

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
THE BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE
held via Zoom on Monday 30th November 2020 at 8.00 p.m.**

Present:

Representatives from 23 clubs who will be members of BDPCL in 2021 were present, the only absentee being Halesowen C.C. who had sent apologies a few minutes after the meeting commenced. Others present were D. Manning (Chair), N.M. Husbands (Vice-Chair), A. Biggs (Finance Manager), N.J. Archer (General Manager), R.M. Cox, A.E. Lea, D.B. Middleton, A. Wheeler, M. Zabair (Members of the Management Board) and J.R. Cousins (Honorary Reporting Accountant).

1. Apologies:

G.H.H. Lamb (President) and M. Whitehall (Member of the Management Board).

Before the business of the meeting commenced, a minute's silence was observed in memory of the following: - G.T. Brindley (Past President BDPCL and Moseley C.C.) and R.B. Abell (Vice-President BDPCL and Moseley C.C.), former players A.R. Barker (Duport C.C., Kidderminster C.C. and Walsall C.C.), S. Bradshaw (W.B. Dartmouth C.C.), J. Sedgley (Dudley C.C., Moseley C.C., Old Hill C.C. and W.B. Dartmouth C.C.) R. Sheikh (Old Hill C.C.) and R. Turner (W.B. Dartmouth C.C.), club officials D. Cowan (Leamington Spa C.C.) and R.D.W. Norris (Tamworth C.C.), former members of the Umpires Panel C. Bryant and P. Ogden and former club scorer Mrs. M. Chapman (Wolverhampton C.C.).

2. Presentation of Trophies:

The following trophies were presented by The President at the end of the Final of the Graham Williamson Trophy competition played on 27th September 2020: -

Winners – Barnt Green C.C.

Runners-up – West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C.

The Banks's Trophy awarded to the Player of the Year will be presented to Omar Ali (West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C.) when the current lockdown restrictions, due to Covid-19, are lifted. He scored 681 runs at an average of 61.91 and took 10 wickets at an average of 25.10 in the Graham Williamson Trophy competition.

The Albert Birkenhead Trophy awarded to the Young Player of the Year will be presented to Ben Chapman-Lilley (Barnt Green C.C.) when the current lockdown restrictions, due to Covid-19, are lifted. He scored 497 runs at an average of 71.00 in the Graham Williamson Trophy competition.

The Banks's Trophy for the Umpire of the Year will be presented to David Gower when the current lockdown restrictions, due to Covid-19, are lifted, in recognition of his work for the wider game as Performance Officer for the West Midlands branch of the ECB OA.

3. Minutes of A.G.M. held on Wednesday 25^h November 2019:

The minutes have been available to download from the League website since 11th January 2020. They were agreed *nem con* following a proposal from Kidderminster C.C., seconded by Leamington Spa C.C.

4. Matters Arising:

Nil.

5. Chairman's Report:

The report has been available to download from the League website since 23rd November 2020. He congratulated all clubs for their contribution to an unprecedented season that had been shortened due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Chairman reiterated his congratulations to the winners of the Graham Williamson Trophy and the winners of the playing and officiating awards. He thanked his fellow Board Members for their support, during the year, as well as the General Manager for his hard work and commitment to the League. He asked if there were any questions or comments about his report and none were forthcoming. Following a proposal from Barnards Green C.C., seconded by Smethwick C.C., the report was adopted *nem con*.

6. Honorary Treasurer's Report & Annual Accounts:

The accounts had been available to download from the League website since 16th November 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic had resulted in a decrease in income from £30,798.00 in 2019 to £15,208.00 in 2020. Due to the shortened nature of the season, the Management Board had approved a 33% reduction in the annual subscription paid by clubs from £450.00 to £300.00, resulting in a decrease from £10,800.00 in 2019 to £7,200.00 in 2020. Sponsorship income was reduced from £3,000.00 to zero in 2020. A new arrangement with ECB regarding Premier League accreditation was due to result in an increase from £15,000.00 per year to approximately £26,000.00 per year in 2020 but the arrival of the pandemic resulted in cuts in ECB expenditure across the board and the actual figure received was £6,454.00. As a result, there was no distribution of the accreditation fee to clubs, the amount received just about covering the expenditure approved by the Management Board to promote the introduction of white ball cricket into the 50 over and Graham Williamson Trophy competitions. £1,500.00 was, also, received from ECB as an administration grant but this fee will not be available in future years. £54.00 was received from Bank interest. Expenditure over the period was reduced from £35,918.00 in 2019 to £19,078.00 in 2020. The accreditation grant paid to clubs fell from £12,000.00 in 2019 to zero in 2020 and the annual fee paid to the General Manager was £10,000.00 compared to £15,000.00 the previous year. Coloured batting clads for use in white ball cricket to the value of £1,920.00 were donated to clubs, while the cost of the annual handbook (£722.00) and the cost of the website (£2,820.00) were unchanged from the previous year. The cost of printing, postage and stationery fell from £1,301.00 in 2019 to £359.00 in 2020 but the costs of internet provision and telephone calls rose from £1,560.00 to £1,853.00. The cost of engraving trophies was £720.00 and the League's insurance policy increased slightly from £857.00 in 2019 to £894.00 in 2020. Other expenses included umpire's fees for the Graham Williamson Trophy Final (£80.00) and the cost of pennants awarded to competition winners at the end of the 2019 season (£80.00). The net deficit for the year was £3,870.00 compared to a deficit of £5,120.00 in 2019. Total net assets amount to £42,013.00 including stock (£6,583.00) and cash in the Bank Current Account (£35,430.00) compared to 30th September 2019 when they were valued at £45,883.00. The figure for stock is comprised of £3,951.00 (white cricket balls), £264.00 (pink cricket balls), £1,317.00 (red cricket balls) and £1,051.00 (coloured stumps). The stumps will be distributed to member clubs at the start of next season, free of charge, and the pink and red balls will remain in stock for re-sale to clubs who require additional balls during the season. It was the Management Board's intention to distribute one box of white balls, free of charge, to each club at the start of the 2020 season but, in view of the deficit sustained during this financial year, they will review that decision at their

next meeting. Following a proposal from Bromsgrove C.C., seconded by Walsall C.C., the accounts were approved *nem con*.

7. Appointment of Honorary Reporting Accountant:

The accounts for the year ending 30th September 2020 had been checked by J.R. Cousins (BDPCL Umpire) a Chartered Accountant. The Finance Manager proposed that Mr Cousins should be reappointed to the role of Honorary Reporting Accountant for 2021. The proposal was seconded by the Vice-Chair and accepted *nem con*.

8. Appointment of President:

The General Manager reported that W.E. Smith (former League umpire and a player at Worcester City C.C.) has accepted an invitation to become President for the 2021 season.

9. Appointment of President-Elect:

The General Manager reported that I.J.W. Stokes (former player at Moseley C.C.) has accepted an invitation to become President-Elect for the 2021 season.

10. Appointment of Vice-Presidents:

The General Manager reported that the Management Board has recommended the appointment of the following as Vice-Presidents of the League: -

Former players, D.A. Banks (Old Hill C.C., Smethwick C.C., Stourbridge C.C and West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C.), H. Patel (Old Hill C.C., Stourbridge C.C. and West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C.) and J.P. Wright (Kidderminster C.C., Old Hill C.C. and Stourbridge C.C.).

D.J. Abell (Aston Unity C.C. and Moseley C.C.) who developed the BDPCL website in 2002 and continues to act as the webmaster up to the current date and M. Corcoran (Dudley C.C., Pelsall C.C., Walsall C.C. and West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C.) for his contribution to administration at West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C. over the last 20 years.

In addition, after such a challenging year, a working party set up to review the appointment of Presidents and Vice-Presidents recommended that the following members of the Management Board should be recognised: - D. Manning (Chair), N.M. Husbands (Vice-Chair), A. Biggs (Finance Manager), D.B. Middleton (Chair of Cricket & Registration) and M. Whitehall (Finance & Marketing Committee).

The members listed above will be added to the existing Vice-Presidents who were reappointed *en bloc*.

11. Election of Management Board Representatives:

The following representatives retire by rotation and both are eligible for re-election for a further four-year term: -

A.E. Lea (Himley C.C.)
D.B. Middleton (Walsall C.C.)

The members named above have indicated that they are willing to seek re-election and they have been, duly, nominated by the Management Board and seconded by their club.

In the absence of any other nominations before the 1st November 2020 deadline, there is no requirement for a ballot and both members are re-elected for a further four-year term, ending at the A.G.M. in November 2024.

There is also a vacancy on the Management Board for a three-year term and the Management Board has received the following nomination: -

R.M. Cox (West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C.)
proposed by West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C. and seconded by Pelsall C.C.

In the absence of any other nominations before the 1st November 2020 deadline, there is no requirement for a ballot and Mr. Cox is elected to serve a three-year term, ending at the A.G.M. in November 2023.

12. Any Other Business:

12.1 Diversity

In response to a question from Bridgnorth C.C. regarding Diversity, the Chair replied that the Management Board is aware of its obligations in this respect and is, currently, involved in a dialogue with ECB regarding representation, opinions, thoughts and ideas from the diverse communities represented by its member clubs.

12.2 Financial Strategy

The representative from Berkswell C.C. commented that the financial outlook for clubs was tough and he asked if the Management Board had a strategy in place to mitigate another difficult year ahead. The Financial Manager responded by stating that it was impossible to confirm a budget for the upcoming year until ECB confirmed what, if any, funding will be available to Premier Leagues in 2021. The General Manager advised that there is due to be a meeting of Premier League Chairs on 9th December 2020 and he anticipated that more information will be available by the end of the meeting. He, also, confirmed that, although all member clubs had been able to access support grants from Government and ECB in 2020, the League had, only, been allowed to apply for a loan from ECB which the Finance and Marketing Committee had deemed to be unnecessary given its level of Reserves (approximately £40,000) at the time.

Meeting Closed

8.50 p.m.