

# **BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SEASON 2018**

3rd January 2018

In a similar fashion to the 2017 season, the race for the Premier Division title was for a considerable period contested by two clubs, Knowle & Dorridge and Berkswell, with the title being realistically decided on the penultimate weekend of the season when the eventual winners Berkswell defeated last year's champions Knowle & Dorridge. The game itself proved to be a fantastic example of the high quality of cricket played by these two clubs throughout the 2018 season. Berkswell won the Premier Division by 18 points and also won the T20 competition to complete a superb season double.

Both Wolverhampton and Ombersley eventually succumbed to relegation in what was a close fought battle between a number of clubs, Ombersley eventually relegated by only two points.

In the First Division, Kidderminster return to the Premier Division at the first attempt as Division One champions. In another tight finish, Shifnal also secured promotion on the final day of the season and by the slightest of margins. One point separated them from the unfortunate Bridgnorth. Former Premier Division Champions Wellington were relegated to the Shropshire County League. Brockhampton, whilst finishing in the relegation places, avoided relegation as the Management Board ruled that C & R Hawks were ineligible for promotion from Division Two after undergoing a Ground & Facility audit.

In the Second Division, Harborne were crowned as Champions with C & R Hawks finishing as Runners-up; however, C & R Hawks, as mentioned earlier, were ineligible for promotion which allowed Brockhampton to retain their place in Division One. Another tight relegation battle resulted in relegation for both Coventry and North Warwickshire and Astwood Bank.

In the Third Division, the Champions were Stourbridge, one of the original Birmingham & District Cricket League Clubs, with Rugby finishing as Runners-up.

### **Second XI Championship**

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

Premier Division Second XI Champions:	Wolverhampton (3 <sup>rd</sup> consecutive season)
Runners up:	Attock

Division 1 Second XI Champions:	Bromsgrove
Runners up:	Coventry and North Warwickshire

Division 2 North Second XI Champions:	Bridgnorth
Runners up:	Fordhouses

Division 2 South Second XI Champions:	Berkswell
Runners up:	Kidderminster

## **Knockout Competitions**

### **Graham Williamson Trophy**

Due to the dreadful weather conditions experienced in early 2018, the Management Board suspended this competition for 12 months.

### **(Twenty20) Challenge Cup**

The semi-finals and final of this competition were hosted by Kenilworth Wardens and involved Barnards Green, Wolverhampton, Fordhouses and the conclusive winners Berkswell CC, who represented BDPCL in the Area Finals of the Vitality National Club T20 Competition, where they were defeated by Slough.

### **President's Day**

League President, Robin Viner hosted President's Day at Old Hill 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 Old Hill for providing the excellent hospitality on this occasion when Stourbridge were the visitors.

### **Disciplinary**

The new on-field sanctions regime, introduced in 2018, worked extremely effectively with a significant reduction in the number of 1<sup>st</sup> XI disciplinary issues. However, and of much concern, the number of disciplinary cases experienced in 2<sup>nd</sup> XI cricket increased significantly during the season. Fines continue to be part of the other income of the League for disciplinary reasons and non-compliance with League Rules. In the main, these matters were managed, adequately, within the League Rules and by the Clubs concerned. 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:	Nick James (Berkswell)
Albert Birkenhead Trophy for the Young Player of the Year:	Zen Malik (Wolverhampton)
Banks's Trophy for the Umpire of the Year:	Neil Davies
Website Team of the Year:	Bridgnorth 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI
Premier Division Fair Play:	Kenilworth Wardens
Division One Fair Play:	Bridgnorth
Division Two Fair Play:	Walmley
Division Three Fair Play:	Old Elizabethans

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

Premier Division Pitch & Outfield:	Barnt Green
Division One Pitch & Outfield:	Kidderminster
Division Two Pitch & Outfield:	Harborne
Division Three Pitch & Outfield:	Stourbridge

### **Restructuring of the Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League**

This matter has now been resolved following a majority of BDPCL member clubs electing to support the revised blueprint for cricket in the West Midlands with the assistance and agreement of the ECB and officials of the respective County Leagues and County Boards.

### **President and President Elect**

The President for 2019 is Godfrey Lamb who will succeed the retiring Robin Viner.

### **Vote of Thanks**

This is my first report as Chairman of the Birmingham and District Premier League having taken over the reins at the last AGM from Robin Viner, who served as Chairman for the previous 15 years and to whom we, as players, former players, league representatives and the league itself owe a huge vote of thanks.

Therefore, on behalf of everyone I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robin for his service and devotion to the league which has also seen him serve as Honorary Treasurer since 1989 and serve as President in 1997 and 2018. Robin has always maintained that it has been a privilege to serve the League in his numerous capacities and to represent its member clubs on many occasions at the ECB. Thanks Robin, for all of your time and effort in supporting not only the Birmingham League but cricket across the West Midlands region in general.

I would also like to place on record my thanks to the members of the Management Board, County Cricket Boards and County Leagues for the immense work and diligence they have undertaken during the last 12 months.

I also extend my thanks and gratitude to the Chairmen and members of the various sub-committees for all the hard work and dedication they have shown over the last year, allowing the league to operate efficiently throughout the 2018 season and plan for the 2019 season's challenges.

Yet again, the League's financial matters have been reported on by John Cox who has been the Reporting Accountant to the League for some 26 years. Whilst we, formally, recognised John's devotion at last year's A.G.M., I repeat my thanks for his efforts.

Finally, my personal thanks to Nick Archer, General Manager of the League, for his guidance, absolute commitment and support to myself, the members of the Management Board and all stakeholder clubs.

David Manning  
Chairman  
03 January 2019