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**The ECB Premier League in Lancashire**

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**Meeting held at Bootle CC on Tues 5th July 2011 at 7.30pm**

**Agenda**

**1. Apologies**

Minutes from previous meeting

Matters arising

**2. Chairman's opening remarks.**

**3. Matters relating to Fixtures issues**

*3rd XI Sat Fixtures post Ainsdale and SPT*

*2nd XI Fixtures re Moorfield post 1st XI dropout, points in games*

*BFS L&DCC RD KO Lytham v Maghull*

**4. Matters relating to Play-Cricket / Reporting Results**

*pre Cr Co**meeting**ARS's meeting 05 07 11*

*Reporting of Results to the Press post 02 07 2011*

*3rd XIs and play cricket*

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

*D Jordan BStM*

*B Tripathi Liverpool*

*S Khan Bootle*

*A Girhay Sefton Park*

*A Malik FWH PL climb-down*

*J Baird Northern 2s v Sefton 2s*

*Barbados exchange of players*

**6. Matters relating to 3rd XIs**

*Parkfield Liscard Fraudulent use of a player in Embee Cup*

*Northern 4's v Maghull 3s Disciplinary*

**7. C&G matters**

*Inspecting aspirant promotion clubs; S&D CL/ M CC*

**8. MCUA: Current briefing**

*I PODS statement*

**9. AOB.**

*Suspension of the Fixtures Secretary*

*Filling places 11 and 12 in Division 2 2012; outline update*

**10. Date(s) of next meetings**

*See attached below*

**L&DCC: Club Membership of Cricket Committee**

**Attendance : 05/07/2011**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **CLUB** | 2011 |
| **1** | **AINSDALE** |  |
| ***2*** | **ALDER** |  |
| **3** | **BOOTLE** | Prem |
| **4** | **BIRKENHEAD ST MARYS** | D2 |
| **5** | **BURSCOUGH** |  |
| **6** | **CALDY** | D2 |
| **7** | **COLWYN BAY** |  |
| **8** | **FLEETWOOD HESKETH** |  |
| **9** | **FORMBY** |  |
| **10** | **HIGHFIELD** |  |
| **11** | **HIGHTOWN** |  |
| **12** | **LEIGH** |  |
| **13** | **LIVERPOOL** |  |
| **14** | **LYTHAM** |  |
| **15** | **MAGHULL** |  |
| **16** | **MOORFIELD** |  |
| **17** | **NEW BRIGHTON** |  |
| **18** | **NEWTON le WILLOWS** |  |
| **19** | **NORTHERN** |  |
| **20** | **NORTHOP HALL** |  |
| **21** | **ORMSKIRK** | Prem |
| **22** | **ORRELL RED TRIANGLE** |  |
| **23** | **PARKFIELD AND LISCARD** |  |
| **24** | **PRESTATYN** |  |
| **25** | **RAINFORD** |  |
| **26** | **RAINHILL** |  |
| **27** | **ST. HELENS** |  |
| **28** | **ST. HELENS RECS** | D1 |
| **29** | **SEFTON PARK** | D1 |
| **30** | **SKELMERSDALE** |  |
| **31** | **SOUTHPORT AND BIRKDALE** |  |
| **32** | **SOUTHPORT TRINITY** |  |
| **33** | **SUTTON ST HELENS** |  |
| **34** | **WALLASEY** |  |
| **35** | **WAVERTREE** |  |
| **36** | **WIGAN** |  |

*As usual, for clarity and continuity, the minutes here shown are mostly arranged in published agenda order rather than "meeting chronological order."*

7.30 pm

**1. Apologies**

1. John Brown (Orrell Red Triangle CC) had given his apologies.
2. The Chairman and 16 members were present. John Rotherham (Cricket Chair and Rainhill CC), Eric Hadfield (L&DCC President), Chris Weston (Hon Sec), Mike Leddy (Deputy Cricket Chair and 3rd XI Fixtures Hon Sec), Alan Bristow ( L&DCC C&G Chair) John Williams (Publicity and Sponsorship Chairman) David Snellgrove (Bootle CC) Mark Downes (Caldy CC), Keith Batchelor (BStMs CC), Ian Robinson (Ormskirk CC) Les Swain (SHR) Mike Poole ( Sefton Park CC), Neil Girvin ( LCB and Wigan CC) Ray Rigby (MCUA), Alan Majewska (ARS Prem) Rob Durand (ARS Div 1) Jason Ratcliffe (ARS Div 2)
3. The minutes from the previous meeting had been circulated without difficulty; there were no matters arising that would not be dealt with en passant.

**2. Chairman's opening remarks.**

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at precisely 7. 30 pm, in particular extending a welcome to the ARS' who had had a pre Cr Co meeting with EH and who were of course technically members of this committee and who had been invited to stay for the rest of the meeting if they wished.

**3. Matters relating to Fixtures issues**

1. *3rd XI Sat Fixtures post Ainsdale and SPT*

The change of fixtures had gone very smoothly. Cr Co thanked Jason R for his efforts here.

1. *2nd XI Fixtures re Moorfield post 1st XI dropout, points in games*

CW led. There were several options. The matter was debated briefly. All as friendlies, all as competitive etc, it was important to be "fair" to all. After a suggestion from SHR CC it was **unanimously agreed** that Moorfield fixtures up to the half way point in the season (next Sat) would be 0 points for all; from then on the games would be competitive. This would not be announced until after this week end to make sure that Saturday's game was not spoilt.

1. *BFS L&DCC RD KO Lytham v Maghull*

The matter had already been through both M/C and Cr Co and had been dealt with. A letter had been sent to the Chairman of Maghull CC with all the emails. *The Maghull CC email acceptance of the fixture on the Tues was the key*. The change on the Fri was not acceptable. The matter was debated again. No one spoke against the decision of M/C and Cr Co to decide in favour of Lytham or for the need to reverse it.

Maghull CC was still not happy with the outcome and Brian Soo had approached Cr Co and M/C by email asking for further consideration. Ray Rigby told the story as he had seen it unfold at Maghull CC. It was his view that Phil Lovgreen had become involved with Brian Soo midweek and that all the difficulties had stemmed from there, *Maghull were probably no longer in the KO Cup because of Phil Lovgreen's stirring.* RR had little sympathy with Maghull on the grounds that this was a play-by fixture and it had been left until the last minute.

It was agreed that CW should copy the correspondence to Brian Soo and make clear that the matter was closed. They could still of course attempt to call an SGM on the matter.

*d) 3rd XI Embee Cup rearrangements*

The rainy Sunday had caused havoc. For a variety of reasons Prestatyn had got into a tangle, they had no more rearrangement slots available and wanted to play NHL midweek (!) as so many players were school-boys. NHL objected. In the past we had applied the rule of 5 points each in this sort of situation. This way forward was **agreed** but this needed to be looked at next year.

*e) Colwyn Bay v Wigan 2s*

There were very few days available, President's Day complicated things further. Wigan would have to put out a much weakened side if the date was enforced. The matter was discussed. Wigan may have to play it as written. EH suggested cancelling the 3rd XI game (5 points each as previously agreed as there were no rearrangement slots left there too) to allow the higher game to play. NG said he would take this back to Wigan's committee.

*f) J Baird Northern 2s v Sefton Park 2s 02/07/11*

Northern contended that an illegal player had been used in this game and that Mike Leddy had given SP CC permission to play him. This was a rearranged Sat game and the player in question had played for the 1st XI on the original date and so could not play. CW quoted Playing Reg 4b (ii) A discussion followed. ML wanted to check all the facts here. The matter was left with ML who would report back to Cr Co as soon as possible.

*g) Play-by dates in 2012*

EH felt that the gaps here needed to be looked for 2012. RR disagreed, quoting LCB fixtures, others felt that this was not a valid objection, very few clubs were affected. A discussion followed and it was decided that the matter would be looked at again.

*h) Ormskirk v Leigh BFS L&DCC RD KO*

Ian Robinson advised that ECB wanted them to play their next National Club 45/45 KO round on the rearranged date. CW made clear that M/C would always accommodate ECB/LCB in that order if it humanly could and that permission to approach Leigh for a new mutually convenient date was given. CW had advised ECB of this already. EH had also already started the process with the two clubs.

*i)* John Williams agreed with the ECB shift as right and proper but commented that the BFS L&DCC tried harder to accommodate fixture change more than any other League he had ever worked with, perhaps too much so, some clubs were taking advantage of this good will.

**4. Matters relating to Play-Cricket**

1. *pre Cr Co**meeting**ARS's meeting 05 07 11*

EH gave a brief report. All results were in by and large. The problem with unsure players was ongoing (as of today 10 players were "unsure") Clubs must go back in and correct the cards when a player was registered. ML needed to check this. It was recognised as a big job. ML said he was catching up. EH wanted another website notice to get clubs to check. The last one had not been successful. We were on course for a new record level of fines. The comment was made that it was not all bad news then, at least the Hon Treas would be pleased....

We needed to give the clubs hard data. We needed a secure members-only area on the website a la the MCUA site. This request would be passed to Malcolm Barber.

CW commented that that was as maybe but we needed to do something *now*. He could circulate the spreadsheet with all the data *by email* on the Comp circulation list as a semi-secure way of getting the information to the clubs. The spreadsheet was complex but this suggestion was well received and **unanimously agreed**. EH/CW would draft an introduction.

1. *Reporting of Results to the Press post 02 07 2011*

John (W) as Publicity Chair rehearsed the history of the need for the changed reporting procedure. M/C's view was that it was not appropriate for M/C to maintain its advice to clubs that they were encouraged to ring Phil Lovgreen in view of his suspension from all duties for alleged abuse of a Club Official and for bringing the BFS L&DCC into disrepute.

The clubs were informed by email and via a posting on the site. The new system had worked exceptionally well; only 1 club had failed to report. Clubs had been thanked on the website.

JW corrected the statement by PL on his personal and private website. *The* *Echo will take information from anyone and did*, Phil Lovgreen had no such monopoly. Clubs had been asked not to contact Phil Lovgreen but no action would be taken if they did, the point was that M/C would have been (i) wrong to continue to encourage using him (ii) at fault if it had not put in place an alternative system given the changed position.

Cr Co thanked JW for his splendid efforts here.

1. *Phil Lovgreen's suspension*

This item was taken here as it was logical. CW led and made a statement to Cr Co about M/C's decisions and actions since the Disciplinary sub Committee reported to M/C last week that Phil Lovgreen had failed to attend the Disciplinary Hearing convened to hear the charge of for alleged abuse of a Club Official and for bringing the BFS L&DCC into disrepute.

***PL was now suspended until the AGM for bringing the L&DCC into disrepute.***

**1**. M/C had discussed this very carefully

***2. M/C had looked at the wider PL picture and based its now current position on that of PL having brought the L&DCC into disrepute.***

***3. PL was now suspended until the AGM when we will have a contested election for Fixtures Secretary and the whole PL saga will be covered in detail.***

***PL had still not accepted the decision of the clubs to delete the role of "Results" from his title two years or more ago when results became the province of play cricket and not Phil Lovgreen.***

***M/C had an outstanding candidate for the post in 2012, a man of consequence and experience.***

***4. Looking at 2010/11 alone PL had brought the Comp into disrepute with at least six things. In summary:***

***(i)  the need for police observation of the pre season SGM at SP CC in 2010,***

***(ii) the malicious error with Northern CC over registration,***

***(iii) the malicious error with FWH CC over registration,***

***(iv) inaccurate mendacious postings on his site - e.g. St Helens/Burscough and the Chester cup which had triggered***

***(iv) the sending of abuse to a club official,***

***(vi) taking material from other websites without permission and altering it to have a quite different slant - which was really getting us a bad name e.g. with CricInfo, LCB, Echo etc.***

***5. PL was free to try to get an SGM called. M/C judged that that point 3 was is the best way forward and in the best interests of the L&DCC***

**No one spoke against the action taken by M/C; one club representative commented that (iv) was obviously the straw that broke the camel's back.**

**Ray Rigby wanted an SGM on the matter now. M/C disagreed; the whole matter would simply re-open at the AGM after an SGM in July, it was better to deal with the issue once, properly.**

**CW went on to say that there were far more important matters on the table at the moment, matters that affected the long-term future and shape of the L&DCC, having an SGM now on Phil Lovgreen would conflict with matters relating to filling places 35 and 36 in the BFS L&DCC which *would* need an SGM. It was unthinkable that these matters should get conflated with the issue of Phil Lovgreen.**

**Closing down or at least stopping the use of the official logos on Phil Lovgreen's website was discussed. No one spoke against this principle and several members were strongly in favour of doing so. This had been looked at in detail. It could be very expensive and ineffectual ["like nailing jelly to the wall" was CW's phrase], the name and appearance of a site could easily be changed in a multiplicity of ways to get round an injunction. We would need permission from the clubs to risk large sums of their money in this way.**

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

1. *D Jordan BStM*

This matter was closed. The two clubs and three (!) leagues had resolved the issue which stemmed from an original flawed conversation/understanding between committee members at the two clubs over the status of this player.

1. *B Tripathi Liverpool*

This was ongoing and would be until the end of this month when no further registrations were allowed. B Tripathi was Cat 1a and was playing as a "sub-pro". This was Comp legal as long as he re registered every week. Phil Lovgreen kept "reporting" him. The L&DCC would make an attempt to ban the use of "sub pros" in 2012.

Mike Poole felt that this was not possible. SP CC had tried to prevent a paid player from doing this some years ago. Legal advice had said that it would be illegal to do this as it would restrict the right of the player to work.

CW made clear that we now had more up to date legal advice both from local learned sources and from ECB. In essence it depended on the wording in his contract and/or the registration document i.e. "what exactly did he sign?" The Reg Doc in future would have a line to the effect that "sub proing" was not permitted, the player had to sign this if he wanted to play in the L&DCC.

Mike Poole wanted a specimen contract from M/C. M/C had never done this as the contract was between the club and the player and L&DCC Regs made no reference to professional players for very good reasons. We used ECB player registration categories. We did not do as some Lancashire Leagues did and codify "professional" players. The definition of "professional" was a nightmare as the HM Revenue and Customs definition had to be used in order for it to be legally enforceable.

1. *S Khan Bootle*

Bootle 3s had had points deducted for playing S Khan as an unregistered player. The full and lengthy story was re told in full - asylum seeker/unable to work/living in Walton/walking there and back to SP CC /a one way journey of some 8 miles (!!)/wanting to transfer to Bootle as it was closer (about 2 miles one way)/M/C had granted permission for the transfer after the closure of the registration date for Cat3s on humanitarian grounds. A lengthy discussion followed. S Khan was said not be registered at SP CC this season and that should involve a series of penalties and should be applied if Bootle CC was penalised. Northern CC would lose the points if no penalty was applied to Bootle. The discussion continued for some time, it was impossible to please everyone. It was eventually **unanimously** **agreed** that it was best to try to "do the right thing" by the man who had shown such commitment to cricket that he had repeatedly walked 16 miles to get a game. In consequence no penalties would be levied on Bootle or Sefton Park CCs

1. *A Girhay Sefton Park*

It was agreed that this registration would be accepted even though it was beyond the Cat 3 deadline with the explicit caveat that *for the rest of season 2011 he could play no higher than 3rd XI* as the ECB/L&DCC rule change re cat 3s had never been aimed at 3rd XI or lower team players. EH would confirm this by email with SP CC. There would be a proposal to write this approach into the Regs at AGM 2012.

1. *A Malik FWH PL climb-down*

The role of Phil Lovgreen in this very unacceptable story, his inaccurate website posting and subsequent apology in tiny **5 point** text on his website was discussed. He had been forced to apologise on his website but still did not seem to accept responsibility for the error and the effect on the good name of the BFS L&DCC.

1. *Barbados exchange of players*

M/C was under pressure here from a number of clubs who felt the arrangement was unfair and beyond the registration date for the registration of Cat 3s. This had originally come to M/C from Ted Williams, the L&DCC LCB representative, with a full LCB stamp of approval on it. M/C had approved this as a goodwill gesture and out of respect for the LCB.

Neil Girvin made clear that LCB knew of and indeed did not disapprove of the scheme but it was in no way an LCB programme, it was one from the Liverpool Cricket Development Group and Dave Goodall in particular but that was not the same thing at all.

CW commented that it had been partly "sold" to M/C as a reciprocal deal. If it truly was it would be much easier to "sell" to all the clubs as of overall benefit to the L&DCC. If it was not it was very unlikely to continue as it only benefitted a very narrow range of clubs. It was seen as "unfair". The ECB/L&DCC regulations on registration also needed to be respected. JW agreed, commenting that if two of our best young players from the player development programme - and which covered *all* the clubs were to go to Barbados in 2012 then the system would be more likely to continue. This needed further discussion.

1. *using sub pros to cover suspended players*

RR felt strongly that M/C was wrong to permit Leigh to allow Leigh to buy in a sub pro to cover their loss of a suspended player. Clubs should not be allowed to do this. M/C agreed and fully accepted the moral point but there was nothing in the Regs that covered this. There would be a proposal to AGM 2012.

RR went on to say that M/C had been weak when they had not banned the Mohammed twins from the L&DCC for the impersonation switch in an L&DCC representative game some years ago. CW agreed up to a point but felt that it was important to give the full story and not simply one view of it. This was an unfortunate and admitted error that had slipped under the wire at the time. There had been a speedy full Disciplinary process, they had been banned for life from representing the Comp again, they had been suspended immediately for the rest of the season and the need to add the rider suggested had been omitted. Had it been pointed out it would have been added immediately as it had already been agreed. By the time they reappeared at SHR the following season legal advice had suggested that it was too late to add that rider.

**6. 3rd XIs reportage**

1. *Parkfield Liscard 3s v Birchfield Park 3s - Fraudulent use of a player in Embee Cup*

ML ran through the details. Parkfield Liscard had used a player under an assumed name in this fixture; they had immediately admitted the offence when confronted. They had taken immediate club action and were mortified. The result had been reversed; they were out of the Embee Cup and fined £25 as per the Regs. They would not be banned in 2012 as they had fulfilled the fixture. ML was to write to them to find out the nature of the club-internal action and warning them as to their future conduct.

1. *Northern 4's v Maghull 3s Disciplinary*

A disciplinary complaint had been made by Northern following this game. Ray Rigby considered aspects of this complaint and cited others. CW advised that the matter rested with the Disciplinary sub Committee and was not for this committee.

**7. C&G matters**

1. The latest figures for Spirit and playing surfaces etc were posted on the website. Clubs could contact AB if they wanted more details. The figures were improving and better than last year. Premier League clubs should get 16 or more out of 20.
2. RR commented that Premier League outfields had been excellent.
3. AB was concerned that no Premier League captains had sent him playing surface rank order data. David S and Ian R i.e. the two 1st XI Prem captains present both said that this was because they only had to do this at the end of the season. After a brief discussion it was agreed that this was correct.
4. CW thanked AB on behalf of Cr Co for all his efforts here. ECB in the form of Paul Bedford had expressed its appreciation of the way that the system was running "in Liverpool"
5. The programme of C&G inspection was rolling on; only 3 or 4 more needed doing.
6. Several PQS inspections had been done, 6 remained. There was no report from Ian Mather-Brewster, one had been requested for this meeting. If one was sent in time AB would send it to CW who would attach it as an appendix to these minutes.
7. *Inspecting aspirant promotion clubs; S&D CL/ M CC*

This would form part of AOB and be taken in one place there.

**8. MCUA: Current briefing**

1. *I PODS statement*

Ray Rigby recorded that Hughie Evans had done a fine job here. M/C was supportive of the initiative but, as a Premier League, was bound by the ECB steer. ECB was looking at this steer again.

1. A player at Parkfield Liscard had been called for throwing. A report would need to be submitted. CW had umpired the player recently. The arm *was* bent but did not seem to straighten on deliery. To CW's non-expert and non-slow-motion-camera-eye, the action was far less suspect - whatever that meant, than that of one of the current opening bowlers at Hightown.
2. MCUA had covered nearly all L&DCC games with 2 umpires so far this season.
3. Mike Dixon returned in 2 weeks and various reports were expected from him.

**9. AOB.**

1. *Cup Draws*

These were being made in accordance with the wishes of the clubs at the AGM/SGM/preseason SGM i.e. on the basis of a new draw for each round "like the FA Cup" etc

Cr Co needed to thrash out 2 or 3 alternative proposals for the end of Season SGM 2012; we needed to challenge the complainers with the need for detailed proposals.

1. *Filling places 11 and 12 in Division 2 2012; outline update*

M/C was constrained in what it could say at this stage.

JW was persuaded to lead on this. There had been continuing detailed discussions on this. An SGM was to be called in the very near future in which two proposals would be made to the clubs. The issue was made more complicated by the receipt of an application from a club outside the L&DCC.

A full set of pass/fail criteria for admission to Div 2 had been agreed. Playing strength was important as were the C&G marks and the possession of at least 2 coaches at or working towards Level 2. Clubs would be inspected by 2 or more members of M/C in August.

**10.** **Dates of next meetings**:

*Cr Co Tuesday Tues 2nd August Rainhill CC at 7.30 pm*

See Appendix 1

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Chris Weston

Hon Sec

BFS L&DCC

M/C and Cr Co dates 2011

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **M/C** | **Thur 14th July**  **Parkfield Liscard CC at 6.00pm** |
| **Cr Co** | **Tues 2nd August**  **Rainhill CC at 7.30 pm** |
| **SGM** | **Thur28th July**  **Sefton Park CC at 7.30 pm** |
| **M/C** | **Thur 11th August**  **Bootle CC at 6.00pm** |
| **M/C** | **Thur 8th Sept**  **New Brighton CC at 6.00 pm** |
| **Cr Co** | **THUR 22nd Sept**  **Bootle CC at 7.30 pm** |
| **M/C** | **Thur 6th Oct**  **Bootle CC at 6.00 pm** |
| **EoS SGM** | **Tues 11th Oct**  **Sefton Park CC at 7.30 pm** |
| **Cr Co**  **(if/as required)** | **Tues 25th Oct**  **Bootle CC at 7.30 pm** |
| **M/C** | **Thur 10th Nov**  **New Brighton CC at 6.00 pm** |
| **3rd XI EoS SGM** | **Tues 22nd Nov**  **Sefton Park CC at 7.30 pm** |
| **M/C** | **Thur 8th Dec**  **Bootle CC at 6.00 pm** |
| **M/C** | **Thur 12th Jan 2012**  **Parkfield Liscard CC at 6.00 pm** |
| **AGM**  **2012** | **Tues17th Jan 2012**  **Bootle CC at 7.30 pm** |