

THE AUCTION HOUSE
BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT
PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
30 SEPTEMBER 2016

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BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

REPORT ON SEASON 2016

There were clear winners in the Premier Division with Berkswell, who were runners-up in 2015, comfortably becoming champions with 363 points against the eventual runners-up Kidderminster CC with 312 points. Kidderminster did exceptionally well to chase Berkswell considering a very indifferent start to the season. The unfortunate clubs to be relegated were Walmley CC and Leamington Spa CC who are rapidly becoming a yo-yo club following their promotion in 2015.

In the First Division, Dorridge CC and Brockhampton CC were promoted with Dorridge as champions. Again, this looks like a yo-yo position as both clubs were relegated from the Premier Division in 2015. The relegated clubs were Old Hill CC, who narrowly missed promotion in the previous season to the Premier Division, and Sutton Coldfield CC whose recent rise through the Divisions came to an end.

In the Second Division, Shifnal CC were champions thus regaining their place in the First Division and Tamworth CC were also promoted. Stratford-upon-Avon CC and Stourbridge CC were relegated to the Third Division. It should be noted that both of these Clubs have, previously, graced the Premier Division of the League.

In the Third Division, Fordhouses CC and Pershore CC were promoted, Fordhouses as champions. The relegated clubs to their respective Feeder Leagues were Aston Manor CC, Eastnor CC, Whitchurch CC and Worfield CC.

At a recent meeting of the Management Board, the following Clubs were elected to replace the four relegated Clubs: -

Shropshire County Cricket League	-	Sentinel CC
Staffordshire Club Cricket Championship	-	Milford Hall CC
Warwickshire Cricket League	-	Nuneaton CC
Worcestershire County Cricket League	-	Worcester Nomads CC

Second XI Championship

Congratulations are extended to the following Clubs in relation to the Second Division Championships: -

Premier Division Second XI	-	Champions: Wolverhampton CC Runners up: Knowle & Dorridge CC
Division 1 Second XI	-	Champions: Kenilworth Wardens CC Runners up: Astwood Bank CC
Division 2 North Second XI	-	Champions: Tamworth CC Runners up Smethwick CC
Division 2 South Second XI	-	Champions: Berkswell CC Runners up: Bromsgrove CC

Knockout Competitions

Graham Williamson Trophy

The final of this competition was delayed in 2016 due to the eventual winners, Walsall CC, having various commitments in the National Knockout Competition, the National Club T20 and the Staffordshire Club Competition, so that the final eventually took place four months after the semi-finals were completed. In the event, Walsall CC duly defeated Kidderminster CC, thus, bringing to an end six years of dominance by Shrewsbury CC.

Twenty20 (Challenge Cup) Competition

The semi-finals and final of this competition were hosted for the first time by Bridgnorth CC with the competition being easily won by Knowle & Dorridge CC who defeated Walsall CC in the final.

ECB National Club T20 Championship

Again, this competition was affected by inclement weather in the early rounds and for the first time, Barnards Green CC defeated Moseley CC in the final and went on to represent the League in the Area Finals where their run came to an end in North Wales. Again, there were problems within this competition due to concession of matches mainly due to player unavailability and this is one of the reasons why the Management Board have suggested a restructuring of the League to improve the quality which is referred to below.

President's Day

Peter Radburn hosted a very enjoyable President's Day at Chester Road which was attended by his personal invitees and other Vice Presidents of the League and gave people present an opportunity to renew acquaintances with several Vice Presidents who had not been present on previous occasions. Our thanks to Kidderminster CC for providing the hospitality on this occasion when the host Club was successful in defeating Barnt Green CC ensuring an early finish to enable the festivities to continue.

Sponsorship

The Management Board wishes to extend its gratitude to The Auction House for its generous sponsorship of the League this season and also to Cicada Sports for its continued sponsorship of the League (Twenty20) Challenge Cup competition.

Disciplinary

Fines continue to be part of the other income of the League for both disciplinary and non-compliance with League Rule reasons. In the main, these matters are dealt with adequately in League Rules and by the Clubs concerned. Once again, a major incident occurred necessitating Disciplinary Meetings and an Appeal Meeting. As in previous years, I would remind all League Clubs that, at the commencement of the season, officers of clubs sign a declaration to the effect that the Club will comply with the Spirit of Cricket in all respects and I would therefore urge all officials and players to recognise their obligations in these matters.

Congratulations

Annual Awards

The following annual playing and officiating awards have been confirmed by the Cricket and Umpires Sub-Committees:

Banks's Trophy for Player of the Year:	David Ball (Dorridge CC)
Albert Birkenhead Trophy for the Young Player of the Year:	Matthew Lamb (Barnt Green CC)
Banks's Trophy for the Umpire of the Year:	Alan Seville
Website Team of the Year:	Fordhouses CC First XI
Premier Division Fair Play:	Leamington Spa CC
Division One Fair Play:	Himley CC
Division Two Fair Play:	Harborne CC
Division Three Fair Play:	Newport CC

The following annual awards have been confirmed by the Ground & Facility Audit Sub-Committee:

Premier Division Pitch & Outfield:	Kidderminster CC
Division One Pitch & Outfield:	Himley CC
Division Two Pitch & Outfield:	Coventry & N.W. CC
Division Three Pitch & Outfield:	Eastnor CC

The trophies will be presented at the League AGM at Moseley CC on Wednesday 25 January 2017.

Restructuring of the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League

You will note that one of the Agenda items for the League AGM is the proposed restructuring of the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League. This follows a meeting of the ECB Premier League Chairmen held at Lords' on 11 August 2015 when Leagues were requested to review their own structure, in particular, with regard to start and end times for the lower Divisions and travel. This followed information received from the National Playing Surveys that were carried out in the two previous years. It has been observed that League Clubs are no longer as competitive in National Competitions, due to the fact that the top clubs are not as strong as they should be, because clubs in the lower Divisions and Feeder Leagues are attracting players who should be playing at this level with offers of payment to play. It was also felt that some clubs have been struggling to comply with the current demands made by the League and the yo-yo effect referred to earlier in this report between both Division Three and the Feeder Leagues, and also, particularly between the Premier Division and First Division has continued. Consultations concerning these proposals have taken place with the ECB and officials of the respective Feeder Leagues and County Boards and meetings have now been held with all clubs within the League. There will be a secret ballot concerning these proposals at the AGM which, if passed, will come into effect in 2019.

Management Board Presentations

It is pleasing to report that following the retirement of previous Presidents and members of the Management Board, Alan Neal and John Day, a suitable presentation was made to both gentlemen at last year's AGM to recognise the services that they rendered to the League and Management Board over a long period of time.

President and President Elect

It is hoped that an announcement concerning these positions for season 2017 and 2018 will be made at the AGM.

Vote of Thanks

Once again, I wish to place on record my thanks to the members of the Management Board and Feeder Leagues for the work they have undertaken during the last season and, also, my personal thanks to Nick Archer, General Manager of the League for his support to myself and the members of the Management Board. A further vote of thanks is due to the Chairmen and members of the various sub committees for the hard work they have undertaken which enables the League to run in the efficient way it does. Thanks are also due to professional advisers both in respect of financial matters and also disciplinary matters.

R A B Viner
Chairman

11 January 2017