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**MiL&DCC 3rd XI End of Season 2015 Special General Meeting:**

**Sefton Park Cricket Club Tuesday 10th November 2015 at 7.30pm**

In accordance with the Constitution of the MiL&DCC items 8.2/8.6 notice had been given on the 7th September 2015 of the MiL&DCC **End of Season** 2014 **3rd XI Special General Meeting** to be held at Sefton Park CC on **Tuesday 10th November 2015 at 7.30pm**

**Agenda**:

1. Welcome and roll call.
2. Chairman's opening remarks
3. Discussion of matters relating to season 2015 and plans for 2016
4. Embee Cup Trophy 2015/2016
5. Any other Business
6. Closure of proceedings.

**Items for Discussion**

**See Appendix 2**

As part of the above the following items and more have been identified for discussion and possible change under agenda items 3 and 4:

\* Player eligibility in 3rd X1 League Fixtures

\* Player eligibility in 3rd X1 Cup Fixtures

\* Review of application of locked fixtures at this level

C Weston

Hon Sec

MiL&DCC

*7.30 pm*

1. ***Welcome and roll call.***

The President, Eric Hadfield (EH), opened the meeting, the Chairman John Williams (JW) having been delayed enroute and called on the Hon Sec Chris Weston (CW) to call the roll.

* 1. *Apologies*

The Hon Treasurer Alan Bristow (AB) had given his apologies as had the Club and Ground Chairman Iain McKillop (IMcK). There were personal apologies from Prestatyn and Parkfield Liscard CCs

* 1. *Roll Call*

The Hon Sec asked club representatives to switch their ‘phones to silent or to off and then called the roll.

See **Appendix 1** page 7

33 clubs were represented including Irby CC and Prescott & Odyssey CCs who were welcomed as observer clubs and here present prior to formally joining the MiL&DCC as Associate Member clubs with teams in the 3rd XI structure, at AGM 2016.

6 clubs were not represented at this meeting; a further 5 clubs, correctly, were not represented as they did not currently enter a 3rd XI into the MiL&DCC structure

* 1. *Welcome*

The Chair JW gave his congratulations to the all the winners in our 6 divisions (2 Saturday + 3 Sunday + 1 Development League) in the 3rd XI structure in 2015.

Management Committee intended to say very little at this meeting, it was intended that the meeting should be devoted to feedback directly from the clubs.

1. ***Chairman's opening remarks***

M/C was very much aware of current ECB initiatives in respect of the implementation of “Get the Game On”. There was huge concern at the declining levels of participation in cricket countrywide particularly in what was perhaps best described as being “social cricket”. The number of conceded fixtures was increasing both locally and nationally.

M/C was concerned that we might not be meeting the needs of the clubs and players; this was an opportunity to pose some questions and to listen carefully to any feedback.

*2.3.1* We would go into this in more detail later but for example M/C and Cr Co had spent disproportionate amounts of time this year on player eligibility, some very public decisions had been made. M/C would like to simplify systems if they could.

*2.3.2* Another example was what type of cricket we wanted to play - was it time or win/lose? National Cricket Playing Surveys said that nationally win/lose was preferred particularly as we went down the divisions in leagues – was this the case in the MiL&DCC?

*2.3.2* Did we want to vary the time of the starts of games in the 3rd XIs? There would for example be a proposal to AGM 2016 to start the 2nd XI games earlier i.e. at 1.00 pm in the same way that the 1st XI starts were timed.

*2.3.2* What did we think about locked matches? There was potential unfairness here if a match was rearranged to be played much later and players locked. If the team that had helped the other by allowing rearrangement could not then raise a side as all its players were locked or unavailable and they had then to concede, it seemed unfair to hit them with +25 -10 points etc. What did we all think about that?

We wanted direct feedback from this meeting. If clubs *were* happy that was fine but we were actively checking what the position was at the end of season 2015 and not taking things for granted.

1. ***Discussion of matters relating to season 2015 and plans for 2016***

The Chair directed the meeting to the discussion document **Appendix 1** and checked that everyone had a copy.

*3.1 Administration in the 3rd XIs etc.*

Administration could be fairly summed as having been awful in places. The discussion document pulled no punches, some clubs were much worse than others. These clubs might expect to be written to separately taking them to task over their poor record in 2015.

There were several aspects to the problem of administration but fines had totalled over £7,000 in 2015, it would go back to the clubs via the Player Development Programme for age group players but that was not the point, £7,000 - often in £5 increments - was ridiculous.

* + 1. *Failing to register players*:

Showing uncorrected “unsures” could invalidate a club’s public liability insurance leaving clubs and players wide open if there was some serious injury to someone in a game. If such registrations were not completed at 2nd XI level the game was forfeit and +25-10 points etc. the penalty.

Three clubs separately made the point that this sometimes happened when registrations were very slow to come through taking one or more *weeks* to be completed. This was a particular problem with young players drafted in at the last minute. By the time the registration was complete the card was locked and it was yet more hassle getting it unlocked and updated, it was easier to take the fine and move on. M/C had not heard this criticism before and took this on board. It was suggested that perhaps Assistant Results Secretaries could look at pending registrations before locking cards in 2016 and onwards; M/C would look into the feasibility of this going forward.

M/C made the point that we needed another 3rd XI Coordinator in 2016 as Barry McDonald had been unable to continue in post in 2015.

* + 1. *Match Result Forms:*

This was another real problem area. One of the clubs at the heart of those who had not been sending in MRFs apologised for not doing so, they had missed a key meeting when the procedures were introduced and explained at length and made the point that while they understood why MRFs were introduced (– team sheets as per Laws of Cricket and to cover age group players plus both clubs signing an agreed result at the end of the game-) this process had yet to become part of the culture of the end of 3rd XI games. MRFs were thought to “add little and not to be a necessity”. This candour was welcomed but greeted with surprise, at the very least it should be understood that they were there to agree the result e.g. one game in the 3s in 2015 had not been agreed and Cr Co had had to apply the Laws of Cricket and reverse a result when there was a dispute. No MRF meant there was no agreement. Perhaps repeated offender clubs should be fined more than £5 or have points deducted – e.g. zero points for the home team.

The Chair wondered if the procedure could be simplified i.e. to be made less “hassle”. At the moment it was 3 pieces of paper. The analogy with the Rugby Union forms was made, they came as an SAE and all they required was a stamp. The Hon Sec commented that all paper forms could be photographed on a smart phone and simply sent as an email to the ARSec, it was easy and quick to do, this also automatically gave a record of information having been sent.

Practicalities were discussed at length. Player umpires often did not use the cards - they stayed with the scorers. Cards had to have accurate ages for juniors because of bowling restrictions etc. There had been two very serious problems in 2015 over exactly this area in 2015.

It was agreed that a simplified *single sheet form* would designed if possible with say both team sheets on one side and the MRF on the other. M/C was keen to simplify things for captains if at all possible; it would look into the feasibility of a “back to back sheet” going forward.

*3.2 Eligibility and Registration:*

The Chair raised the issue of players who, having no game on the Saturday, were then eligible to play for a Sunday side *without restriction*. The regulation 7.6.1 had been in place for many years. Did clubs still want this? Was this fair, was this right? There were Spirit of Cricket issues.

A lengthy discussion followed, a number of clubs contributed to it. M/C made clear that 7.6.1 was written this way and included in the regulations to allow for players who occasionally had to work on a Saturday, the measure was aimed at inclusivity and getting a game for someone when this happened, but the point was sound, we should revisit regulations when they became out of line with other regulations, i.e. did we still want regulation 7.6.1 to remain there in this form?

The Chair summed up the discussion. Most clubs felt that “regular” 1st XI players should not be allowed to play unrestrained, allowing 2nd XI players was “OK”; the age group restrictions worked well and should be left as they were. This would now be addressed by a proposal to AGM 2016

The Chair went on to say that special requests for 1 off allowances to play were common. Registering a 1st or 2nd XI player as a driver for a 3rd XI was allowed and becoming more common. It helped teams and Spirit of Cricket was addressed. Bona fide players retiring and then captaining 2nd or 3rd XI sides were accommodated by M/C and Cr Co early in the season if their %s were initially “wrong”. It was reassuring that there had been no attempts to abuse these provisions.

The regulations surrounding the allowance of age group players had now been in position for 2 years, were clubs happy with them? One clubs said these regulations were the reason that they had applied to join the L&DCC system two years ago, it gave more cricket to age group players who were otherwise not getting a decent game on a Saturday. Another felt it helped clubs to get sides out and provided more games in which age group players could develop which had been the original reason for these changes and, by and large, this seemed to have worked.

A heated discussion on eligibility then followed on what the countback of 11 games actually meant, did all games count, was it Saturdays only was it league only? It was pointed out that the regulations said “last 11 consecutive matches” there was no reference to league or cup or Sat or Sunday.

Discussion continued. One club felt that counting all games made it easier for the better players to play in this way as their 1st XI game %’s were diluted, another club felt this had not been a problem at all. The system seemed to work. One club felt that smaller clubs needed their U19s to get their 3rd XIs out; there was agreement in the room for this point. Another club ruefully noted that a lot of 50s were being scored from the number 6 batting position on Sundays and captains had to be careful not to bowl real 3rd XI youngsters too late in the game or they would sometimes now be bowling at 1st XI age group players. Did enabling participation lead to unfairness? “It’s a balance” was said.

Using the 11 game count back and age group players favoured Sunday teams over Saturday teams in cup competitions. It was pointed out that cup and league eligibility was not the same, another ruefully agreed their club having been ejected from the cup for not realising this distinction.

If we were now to have two 3rd XI cup competitions, they would need different eligibility criteria.

*3.3 Locked Matches:*

The Chair commented that queries over this had cropped up a lot in 2015 and gave examples of 3rd XI players being drafted into 1st XIs when they were really short in rearranged fixtures then being locked out of bona fide 3rd XI games on a different and now locked date.

M/C commented that this regulation had been introduced with 1st XIs in mind no-one else and when there had been problems with 1st XI players having a blank Saturday and then playing in 2nd and 3rd XI sides - with obvious Spirit of Cricket issues arising. The regulation had never been intended to restrict 2nd or 3rd XI players There would be a proposal to AGM 2016 restricting locking to 1st XI players (using the last 11 games rule) attempting to “play down” and to no one else.

A club asked if this meant that a club with two 3rd XI teams would be exempt from locking for these players. The answer was yes, we were not trying to think of reasons why 3rd XI players should not be eligible, quite the reverse, this was inclusivity and getting the game on by making it easier for clubs to get sides out in a way that did not cause Spirit problems was the point.

*3.4 Start times:*

There would be a proposal to AGM 2016 for 2nd XI games all normally to start at 1.00 pm exactly like the 1st XI games.

The Chair checked and it was confirmed that Saturday 3rd XIs started at 1.45pm; did 3rd XIs want to start earlier too? We were happy to consult here. A discussion followed. A club felt there was an obvious problem with age group players playing morning games; we would lose many 15 or 16 year olds. Was there a difference between Saturday and Sunday games? No club spoke in favour of earlier start times. Again discussion followed. 3rd XIs already had the ability to start earlier if they wished anyway using regulation 4.2.3 which the Chair read out in part.

The Chair summed up; there was no pressure or major desire to change, we were happy to leave things as they were.

*3.5 Overs or Time Games:*

The Chair raised this issue. Feedback from the National Cricket Playing Surveys indicated that nationally there was said to be pressure for games to be based on win/lose overs formats, was there a desire for that here? One club felt that over rates needed to be looked at, the Chair felt that overs cricket did that. The response from the room was that as it was 3rd XIs provided a pathway into higher levels of cricket, things were fine left as they were.

*3.6 Restricting numbers of overs for bowlers*

Some local leagues were doing this over and above any applicable ECB age group regulations, did we want to do the same, perhaps restricting to 15 overs maximum? A discussion followed.

This was felt to be a club issue. This should perhaps apply to 1st XIs not 3rd XIs! This prevented the development of young bowlers. No club spoke in favour of the idea.

The Chair summed up, there was no demand for this and regulations would stay the same.

*3.6. Bans on “Overseas Players” in the 3rd XIs:* i.e. Category 3 (Not Exempt) players

There had been an example of an inappropriate player of this type playing in the 3rd XIs this season and one two years ago. Did we want to ban them automatically?

Discussion followed. There was no demand for this. Many such players were here for a holiday and were not very good players but they did want to play if they could, that was fine. Examples were given. Their status needed to be checked and M/C always tried to make checks both with cric-info and local play-cricket equivalents. A club also pointed out that all such players had to be registered for a particular team level in the L&DCC.

There did not seem to be a major problem, there was no hard and fast opposition to them playing and regulations would be left unchanged.

1. ***Embee Cup Trophy 2015/2016***

A 3rd XI working group about 3 years ago changed the format of the Embee Cup to that of a T20 using then current feedback. It was felt that this would enable games to be played more easily. There had been an improvement, this had now slipped back. Was it time to review again? Were clubs content with the current format or was more change wanted? Eligibility issues seemed to be the key.

A wide variety of responses was received, an extended debate took place, a large number of clubs had input to this it.

The current format was fine; the issue was sorting the dates on which to play. There was great pressure from 1st and 2nd XI rearranged games. The use of one whole Sunday for Cup games was very helpful.

Did any club wish to change back to a longer Embee format of say 40 or 45 overs? There was a mixed response. More people would play in a T20 format was said, participation was said to be higher, it was easier to get sides out particularly with age group players.

The reasons for the change of format 3 years ago were rehearsed again. Could clubs opt out from taking part in the Embee Cup? This was a possibility.

Having two separate 3rd XI competitions was a possibility, one for the Saturday sides and one for the Sunday sides. The formats did not have to be the same. Rain and travel issues were raised. The new “Cup date only” for the 3rd XIs had been put in as a result of feedback from this season, this was well received and it helped.

A Saturday 40 or 45 over Cup competition and an entirely separate Sunday 20 over Cup competition would be easy to construct if clubs wanted them. 6 Saturday clubs wanted a 40/45 over competition, 4 did not – they could enter the 20 over if they preferred. Clubs could enter both if they felt they could accommodate the fixtures and could get the teams out. Eligibility regulations would need to be different in the two competitions to protect Saturday 3rd XIs.

There would be a website posting and an email circulation on this before the end of December asking clubs to say which 3rd XI Cup competitions, if any; they wished to enter in 2016.

The difficulties with rearranging fixtures were returned to again, on occasions the pressure on dates had been acute in 2015. Looking at the draft fixtures all fixtures could be brought forward a week to create 3 blank Sept dates again. We could just use that blank date as a rearranging date. Using the 1st Sunday in the season could cause eligibility issues in terms of the %s of games played.

1. ***Any Other Business***
   1. *Development Division 2016*

There had been 8 teams in this in 2015, about half the scheduled games were played.

This idea would continue in 2016, clubs must apply and let M/C know of their wish to participate. Again there would be a web posting and an e-mail circulation.

* 1. *3rd XI Coordinator*

Were there any volunteers for this really important post? There were no takers from the representatives at the meeting.

* 1. *Rearranged matches and outcomes from*

It seemed very unfair that if a club agreed that a fixture should be re-arranged, when that fixture came to be played, it then found it could not then get a side out because players were locked or simply not available, that fixture was then counted as a conceded fixture with +25 and -10 points etc. It would be much fairer to record it as abandoned and 5 points each.

The matter was discussed. This solution was not liked by several clubs. It was open to abuse. It might suit a club then to say “abandon” to prevent a club having a chance of winning the league or avoiding relegation. It was felt it would be better to deal with each case on its merits.

It was agreed that such cases should be put in front of the Cr Co in a transparent way before a decision was made.

*5.4 County Game consequences for 3rd XIs*

A club felt that too many 3rd XI fixtures were lost when the County made the ground unavailable for more than one week in the run up to the County fixture. The County Ground club should be required to book other grounds to prevent loss of games.

Discussion followed; there was no strong support for this solution, M/C could not force clubs to book out-grounds. Fixtures should be constructed so as to give County Ground clubs away fixtures in such period. County fixtures were never released until the December i.e. after the 3rd XI fixtures had been constructed. Colwyn Bay explained that they had been given an inkling of their County fixture and explained at length how they coped. Fixtures could be rearranged into the blank slots in September or into Bank Holiday Mondays.

*5.5 Teams playing each other once or twice*

It was asserted that, given an unequal number of teams between two divisions, sometimes sides in the pair played each other either once or twice depending on the fixtures that season. Building on this a club asked if it was possible to prevent clubs with two sides in such a division playing each other more than once in that season. M/C said they would look into this but there were a number of variables here that had not been referred to.

*5.6 Player Development Program*

The Chair advised that there were a very few places left on this <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/youth_cricket.php?id=2414> age group players program 2016. Clubs wishing to take up the offer of £200+ worth of coaching from LCB L3 coaches for £50 should contact Steve Critchley via [sjcritchley@outlook.com](mailto:sjcritchley@outlook.com)  as soon as possible and get back some of their fines money! Names were needed by the end of this month.

1. ***Closure of proceedings****.*

The Hon Sec, as promised, ran through the roll-call-gaps again.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.28 pm thanking club representatives for their attendance and wishing them a safe journey home.

**Appendix 1**

**MiLiverpool & District Cricket Competition:**

Roll Call of Member Clubs with 3rd XIs

End of Season 2015 3rd XI SGM

Date: 10th Nov 2015 Venue: Sefton Park CC

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **AINSDALE** |  |  |
| **2** | **ALDER** |  |  |
| **3** | **BOOTLE** |  |  |
| **4** | ***BIRCHFIELD PARK*** |  |  |
| **5** | **BIRKENHEAD ST MARYS** |  |  |
| **6** | **BIRKENHEAD PARK** |  |  |
| **7** | **BURSCOUGH** | No 3rd XI | N/A |
| **8** | **CALDY** |  |  |
| **9** | **COLWYN BAY** |  |  |
| **10** | **FLEETWOOD HESKETH** |  |  |
| **11** | **FORMBY** |  |  |
| **12** | ***GOODLASS*** |  |  |
| **13** | **HIGHFIELD** |  |  |
| **14** | **HIGHTOWN ST MARYS** |  |  |
| **15** | ***IRBY*** | Observer club |  |
| **16** | **LEIGH** |  |  |
| **17** | **LIVERPOOL** |  |  |
| **18** | **LYTHAM** |  |  |
| **19** | **MAGHULL** |  |  |
| **20** | ***MERSEYSIDE CULTURAL AND SPORTS*** |  |  |
| **21** | **NEW BRIGHTON** |  |  |
| **22** | **NEWTON le WILLOWS** |  |  |
| **23** | **NORLEY HALL** |  |  |
| **24** | **NORTHERN** |  |  |
| **25** | **NORTHOP HALL** |  |  |
| **26** | **OLD XAVERIANS** |  |  |
| **27** | **ORMSKIRK** |  |  |
| **28** | **ORRELL RED TRIANGLE** |  |  |
| **29** | **PARKFIELD AND LISCARD** | No 3rd XI | N/A |
| **30** | ***PRESCOTT & ODYSSEY*** | Observer club |  |
| **31** | **PRESTATYN** |  |  |
| **32** | **RAINFORD** |  |  |
| **33** | **RAINHILL** |  |  |
| **34** | **ST. HELENS TOWN** |  |  |
| **35** | **SEFTON PARK** |  |  |
| **36** | **SKELMERSDALE** | No 3rd XI | N/A |
| **37** | **SOUTHPORT AND BIRKDALE** |  |  |
| **38** | ***SOUTHPORT TRINITY*** | No 3rd XI: Observer club | N/A |
| **39** | **SPRINGVIEW** |  |  |
| **40** | **SUTTON ST HELENS** | No 3rd XI | N/A |
| **41** | **WALLASEY** |  |  |
| **42** | **WAVERTREE** |  |  |
| **43** | **WIGAN** |  |  |
| **44** | **WIDNES** |  |  |

**Appendix 2**

3rd XI SGM – Tues 10th November – Sefton Park CC

Discussion document:

Issues arising from the 2015 Season

**1. Embee Trophy**

6 matches conceded and 5 matches defaulted – clubs may decide not to enter in 2016. However some Saturday 3rd XIs would like to return to a longer match (40 or 45 overs) played on Sundays. What do Sunday 3rd XIs want to do if this is accepted? The Sunday fixtures could be arranged to provide free dates for the rounds but the spare dates at the end of season would be lost.

Notification of agreed fixture dates – Clause 2.3 page 20 refers – very few dates were confirmed to the Competition Coordinator. Several instances of matches being delayed beyond the play-by date plus one week leading to confusion and will not be allowed next year and a coin toss will decide the winner. Some of the problems were caused by failure to agree with the three date options especially with the evening 20/20 matches if they are still relevant.

**2. League Result Reporting etc.**

Sat Prem – 3 MRFs not provided, Birkenhead Park 4 and Maghull 3 responsible for 9 of the 11 fineable events, 5 of which were conceded matches.

Sat Div 1 – 40 MRFs not provided 25 unconfirmed result checks, 20 unsure players and 11 conceded matches (4 teams conceded twice).

Sun Prem – 6 MRFs not provided, 25 unconfirmed result entries/checks, 15 unsure players but no conceded matches.

Sun Div 1 NE - 9 MRFs not provided, 7 unsure players and 7 conceded matches.

Sun Div 1 SW - 17 MRFs not provided, 18 unconfirmed result entries/checks, 8 unsure players and 5 conceded matches.

The MRF process was introduced to ensure that teams complied with the Laws of Cricket regarding the need for team sheets. It is clear from the above statistics that some teams have little problem but others are either poorly managed or are still not providing team sheets. Some teams are serial offenders (Alder 3, Caldy 8, Liverpool 6, Maghull 5, New Brighton 3, Sefton Park 8) and there is a good case for increasing fines for more than two offences.

**3. Player Registration**

Only three league matches were defaulted for ineligible players although as can be seen there were numerous instances of unsure players despite the 48 hour extension to the registration process. It has been assumed that these unsure players were eligible with no evidence to the contrary. This is not very satisfactory but neither would be a decision to record a defaulted result but often without the MRF and team sheets it is impossible to check. Clubs’ views are welcomed. The following clubs were serial offenders with unsure players: Ainsdale 5, Caldy 4, Colwyn Bay 4, Formby 4, Lytham 4, Maghull 6, Sefton Park 9, S&B 5.

Player eligibility for KO matches continues to cause problems for clubs so any ideas from clubs to simplify the rules will be considered.

**4. Rearranging Matches**

On a few occasions a team agreeing to a rearranged date has then been unable to fulfil the fixture having to concede. This seems very unfair and it is proposed that the original fixture should be recorded as abandoned in future.

**5. Locked Matches**

It is proposed that the principle of locked matches should not apply to 3rd XI matches.

**6. 1st & 2nd XI players**

The eligibility rules at present allow any 1st or 2nd XI player who doesn’t play on Saturday to play on the following day with no restrictions. This is clearly against the Spirit of Cricket without some restrictions being imposed. Clubs need to agree what these should be.

1. **Start times**
2. **Length of games**
3. **Time or Overs?**
4. **Win/Lose or game with a draw?**
5. **Should there be a maximum number of overs per bowler?**
6. **Registrations and eligibility** to play at 3rd X1 level
7. **Overseas players at 3rd X1** - should we allow them (given that we seem to have continuous issues with some players being too good at this level)?