



THE RYMAN SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP
Council Meeting Minutes



Meeting Date/Time: Monday 12th October 2015 – 19:30

Location: Wimbledon CC

Apologies:	Crispin Lyden-Cowan, Paul Taylor
Members Present	Denham Earl (DE) Anthony Gamble (AG) Peter Murphy (PM) Graham Jackson (GJ) Brian Driscoll (BD) Roland Walton (RW) Jeremy Beckwith (JYB) Chris Evans (CE) John Bramhall (JB) Richard Laudy (RL)
Clubs not present	Alley, Bank of England, Chertsey, Chipstead, Coulsdon & Walcountians, Cranleigh, Egham, Farncombe, Farnham, Guildford City, Leatherhead, Malden Wanderers, Merstham (Apologies), Old Emanuel, Old Whitgiftians, Sanderstead, Sinjungrammarians, Staines and Laleham, Sunbury, Sutton, Walton on Thames, Weybridge Vandals, Worcester Park

Minute No.	Item	Action
	Apologies For Absence	
C/O 01/15	Apologies for absence noted as above.	
	Minutes of Last Meeting (13th October 2014)	
C/O 02/15	Accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
	Matters Arising	
C/O 03/15	No matters arising.	
	Chairmans Opening Remarks	
C/O 04/15	<p>The Chairman paid tribute to Virginia Edwards following her death during the season.</p> <p>Anthony Gamble has been recruited as registration secretary.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed the view that the league is looking to take stock of the changes made prior to the previous season, and that the executive are broadly looking to move ahead with a similar structure in 2016.</p> <p>Funding and Sponsorship remains a critical issue for the league.</p> <p>The Surrey Championship will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018 – thoughts and ideas from clubs are required as how to make the year a 'special' year.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the executive committee for their hard work throughout the season. The Chairman expressed the view that he would like</p>	Clubs

	to strengthen the executive committee moving forward.	
	Sponsorship	
C/O 05/15	<p>RW – Actively seeking sponsorship for 2016, the league are currently in discussions with potential sponsors and RW is optimistic that a sponsor will be put in place by the end of 2015, with an announcement to be made at the AGM in January 2016.</p> <p>RW asked that if anybody knew any potential sponsors that they should contact him as no potential sponsorship deal had been signed yet.</p>	Clubs
	Finance and Future Fee Levels	
C/O 06/15	<p>League is likely to be run at a slight deficit in 2015, with fines income expected to be lower than in 2014.</p> <p>Fee levels to be maintained in 2016, dependent on sponsorship being in place.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that the league are optimistic that sponsorship will come in at the same level as previous years (at least £20K current sponsorship level)</p>	
	Year Book	
C/O 07/15	<p>CE – 41 clubs out of 69 and 122 reports have been received out of 204. Please see Appendix A for a list of clubs who are outstanding reports for 2015. Outstanding clubs to submit reports ASAP.</p> <p>Consideration going forward to replace the printed year books with an online version. This will reduce the costs for the league and will allow for greater flexibility during the season with club contact details. Clubs to feedback to CE with regards to their opinion about having either a printed or online version of the yearbook. The Chairman felt that there was a reduced audience for a printed version of the yearbook. At this stage the Rules & Playing Conditions booklets are likely continued to be printed.</p>	Clubs Clubs
	Fixtures	
C/O 08/15	<p>The 2016 fixtures are expected to be produced earlier. DE suggested that the fixtures are likely to be released in the early or Mid-November.</p> <p>DE will send out a letter to clubs requesting any dates when they have an issue with ground availability. DE requested that clubs respond to this letter within 14 days.</p> <p>DE announced the season starts on Saturday 7th May; The Chairman noted that the season start dates are now all on the website up until the 2020 season: http://surreychampionship.pitchero.com/articles/playing-conditions-891?page=1</p> <p>Going forward there will now only be 1 fixture in September, whereas in some previous seasons there have been two games played in September.</p>	

	<p>BD thanked clubs who have replied to communicate the numbers of team they anticipate they will be running in 2016. BD read out a list of clubs who are yet to reply. BD will assume that clubs are entering the same sides as in 2015 for those clubs who don't reply. Please can any clubs who haven't replied reply to BD ASAP?</p> <p>The Chairman is to hold a discussion with the Fullers league, who have a reduced number of third elevens within their structure. The discussion will seek to ensure that 3rd eleven cricket is run in the best format possible between the two leagues and an early decision will be made to ensure that the fixtures run to timetable.</p>	Clubs
	Fines Regime	
C/O 09/15	<p>Fines dramatically reduced over the past two seasons.</p> <p>RL – unwritten rule that 3-4 misdemeanors were allowed, whereas the 5th or 6th offence would be punished with a fine.</p> <p>Scorecard fines analysis: 2015 - £600 fines received from 12 clubs. Under 2014 regulations - £2164 would have been taken and 71 points deducted (double what would have been taken in 2014)</p> <p>MHN – An improvement is needed from clubs to try and reduce the work of the committee. MHN suggested that clubs should come to him when they have a problem, and this will reduce the amount of notifications sent out to Clubs. MHN would be happy to provide a training session to clubs who need assistance using Play cricket.</p> <p>RL would like clubs to self-police, but is conscious of the time taken by league volunteers, particularly in areas where there are large amount of notifications issued. RL would like to see an improvement from clubs going into the new season. Committee to review current system going forward.</p> <p>Valley End expressed surprise that fines sent out to persistent offenders were considerably less than they thought they would be. The club felt that fines need to be high to act as a deterrent for clubs.</p> <p>Hampton Wick Royal have problems finding captains at lower levels due to the administrative work associated with being a captain. The club suggested that parameters should be different for 3rd and 4th eleven cricketers than for those in the 1st and 2nd Eleven. The Chairman suggested that other players could be recruited within teams to help with the administration of the side. The Chairman noted that the requirements are unlikely to change in 2016.</p>	
	Bonus Points	
C/O 10/15	<p>Introduced in 2015. The Chairman has held a number of discussions during the season around bonus points. The opinion of the executive is that the system should run for at least for two years before any changes are made.</p>	

	<p>The Chairman offered the floor to the clubs for their views on bonus points:</p> <p>Rain affected games – In shortened games could bonus points be adapted to work with the smaller time parameter in these games, as the same rules apply in shortened games as in full length games.</p> <p>Should points be given for 3, 6 and 9 wickets in all games? AG suggested that 3, 6 and 9 wickets is in line with current ECB county regulations.</p> <p>MHN reported that there is no evidence to suggest a major change in promotion and relegation and movement of places within leagues since the introduction of bonus points.</p> <p>Batting and Bonus points were split almost equally during the season (25 more bowling points out of a total of around 6000)</p> <p>The evidence showed that bonus points have no effect on points gained for both winning and losing draws.</p> <p>MHN to look at further data and will produce a more extensive report for the AGM.</p> <p>Positive impact of Bonus points found by some to be less obvious in limited overs games. It was felt that positive cricket was encouraged more by bonus points in timed cricket than overs cricket.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that the Bonus Points System was introduced to keep the emphasis on positive cricket during matches, particularly in matches where results may be a foregone conclusion, as bonus points keep clubs involved in the game. MHN noted that the evidence suggests that there is increased positivity within the game.</p> <p>Reigate Priory – the points system gives no advantage to securing a draw other than stopping your opponents gaining points. Currently the system means that you can get more points for a loss than points for a cancelled or conceded game. Reigate Priory agree with the opinion that bonus points should only be applied in timed games, not in overs cricket.</p> <p>Oxted and Limpsfield – currently you can get more points for a losing draw than a winning draw. Should the points for the winning draw be increased?</p> <p>AG – Are winning or Losing draws needed where bonus points are applicable. There should however be an incentive to draw a game rather than lose a game. AG suggested a system where points are awarded for drawn games, but no losing or winning draw points are awarded, with clubs earning the extra points through the accumulation of bonus points.</p>	
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	<p>GJ – Sides gain more points for a losing draw than a loss.</p> <p>The Chairman is keen to complete the bonus point's analysis. Anomalies are also to be taken into account. Reigate Priory felt the bonus points system needs to more closely resemble that of the County Championship.</p>	
	4th Eleven Cricket	
C/O 11/15	<p>The Chairman noted that there were a number of concessions during the previous season, particularly for 3rd and 4th Elevens. The league is looking at a number of different solutions to this growing problem, including a shortening of the season. The league would like to meet the 4th eleven captains to garner their views about the structure, with the proposed changes likely to be introduced for the 2017 season.</p> <p>Hampton Wick Royal would like only one division which isn't regionalized, as well as shorter games within the level.</p> <p>Clubs had issues with having enough bowlers for limited overs games.</p> <p>Purley – suggestion that limited overs should be considered at all levels, and that games end too late. It was felt that the problem was not with the start times, but with the over rates in games. The Chairman had found that over rates was a big issue in games where there are no panel umpires standing.</p> <p>Starting later will help clubs with fourth elevens who are predominately made up of school students.</p> <p>Some clubs favor smaller divisions and a shorter season. Old Rutlishians would like the fourth eleven league to continue to be run as an 18 match season.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that an agreement for one format of cricket will be difficult as clubs will have a number of different opinions on formats. The league are taking their time on making this decision and seeking opinions from current fourth elevens.</p> <p>Reigate Priory suggested having two county wide leagues of ten with regional leagues below being made up of 8 teams each shortening the season to 16 games for the lower divisions.</p> <p>Chertsey CC – 3rd and 4th Eleven prefer the longer format of the game with plenty of fixtures as this allows the younger players to have get more of a game.</p> <p>Is there a correlation between those teams who have conceded fixtures and results in the longer and shorter formats? The Chairman felt that it is difficult to find a correlation between the two.</p>	

	<p>The league will be looking to host a meeting of 3rd and 4th eleven captains, allowing them to express their views.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that ideas will be picked up from other counties when looking at introducing new formats at this level. More data to be published at the AGM.</p>	
	Overseas Playing Regulations	
C/O 12/15	<p>Proposed changes:</p> <p>No major changes proposed to most of the Playing Conditions, positive feedback given on the length of the Playing conditions, and in general feedback on the Playing Conditions has been positive. Please email any thoughts / ideas on Playing Conditions to RL.</p> <p>Major change to the Overseas Playing Regulation, to align with ECB regulations. The rule in question is related to exempt overseas players, which going forward will be determined on the amount of time the player has spent in the country rather than his passport.</p> <p>The ECB are providing a draft of the regulation and RL will add to the Playing Condition and send out to clubs as a draft.</p> <p>The Chairmen noted that the document will be a rewrite to the Registration Provisions; RL noted that the new document will be more digestible and easier to understand.</p> <p>The ECB current guidelines are on the website, but new guidelines are being produced this week. ECB guidelines are different for Premier Leagues than they currently are in the professional game where employment law applies.</p> <p>Question asked whether cricket is a paid player's occupation. The Chairman suggested that the view of the ECB is that paid players for clubs are not considered to be in a professional occupation. AG gave the definition of an exempt overseas player – an exempt overseas is a person who has lived in the UK for 18 months and has not been out of the UK for more than 70 days during that period. Category One players have been in the UK for at least four years and have been in the country for more than 210 days per year. RL noted that the only change to current playing condition is that players who hold an EU passport may not be considered an exempt overseas player within future regulation.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the full Overseas Player rules won't be changing, just the rules for exempt overseas players. It was felt that the regulations would be difficult to police.</p>	<p>Clubs</p> <p>RL</p>
	Any Other Business	
C/O 13/15	<p>The Chairman reported that he had been presented with the findings of the National Playing Survey last week and further findings will be shared shortly. The evidence suggested that a majority of players would like earlier finishes</p>	

	<p>and prefer the Overs format. This issue is to be revisited at a later date.</p> <p>Is there a realistic solution to the problem – The Chairman felt it is the Club's decisions as to what they would like to play. The Chairman believes that time cricket doesn't work for games of fewer than 90 overs. No easy answers – but clubs need to listen to the views of the players and bring their views back to the league meetings.</p> <p>Should umpires and captains improve over rates by enforcing the current playing conditions? IT suggested that the playing conditions could be adapted to reduce allowances for delays. Reigate Priory – emphasis on captains to ensure that over rates are adhered to.</p> <p>2nd Eleven – different start times at 2nd eleven – whereas games in the 1st eleven start earlier and finish earlier, the league to review start times at all levels.</p> <p>Some clubs felt that all games should start earlier. The Chairman suggested that grounds / players may not be available for earlier starts.</p> <p>Hampton Wick Royal suggested pilots in certain leagues clubs can decide start times amongst themselves on a week by week basis.</p> <p>Valley End – Over rates – Start and finish times to be captured on Play Cricket, which will show clubs overrates throughout a season. This would allow for greater policing of overrates.</p> <p>DE – Cricket Ball prices increasing in 2016 at an extra £1 per ball (roughly £45 per club) DE has investigated alternatives, but it is felt that the current supplier is the best. DE asked clubs to respond to him urgently once the Balls request comes out.</p> <p>BD – photographs of the dinner will be posted on the website and these can be downloaded for those who wish.</p> <p>BD – club information sheets to be distributed shortly. Clubs to complete and send back to MB.</p> <p>HR – results entry was excellent in 2015. Integration between Championship website and Play cricket has been improved.</p> <p>HR requested that any budding web writers contact her to assist with the running and maintenance of the league website.</p>	Clubs
	Meeting Closed at 21.43	

Appendix One: Year Book Reports Outstanding

Club	Total Reports Outstanding
Addiscombe	All
Alleyn	All
Bank of England	All
Banstead	One
Beddington / Beddington Park	All
Cheam	All
Chessington	All
Chipstead, Coulsdon and Walcountians	All
Cobham Avorians	All
Cranleigh	All
Deando Ruxley	All
Egham	One
Epsom	All
Esher	Two
Farncombe	All
Farnham	All
Guildford City	All
Hampton Wick Royal	All
Kingstonian	Two
Leatherhead	All
Lingfield	All
Malden Wanderers	All
Old Emanuel	All
Old Hamptonians	All
Old Rutlishians	All
Ripley	All
Sinjungrammarians	All
Staines and Laleham	All
Sunbury	All
Sutton	All
Wimbledon	All