

THE AUCTION HOUSE
BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT
PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
30 SEPTEMBER 2017

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BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

REPORT ON SEASON 2017

The race for the Premier Division title was eventually contested by two Clubs, Knowle & Dorridge CC and Shrewsbury CC with the eventual winners being Knowle & Dorridge. Last year's winners, Berkswell CC, finished third some 40 points behind the Champions. Kidderminster CC who finished as runners up in 2016, suffered a severe decline and were relegated together with Brockhampton CC who are returning to Division 1 following last year's promotion.

In the First Division, two of the original Birmingham & District Cricket League Clubs, Smethwick and Moseley, return to the Premier Division, Smethwick being Champions by 11 points. The relegated Clubs were Attock CC and Walmley CC who suffered back to back relegations having competed in the Premier Division in 2016.

In the Second Division, another close finish resulted in Oswestry CC running out as Champions with Halesowen CC finishing as runners up, a 7-point difference between the two Clubs. Old Hill's decline continued as they suffered back to back relegations together with Old Elizabethans CC, both Clubs finishing a long way behind the rest of the table.

In the Third Division, the Champions were Streetly CC with runners up being Astwood Bank CC. The relegated Clubs returning to their respective Feeder Leagues were Brewood CC, Nuneaton CC, Sentinel CC and Worcester Nomads CC; the latter three Clubs enjoying one season only in the League.

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. (These Clubs
finished in the same position in 2016). |
| Division 1 Second XI champions: | | Attock CC, runners up Tamworth CC. |
| Division 2 North Second XI champions: | | Shrewsbury CC, runners up
Penkridge CC. |
| Division 2 South Second XI champions: | | Wombourne CC, runners up
Persore CC. |

Knockout Competitions

Graham Williamson Trophy

The final of this competition was completed at Ombersley between Ombersley and Berkswell and a very tight and enjoyable game was eventually won by Ombersley CC.

20/20

The semi-finals and final of this competition were hosted by Walsall and conclusive winners were C & R Hawks.

ECB National Club 20/20 Championship

The Birmingham League were hosts at the Regional final of this competition which was held at Walsall and the game, a brilliant day's cricket was won by C & R Hawks.

C & R Hawks progressed to the final of this competition which was held at Derbyshire CCC in September. Unfortunately, the day was affected by rain which probably prevented C & R Hawks from beating the eventual winners South Northumberland. However, congratulations must be extended to C & R Hawks considering their status in the Birmingham League and their success was also pleasing due to the comments I made in last year's report concerning the lack of success enjoyed by Birmingham League Clubs in National Competitions in recent years.

ECB National Club Championship

Following on from the comments above, Wolverhampton CC reached the semi-final of this competition before losing to Ormskirk CC who subsequently finished runners up in the final. Congratulations to Wolverhampton on their efforts on once again reaching the latter stages of this prestigious competition.

President's Day

Our President, Peter Radburn enjoying a second year as President of the League, again hosted President's Day at Chester Road which was attended by his personal invitees including several prominent people from Worcestershire County Cricket Club and other Vice Presidents of the League. Our thanks to Kidderminster CC for providing the hospitality on this occasion when, once again, Barnt Green CC were the visitors.

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's 20/20 Challenge 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. However, once again there was one major incident which unfortunately made the National newspapers headlines. This in turn necessitated a Disciplinary Meeting followed by an Appeal Meeting which was chaired by independent persons. The incident cost both Clubs involved a loss of goodwill together with financial implications in employing expensive lawyers.

I would reiterate that at the commencement of the season, officers of all League Clubs sign a declaration to the effect that the Club will comply with the Spirit of Cricket in all respects and I, once again, 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:	Ryan Tongue (Barnards Green CC)
Albert Birkenhead Trophy for the Young Player of the Year:	Amit John (West Bromwich Dartmouth CC)
Banks's Trophy for the Umpire of the Year:	Jonathan Cousins
Website Team of the Year:	Shrewsbury Second XI
Premier Division Fair Play:	Ombersley CC
Division One Fair Play:	Tamworth CC
Division Two Fair Play:	Coventry and N.W. CC
Division Three Fair Play:	Stratford-upon-Avon 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:	Tamworth CC
Division Two Pitch & Outfield:	Harborne CC
Division Three Pitch & Outfield:	Worcester Nomads CC

The trophies will be presented at the League AGM at Moseley CC on Wednesday 31 January 2018 and all winners are invited to attend to receive their respective trophies.

Restructuring of the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League

This matter has now been under discussion since the last Annual General Meeting when the original proposal was narrowly defeated. Since that time consultations concerning the proposed new structure have taken place with the ECB and officials of the respective County Leagues and County Boards. A new proposal which has been tabled by Richard Cox, the Head of Participation & Growth for ECB in the West Midlands Region will be the subject of a consultation meeting to be held at New Road, Worcester on 17 January and I confirm that the Management Board is unanimously in favour of this proposal.

President and President Elect

The President for 2018 will be Robin Viner and it is hoped that an announcement concerning these positions for 2018 and 2019 will be made at the A.G.M.

Retirement and Vote of Thanks

This will be my last report as Chairman of the League which I have served as Chairman for 15 years since the unfortunate death of Graham Williamson. It has been a privilege to serve the League in this capacity and to represent it on several occasions at the ECB. However, I feel that it is now time for a younger person to take over this role and a suitable nomination will be made at the next Management Board Meeting.

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, in particular, my personal thanks to Nick Archer, General Manager of the League, for his support to myself and the members of the Management Board. The Chairmen and members of the various sub-committees have continued to operate in an efficient manner and my thanks are due for all the hard work and dedication shown during the last twelve months. Finally, thanks are due to our professional advisers in respect of financial matters and disciplinary matters. In relation to financial matters it is pertinent to point out that John Cox of Walsall CC has been Reporting Accountant to the League for some 25 years and, as always, carried out his work in an efficient and timely way and is also very cheap because no fees have ever been charged. His work will be suitably recognised at the forthcoming AGM. My thanks also to Richard Evans of Halesowen CC for stepping into the breach occasioned by the unfortunate illness of Bill Tansell as acting Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee.

R A B Viner
Chairman

17 January 2018