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**CRICKET COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 28th FEBRUARY 2012 AT RAINHILL CC**

**Agenda**

1. **Apologies & Roll Call**
2. **Minutes of 31st January 2012**
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Matters relating to St Helens Clubs’ Merger**
5. **Matters relating to Fixtures**
6. **Matters relating to Reporting of Results; League Cup and Play-Cricket**
7. **Matters relating to Registration of Players**
8. **Matters relating to 3rd X1s**
9. **Matters relating to Club & Ground**
10. **Matters relating to MCUA**
11. **U/16 & U/20 Draws**
12. **AOB**
13. **Next Meeting: Tuesday 27th March; Bootle CC; 7.00pm**
14. **Apologies.**

The meeting opened at 7.05pm with apologies received from: Messrs’ Hadfield; Williams; Bristow; Ratcliffe & Shiff.

Present: Chairman: J J Rotheram; Secretary: D H Murphy;

Fixture Secretary: R Durand; L&DCC Hon Secretary: C Weston;

Cups Secretary: R Roberts; MCUA: R Rigby;

3rd X1 Fixture Secretary: M Leddy; Assistant Result Secretary: D Crossley;

Steve Walburn (CBCC); Chris Firth (S&BCC); John Murphy (Wallasey CC); Neil Girvin (Wigan CC); & Franny Joyce (PLCC).

CW asked if he may address the meeting over the vacancy in the club representatives caused by the current situation of the proposed merger of St Helens Town CC and St Helens Recs CC. For reasons that would become clear as the meeting progressed the Management Committee has suggested that Skelmersdale CC, as the next in line, be invited to take up the vacancy. There was no opposition to the suggestion. CW will inform them.

On a separate subject CW wished to congratulate our host club on having the approach road surface tarmac’d; JJR indicated that it was not yet completed.

1. **Minutes of 31st January 2012.**

The minutes of the previous Cricket Committee meeting had been circulated and were accepted as a true and correct record.

1. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1. **Matters relating to the St Helens clubs’ merger.**

The background history was given to the meeting by CW. Both St Helens CCs have apologised for the news appearing on the unofficial web site before the Management Committee knew of it. At the outset Recs were in favour of a merger but Town weren’t; then at a subsequent meeting the individual clubs reversed their original decisions; finally the clubs decided that a merger should be the outcome. Since then the clubs have met Management Committee at Liverpool St Helens RUFC and Town have decided to fold, but the junior section wants to continue. An e-mail received yesterday evening indicates that Town have decided the junior teams cannot be sustained. This decision will affect the 1st & 2nd X1 Second Division, Sunday 3rd X1 Premier Division and the Cup competitions, including junior.

It is proposed that EH, RD & RR sort fixture matters in the Digman & Chester Cups, but the withdrawal of St Helens CC means one group will have 3 teams playing only two fixtures. Several suggestions were made to solve the problem:

1. Use the per game average (over 2 or 3 games) across all cup matches – it is simple to do BUT must affect all 9 groups, which is unreasonable as only 1 group is actually affected and was not agreed at the AGM or
2. Make 1 group 3 games by using the run rate from the two games played, halving it and adding it to the two game figure to arrive at the 3 game figure
3. **Matters relating to Fixtures issues.**

RD has a request from Liverpool CC to move a 4th X1 fixture against Northern CC from 15/9/12 to 5/5/12. It was suggested that they enquire if it could be played at Northern CC. Both Newton Le Willows CC and Sutton CC want to reverse early season fixtures but unless they have a resolution, the fixtures will remain unchanged.

SW said that Colwyn Bay CC have agreed to play their fixture v Liverpool CC at Rydal School.

DHM asked for an update on Southport & Birkdale CC’s efforts to find a venue for their 3rd X1 fixtures – CF said that the search continues and the latest option being investigated is the use of Ormskirk’s back pitch.

1. **Matters relating to Reporting of Results; League Cup and Play-Cricket.**

There was no report given due to EH being on holiday.

1. **Matters relating to Registration of Players.**

As for item 6.

1. **Matters relating to 3rd X1’s.**

ML had nothing to report.

1. **Matters relating to Club and Ground.**

CW reported that Old Xaverians CC is not anticipating being able to carry out the required improvements to the changing rooms and toilets because their grant application is taking more time to process than originally thought. They hope to hear within 4 weeks. Ray Rigby said umpires have to change with the players which is unacceptable. JJR suggested that the club be asked if the football changing facilities could be made available for the officials.

1. **Matters relating to MCUA.**

Ray Rigby reported that MCUA are holding a seminar on 25/3/12 on the subject of illegal use of the arm. If, in the course of a match, an umpire deems the bowling action to be ‘suspect’ he will complete a report to MCUA; if, in another match involving the same player, another umpire has cause to report the ‘suspect’ action, then a report will be forwarded to the L&DCC Management Committee to action.

The 1st round of the Echo Cup has been regionalised and was under discussion so that Sefton area provides 9 clubs, necessitating one preliminary game; the Eastern area provides 8 clubs, as does the Town and Wirral areas. The 2nd round onwards will be an open draw. Other than that the cup will remain as in 2011 with rules similar but not identical to the ECB t20 competition (5 overs not 4; no foot faults; no tramlines). RR reminded the meeting that this was not an L&DCC Competition. Clubs are to use ACO members to officiate in games. Cr Co noted unanimously approved the changes.

The travelling expenses are £38 for league games; £35 for the Lancashire Knock Out; £30 plus 30p per mile in the National Cup & £15 for 20 over Knock Out games.

The close season course has brought 3 new members and 1 returning, but that is offset by the loss of Mike Jones. RR addressed the issue of recruitment to the umpiring panel as there are not enough people attending the courses run by them and the current officials are not getting any younger. Clubs need to think what they can do to help solve the problem or face the fact that in years to come they may have a game to play, but no one to officiate.

The system of Ground Markings will be presented by ECB representatives on 22/3/12 tasked with talking to Premier Leagues to try to obtain a better overview of the markings, as there appears to be big differences from one Premier League to another.

1. **U/16 & U/20 Draws.**

The draws have been made; they are regionalised into 4 groups. The finals will be held at New Brighton CC on 15/7/12. Grade 1 umpires will officiate on the day.

1. **Any Other Business.**

SW on behalf of Colwyn Bay CC said they wanted to register a player with UK ancestry and was informed that it was a matter for the Registration Secretary on receipt of the necessary paperwork, not this committee.

NG pointed out the effect St Helens CC’s withdrawal will have on the Cup fixtures; he was assured it will be resolved by EH & RD.

CW said that the updated Constitution and fixtures are now on the web sites and the Handbook printing is underway. He also advised people that the presentation on the Total Cricket Scorer software is to be held at Bootle CC on 24/3/12.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.