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**Minutes of L&DCC Pre-Season Captain's Meeting**

**Tuesday 5th April 2022 Firwood-Bootle CC**

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**

The L&DCC Chair John Williams (JW) welcomed representatives to the meeting at 7.00 pm precisely and asked that, when the Roll Call was carried out, the number of captains present be identified by the club present. The L&DCC Secretary Chris Weston (CW) called the Roll.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **CRICKET CLUB** | Present  / absent |
| **1** | **AINSDALE** |  |
| **2** | **ALDER** |  |
| **3** | ***BIRCHFIELD PARK*** |  |
| **4** | **BIRKENHEAD PARK** | 1 |
| **5** | **BOOTLE** | 2 |
| **6** | **CALDY** |  |
| **7** | **COLWYN BAY** |  |
| **8** | **FLEETWOOD HESKETH** | 2 |
| **9** | **FORMBY** |  |
| **10** | ***GOODLASS*** |  |
| **11** | **HIGHFIELD** |  |
| **12** | **HIGHTOWN ST MARYS** | 1 |
| **13** | **LEIGH** |  |
| **14** | **LIVERPOOL** |  |
| **15** | **LIVERPOOL SUPERKINGS** |  |
| **16** | **LYTHAM** | 1 |
| **17** | **MAGHULL** | 1 |
| **18** | ***MERSEYSIDE COMMONWEALTH*** |  |
| **19** | ***MERSEYSIDE SPORTS AND CULTURAL*** |  |
| **20** | **NEW BRIGHTON** | 5 |
| **21** | **NEWTON le WILLOWS** | 1 |
| **22** | **NORLEY HALL** |  |
| **23** | **NORTHERN** |  |
| **24** | **NORTHOP HALL** |  |
| **25** | **OLD XAVERIANS** | 1 |
| **26** | **ORMSKIRK** |  |
| **27** | **ORRELL RED TRIANGLE** |  |
| **28** | ***OXTON*** | 1 |
| **29** | **PARKFIELD LISCARD** |  |
| **30** | **PRESTATYN** |  |
| **31** | **RAINFORD** | 1 |
| **32** | **RAINHILL** | 1 |
| **33** | **SEFTON PARK** | 1 |
| **34** | ***SOUTH LIVERPOOL*** | 3 |
| **35** | **SOUTHPORT AND BIRKDALE** | 1 |
| **36** | **SOUTHPORT TRINITY** |  |
| **37** | **SPRING VIEW** | 1 |
| **38** | **ST. HELENS TOWN** |  |
| **39** | **SUTTON** | 1 |
| **40** | **WALLASEY** |  |
| **41** | **WAVERTREE** | 1 |
| **42** | ***WHITEFIELD*** |  |
| **43** | **WIGAN** |  |

22 clubs were represented, there were 34 representatives present in total - of which 26 were captains. JW noted that, under the terms of our Constitution, club attendance was mandatory only at meetings called as AGMs or SGMs. Clubs that were not present would not be fined.

The Chair noted that, under ECB Affiliation Regulations, Premier Cricket Leagues like the L&DCC were required to hold pre-Season Captains meetings and, going forward, L&DCC may need to look at our regulations again in respect of compulsion to attend being required for this particular meeting as well. We were trying to reach a different audience here relative to that which would be likely to attend at the pre-Season meeting of the clubs next week on April 12th.

1. **Safeguarding - now by June 30th 2022**

**DBS checks for captains.**

CW introduced this making clear that the vital thing to remember from this meeting was this date i.e. June 30th 2022. JW asked if anyone in the room understood what SHMS stood for, one representative did. SHMS was the ECB’s “Safe Hands Management System” and it still applied - it now had to be checked every year. CW emphasised that the final date for the checks was different this year and was earlier than that in 2021. CW projected slides from ECB that made this clear. CW also thanked the LCF Club Development Officers (CDOs) who were tasked to assist in the implementation of SHMS/Clubmark and who were a mine of information. If you had a problem, contact them for advice.

JW added that it was vital to understand the need for DBS under SHMS. Every captain in an ECB affiliated league open-age team had to have DBS clearance. It was clarified that this clearance needed to be a Cricket Clearance DBS, those from other bodies e.g. education were not acceptable. L&DCC would not cancel games if a captain was ill and there was no one else DBS cleared in a team, but such a situation could not be allowed to go on for more than two weeks before somebody had to be present with that proper clearance.

JW continued and noted that, in 2021, a Premier Division club had nearly been relegated because they had lost their SHMS through some of their “contracted out” coaches not having the proper DBS certification. It was mandatory under ECB regulations for all Premier Division clubs to be compliant with SHMS and also to have possession of current Clubmark. It was thought that this requirement was to be extended to include Division One in 2023.

Captains needed to get close to this sort of stuff inside their club because of these sort of consequences. SHMS mattered; it was not something that was left to just one person in the club.

CW made clear that, as usual, he would be circulating all papers at the end of this meeting.

1. **EDI / LGBTIX+ Update**

JW again asked if anyone knew what this acronym “EDI” stood for. No one was able to supply the fully “accurate” wording of “Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity”. JW noted that Equity was a wider term than Equality. This was not simply something that was all about the recent troubles in Yorkshire CCC, to be fair to ECB they had been working on EDI before this difficulty in Yorkshire had been made public. ECB however was now very nervous about potential problems arising from EDI issues.

L&DCC was working with LCF on EDI. We had had a very successful and well attended first EDI Awareness Raising Meeting two weeks ago. There were 12 Actions that needed to be carried out e.g. we needed a whistle-blowing policy in L&DCC. The next task was the setting up of an L&DCC Focus Group on EDI.

L&DCC wanted captains to talk to people in their clubs about getting a better general understanding of current issues surrounding race and sexuality.

Liz Sinker was the L&DCC lead on this, she was the Chair of the L&DCC W&Gs. JW encouraged everyone to look at the ECB website on EDI, there was some very good stuff there.

1. **General Conduct Regulation 2022**

CW gave a brief ECB based summary, projecting a slide on this as he did so. . These regulations had replaced what we had previously described as the ECB Model Disciplinary Regulations.

1. An introduction covered the time scale of GCR; the length of process; the people involved in the process; GCR applied to all Recreational Cricket i.e. County Boards, National Cricket (=Minor) Counties and PCLs in 2022 and was to go wider in 2023; it was integral to PCL Accreditation in 2022.
2. CW explained the significance of “underlining” in GCR; sections that were underlined could be changed by leagues.
3. County Boards had oversight of GCR as applied by leagues ( For L&DCC this meant LCF/Cheshire CB/North Wales CB)
4. The new Roles of officials under GCR i.e. the Disciplinary Officials and Disciplinary Hearings Chair were set out in detail in the regulations.
5. There was now a substantial extension of applicability of GCR to off-field events - particularly in respect of social media.
6. Levels 1 and 2 were now to be dealt with summarily by Disciplinary Officer. There were new tariff tables and no ABBs. Only Levels 3 and 4 required Hearings and Appeals.
7. GCR Templates/Pro-Formas were supplied and being adopted.

JW then distributed a handout summary on GCR and ran through this in detail. The wording here was all taken directly from GCR and he ran through this in detail.

The summary …..

1. Set out the new tariff table,
2. What constituted a breach of GCRs,
3. Stated the definitions of offences in Levels 1 to 4,
4. How GCR applied to coaches, match officials and club officials,
5. The conduct obligations for captains and their team responsibilities,
6. The new regulations on social media.

JW ran through the identities of the L&DCC disciplinary officials and exactly how the new system would work. There were no changes in personnel.

Neil Bickley, Peter Fleetwood, and Chris Barnes were the Disciplinary Officers.

His Honour Judge Brian Cummings was the Disciplinary Hearings Chair

JW/CW repeated that copies of these documents would all be distributed electronically at the end of the meeting.

1. **Rule changes from AGM 2022**

CW projected the minutes from AGM 2022. There were very few changes here, he ran through them rapidly in turn.

1. Junior Leagues and Women’s and Girls; This regularised the position of both sections within L&DCCand puts them both on the same footing.
2. Start times for 1st and 2nd XIs had been changed to 12.00 noon this was different 3rd XI start times were not changed.
3. No Teas would be provided by clubs in L&DCC, this meant that there was no change at all in the way that Teas would be delivered in 2022 relative to that in 2021. Clubs could provide teas if they wished but it was not compulsory and they could charge people for them.

The default position was now that Teas would not be provided; clubs could contact each other in advance to vary this if they wished.

1. Entry into all Cup Competitions was now voluntary for all except the Premier Division clubs in the ECB T20.
2. **Fixtures**

Rob Durand was unwell and not able to be present this evening, he had sent a detailed *report*. This was read to the meeting by Eddie Shiff (ES) the 3rd XI Chair.

*“1 - Play Cricket "Log In" process has changed over the winter as the ECB standardise their procedures.*

*This change also affects the login to both the Play Cricket Scorer App (tablets / phones) and the Lap top Scoring system. So (RD) recommended that you take action ahead of the first day of the season to ensure you are able to login in correctly (play cricket could be swamped on that first day).*

*There have also changes to the manual process of entering results onto play cricket which should not cause any issues but will look different and it is likely (but will not be apparent until the first day of the season) that there may be changes to the downloading of fixtures and results onto Play Cricket when using there scoring apps. If you come across any issues, please let me know*

*2 - Any changes to the published fixtures relating to 2nd XI (for TBAs) and 3rd XI fixtures (because of ground share issues on Saturday or more likely Sunday) need to be agreed by both captains and confirmed in writing using the Fixture Rearrangement Request Form (as found on the website under Admin Docs / Fixtures / Fixture Rearrangement Form).3*

*Rearranged Fixtures should be played before 1 August, unless approved by the Committee, so as not to have an adverse effect on Promotion / Relegation issues.*

*3 - Cup Fixtures. Agreed Dates for T20 games should be notified in writing to myself with requests made well in advance to the MCUA for Umpires where applicable (not just a couple of days before as an afterthought).*

*4 - Player eligibility for Sunday / Monday (and this year Jubilee Bank Holiday Thursday / Friday) league and cup fixtures revert to the 2020 (pre Covid) playing regulations and can be found on the website.”*

1. **Playing Regulations and Cup Regulations**

These had already been considered under item 5.1.

1. **Registrations**

Again Rob Durand had sent a detailed report and ES again read this to the meeting

*“1 - Thank you for sight of the early Registrations and supporting paperwork.*

*2 - All registrations need to made through Play Cricket system which again has changed slightly over the winter*

*3 - For 1st and 2nd XI new registrations or transfers, the deadline for entering the players details on Play Cricket is 12.00 noon on Wednesday before the 1st game which is 20th April with supporting paperwork sent the same day.*

*4 - 3rd XI players continue to have a 48 hour grace after the completion of the game to register new players. If you are calling up a player late on the day to fill a vacancy then get him to also complete a registration form so have a stock of forms with you.*

*Overseas Players*

*A list of new overseas players is being / has been posted to the website and the clubs are being contacted over any missing paperwork that is still required (mostly Visa copies which may not be available until the player actually arrives).”*

1. **Managed Migration/Overseas Players**

JW supported the remarks made by RD in his report and considered it in detail. The many much trumpeted announcements of new players arriving at a particular club way back in October of 2021 (!) was still not even started in terms of registrations. He was very clear that if the all the required papers had not been submitted by at least 72 hours before the start of the first fixture on April 24th i.e. by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 20th April, that player would not be playing in the first fixture. There would be no exceptions.

1. **Pitch marks**

CW noted that nothing had changed here, 1st XI captains in the Premier Division were still required to mark opposition away pitches. This was an ECB PCL requirement and they collected the data.

CW screen shared the ECB regulations that showed how this should be done, MCUA umpires also used these when they were marking pitches in all three divisions.

1. **Pitch and Umpires Marking 2022**

JW made reference to a new initiative in 2022. We were pleased to inform that ICON Sports were extending their sponsorship of L&DCC to include a “Pitch of Month Award”. There would be five of these from May to September. These would be based on the umpires pitch marks referred to in 5.9 and would each be worth £500. Clubs could then obtain Club and Ground materials from ICON up to the value of this figure from the company at zero cost. Meaningful glances were exchanged around the room…

1. **Reporting Injuries on play-cricket and ECB Concussion Protocol**
2. CW noted that in 2021 a new facility on play cricket had been trialled, that of reporting injuries via the club-access “back door” of play cricket. ECB would collate this and anonymise it and would use it to inform decisions going forward.

This scheme was now being extended in 2022 and all clubs were strongly encouraged to make use of this system with all the teams in their club. The report had to be made by someone with play cricket administrator access privileges but captains would be the key figures here in making the report within the club to that person.

1. ECB had also introduced a “Concussion in Cricket” protocol which could be accessed using the hyperlink <https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/science-and-medicine/concussion-in-cricket> This was an excellent piece of work and everyone in a club was asked to look at this, it was an excellent piece of work. Blows to the head in cricket were thankfully not very common but were potentially very serious at any age. This was not just a First Aider issue there needed to be a wide understanding of this.

JW reinforced this and said how important it was in other Sports too.

1. **Refresher on Captain’s Match Day responsibilities**

A hard-copy summary had been provided to everyone in the meeting, CW projected this and ran through it in outline. He understood that, for many in the room, this was all blindingly obvious in places but, looking round the room, he could see that there were a number of new captains and this might be helpful to them. The tabulated first part of the summary was probably the most useful, that which followed simply provided precise links to information that underpinned the statements in the table.

1. **Umpiring and Scoring Issues**

JW noted that 1st XI captains were still required to provide marks on the umpires, nothing had changed. These marks were very important. In 2022 these were to be sent to Hughie Evans via Google Forms. We were pleased to see that Hughie had not completely retired from umpiring matters.

Subject to a vote at next week’s pre season meeting, the L&DCC umpires Expenses Fee would become £55 pounds and £30 pounds respectively. This seemed to be close to the “going rate” in Lancashire and Cheshire.

JW informed that, in addition to and quite separate from these club-payable umpires expenses fees, in 2022 it had been decided that umpires that were travelling to Colwyn Bay, Lytham, Northop Hall and Prestatyn would be paid an additional £7.50 each time they travelled to one of those four clubs. L&DCC would be paying this additional payment via MCUA not the clubs.

The need for this additional payment had come from an appreciation that the cost of fuel was rocketing and umpires were now also largely having to provide their own Teas. It was also common practice in other leagues e.g. the Northern PCL.

1. **Representative Cricket in 2022 Thur 2nd June T20**

JW noted that Gary Knight was again the captain of our L&DCC Open-Age Representative Team.

This Leagues in Lancashire Competition was now a T20 “two Semis and a Final competition” and would take place at Ribblesdale Wanderers near Clithero.

1. **Open Forum as time permits**

There were no questions.

The Chair again thanked representatives for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.31pm.