no matters arising from it. The report was adopted unanimously.

6) **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer had provided an audited set of accounts, which were distributed to attendees prior to the start of the AGM. He went through these accounts in detail which showed a year end surplus of £2303.00. He also reminded clubs that if they wanted less match balls in 2009 then he would need to know by the second week of December.

Hayes – ref Fixtures and Equipment- are these replacement costs?

MH- No. The amounts are seen as 'written off'.

Bagshot – Requested clarification of how loans are made to member clubs.

MH- Explanation given and clubs were reminded that loans are still available.

Proposed by Wokingham. Seconded by Cove. Passed unanimously.

7) **Discipline & Complaints**

Chairman of D & C sub-committee, Barrie Hatch, made a brief statement outlining the increasing numbers of complaints received from umpires, captains or players into the behaviour or actions of

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other players. Although D & C are not yet at the point of considering the “yellow card” system, we will be looking for improved behaviour in 2009. He reminded member clubs that D & C discussions are confidential, and that the decision of the Appeal Committee is final and binding. He would not, therefore, comment tonight on any individual events. As far as the Management Committee is concerned, all complaints have been dealt with and are now closed. He asked member clubs for any views on disciplinary issues and comments on the disciplinary process itself.

None were expressed.

Rod Dye- referred to a recent Times article which reported a possible trial of introducing a ‘yellow card’ system into minor counties and Premier League club cricket.

Kew- Suggest a possible review of sanctions available.

Bracknell- Suggest that all clubs issue a statement at their respective AGMs.

8) PROPOSALS BY TVCL MEMBER CLUBS

PN – introduced the section on Proposals by stating that it was his opinion that the TVCL had never been so thoroughly monitored by the Mancom as in 2008. He and his Mancom colleagues had met and spoken with many Captains, Players and Officials throughout the year and he had collated 34 issues for consideration by the R & MC sub-committee at its Autumn 2008 meeting. He outlined a presentation made at PN’s request by Geoff Watts (Beaconsfield) to this meeting re match points and thanked Geoff for this. He added that a questionnaire produced by GW and Matti Watton based on this presentation would be sent to member clubs in early January 2009 and thanked GW and MW for this. GW’s presentation would be available to member clubs on request to the Hon Secretary. Should the responses justify further consideration by the R & MC Subcom it will meet to deliberate in the late Spring of 2009 and consider appropriate action. Should the responses not justify further action GW’s presentation and the member clubs’ responses would simply remain on record.

He requested that as Kew’s proposal involved voting majorities which, if successful, would affect voting on other proposals, that this proposal should be discussed first. No objections were made.

8.1 Match rule 6e(i) (c) Majorities required for Proposals to be passed at General Meetings Pages 71 and 72- proposed by Kew, seconded by Chiswick & Latymer.

Kew: - outlined the proposal. Stated that by lowering the majority required to 60% it would make it easier for rule changes to be made and thus accurately represent the wishes of the majority of clubs.

PN: - Reminded clubs that a thorough investigation into this had been made in 2006 which included consulting a Sports Lawyer, who when pressed by PN and the League Chairman, had advised that a reduction in voting majorities would in no way be in the best interests of the League. PN had also researched the voting rules of 13 other Leagues within the ECB Premier League Structure and the vast majority also used the 2/3 majority in their rules. It was the belief of the TVCL Management Committee that no change was required, nor would be in the best interests of the League.

OMT- supports the proposed change. Current rules require twice the number of votes for than against. A change to 60% is fairer.

Harefield: - Questioned how many of previous failed proposals would have gone through on a 60% majority. Also questioned whether this change would actually have an impact on future voting.

PN- did not have complete statistics to hand, but was certain that in the 10 years he had served on the Mancom a very minimal number of failed proposals, if any, would have been adopted if the required majority had been 60 %.

Newbury: - TVCL Mancom spends a lot of time on League rules. Member clubs give mandate to the League to update rules on behalf of members. Newbury against this proposal.

Bagshot: - A member club can get the required 2/3 majority if they elicit support. They have 12 months to get the required number of votes.

Proposal not passed – only 5 votes in favour.

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9) PROPOSALS BY TVCL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1) Constitution Rule 8 a. Finance. (Page 72 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

2) Constitution Rule 9. Winding Up. (Page 72 in the TVCL handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

3) Constitution Rule 4. Administration. (Page 70 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

4) Constitution Rule 5 b. Functions of the management Committee. (Page 70 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

5) Constitution Rule 6 a. Special General Meetings. (Pages 70 -71 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

6) Constitution Rule 6 b. Annual General Meetings. (Page 71 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

7) Match Rule 1 a. Fixtures. (Page 76 in the 2008 TVCL handbook)

Bracknell- Does this apply to all levels?

PN- Yes

Proposal passed unanimously

8) Match Rule 3 d. Ball. (Page 77 in the 2008 TVCL handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

9) Match Rule 5a Player Eligibility (Pages 80-81 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

10) Match Rule 5 b 2). Player Eligibility (Page 81 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

11) Match Rule 5 b 2 (iii). Player Eligibility (Page 81 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

12) Match Rule 5 c. Player Eligibility (Page 81 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

13) Match Rule 5 e. Player Eligibility (Page 81 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

Hillingdon Manor- Would this include County 2nd XI players?

GH- Yes.

Proposal passed unanimously

14) Match Rule 5 f. Player Eligibility (Page 81 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

15) Match Rule 5. Player Eligibility) (Pages 80 and 81 in the TVCL 2008 handbook)

No comments proposal passed unanimously

10) Umpires and Scorers

Rod Dye outlined at length the problems facing his sub-committee in recruiting new umpires. It is getting progressively harder to recruit new umpires. He expressed his disappointment that only 12 clubs had replied to the umpires' questionnaire that had been sent out. It was reported that other Leagues fine clubs points for not supplying umpires- a route that the League does not want to go down but does not discount totally. There are only 17 clubs with at least one member on the panel (22 umpires). There are another 14 who have had a member on the panel in the past but no longer do so. That leaves 18 that have never had anyone on the panel (though 6 of those were amongst the 12 that did reply). Those clubs in Divs 1 and 2 who do not have members on the panel will not be guaranteed replacements for withdrawals from matches- furthermore it should be noted that these same clubs may not be allocated an umpire for certain matches if availability of umpires for any one weekend are low. (Clubs that have members on the panel would be given priority.)

RD urged all member clubs to be pro-active in the recruitments of their members onto umpires training courses sooner rather than later.

PN- reported that he had researched the Cherwell League and the response by its member clubs after they had introduced points penalties for not supplying an umpire. He reported that instance where clubs had not supplied an umpire had fallen dramatically. Out of a possible 201 matches there were only 4-6 instances when umpires were not provided by clubs. He also reported that only 6 clubs had objected to the points deduction proposal when it was originally introduced. Further research into the Herts League, that also imposes points deductions for non-provision of umpires, showed that out of 620 matches only 11 matches had been reported as not having 2 umpires.

JG- Added that in 2008 there were over 150 occasions when scorers had not been provided in matches at Div 1 and 2 level of the TVCL.

Hayes- Would TVCL Mancom be organising umpires training courses?

JG- No- that is the responsibility of your local county cricket board.

PN- Reminded clubs that bringing in points deduction penalties did not require a change of rules. In 2009 PN and other Mancom members would be monitoring presence of umpires and scorers when conducting match/ground visits.

Amersham- How long are courses?

Beaconsfield- 8 weeks. Umpires can stand in TVCL games after Level 1 completed.

Chiswick & Latymer- Would a panel umpire know if he is standing on his own?

RD- Yes

Beaconsfield- Panel umpires do not have to stand every week.

Wokingham- Why not fine the club the equivalent of the cost of an umpire- £35?

PN- Taking more money out of clubs was not the answer.

Cove- It was easier for Herts and Cherwell to bring in these measures as these Leagues are more county-oriented. TVCL can help in pinpointing where courses are being conducted.

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11) Election of Officers and Management Committee for 2009

The Chairman requested nominations for Officers of the League for the coming year; the following people were nominated:-

Office	Nominee	Home Club
Chairman	Neil Doody	Finchampstead
Secretary	Raj Patel	Kew
Treasurer	Martin House	Slough
Fixture Secretary	John Goodman	

All officers proposed by **Beaconsfield**. Seconded by **Cove**. All officers elected unanimously.

8 further Management Committee Members

Mike Salmon	Slough	Wilson Carlisle	Falkland	Barrie Hatch	NPL Teddington
Rod Dye		Philip Newfield	OMT	Graham Hall	Chiswick & Latymer
Jeremy Davis	Bagshot	Nick Piper	Amersham		

All officers proposed by **Bracknell**. Seconded by **Hillingdon Manor**. All officers elected unanimously.

10) Election of Independent Examiner for 2008/9

The Chairman reminded the meeting that **Ray Wood** of **Reading** had acted in this capacity in recent years. Ray had indicated his willingness to continue. He was proposed by **Purley on Thames** and seconded by **Slough** – his appointment was carried unanimously.

11) Any Other Business

The Chairman presented the Div 3a bowling award to Charlie Anstey (Newbury).

Amersham- Asked for clarification re new system of managed migration for overseas players.

GH- Only applies to contracted professional players coming to the UK specifically to play cricket.

Beaconsfield: - Sports Visas only required for paid players.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:55 hours.

End of 2008 AGM Minutes