

# **BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT SEASON 2021**

**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021**

The 2021 season was a season of recovery from possibly the most challenging and difficult period in the history of BDPCL during 2020.

The spectre of Covid19 continued to jeopardise a full programme of games in 2021 and required the creation of Covid19 contingency plans to ensure a fair and transparent points system to apply in any Covid19 impacted games.

In line with the approach taken in 2020, several virtual meetings took place with member clubs to keep them up to speed on the League's approach to the 2021 season and seek the views of club chairs and representatives on the suggested approaches taken and planned. Pleasingly, they were all unanimously agreed. The feedback from clubs on this approach has been strong and is very much appreciated.

Thankfully, the season did commence on time and the number of games impacted by Covid 19 was below the threshold required to trigger the contingency plans in relation to promotion and relegation.

All the match formats were required to continue to conform to ECB playing guidance protocols and the Management Board's thanks are extended to every participating club for their diligence and compliance with the Covid19 regulations and requirements during the season.

The League was delighted to honour its commitment to playing white ball/coloured clothing format cricket in 2021, the launch of which had to be postponed having been promised, initially, in 2020.

The race for the 2021 Premier Division One title was again dominated by Berkswell.

They won the title by an impressive points margin and averaged an excellent 15.55 points per game.

In summary, another strong and consistent performance from an excellent side, playing positive cricket throughout the season. The only blight on their season was the failure to honour their Graham Williamson Trophy commitment.

Leamington, who, also, reached the last eight of the Royal London National Club Championship, were worthy runners-up

Both Walsall and West Bromwich Dartmouth, eventually, succumbed to relegation in what was a close fought battle between four or five clubs.

In Premier Division Two, the title was won by Halesowen who return to the top division after a 16-year absence. Also promoted as runners-up are Kenilworth Wardens, who saw off a strong challenge from Himley despite losing their last match of the season.

We lose both Pelsall and Oswestry who are relegated into their respective County Leagues, but we welcome back both Worfield and Lichfield who are returning to BDPCL for the 2022 season, having being promoted from their County Leagues via the play-offs.

## **Knockout Competitions**

### **Graham Williamson Trophy**

The weather did its best to challenge the completion of this tournament however, the game was eventually played very late in the season and congratulations go to Barnt Green who defeated Ombersley in an entertaining game to take the trophy for the third season in a row! Our thanks go to Barnt Green for hosting the final.

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

The semi-finalists were Leamington, Smethwick, Barnt Green and Wem.

The hosts, Smethwick, to whom we are grateful for their hospitality, eventually, beat Leamington to the title and went on to represent BDPCL in the Area Finals of the Vitality National Club T20 Competition.

### **President's Day**

Not held in 2021 due to Covid restrictions.

### **Disciplinary**

Importantly and very pleasingly, the vast majority of games were played in an excellent spirit with only seven disciplinary reports submitted during the course of the season (six Level 1 breaches and a single Level 2 breach). Each case was resolved, internally, by the clubs concerned without the need for any further disciplinary intervention from the League.

Disappointingly, two clubs did not honour their Graham Williamson Trophy commitments with both Berkswell and Dorridge conceding their games and fined accordingly. I have asked the Cricket Committee to review the position to avoid any replication of this scenario going forward.

I remind everyone that we should continue to maintain a strong focus on reducing disciplinary issues. To that effect, at the commencement of the 2022 season, officers of all member clubs will again be required to 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.

### **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: - Oliver Currill (Leamington C.C.)

Albert Birkenhead Trophy for the

Young Player of the Year: - Zain Ul-Hassan (Barnards Green C.C.)

Banks's Trophy for the Umpire of the Year: - Suzanne Redfern M.B.E.

Website Team of the Year: - Leamington C.C.

Premier Division One Fair Play Trophy: - Ombersley C.C.

Premier Division Two Fair Play Trophy: - Bromsgrove C.C.

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

Premier Division One Pitch & Outfield: - Kidderminster C.C.

Premier Division Two Pitch & Outfield: - Harborne C.C.

### **President and President Elect**

Elected as League President in November 2020, despite Covid restrictions, Bill Smith carried out his duties with diligence and good humour. He presented the trophies on the day to the Premier Division One Champions, the Graham Williamson Trophy winners and runners-up and to the winners and runners-up of the (Twenty20) Challenge Cup. On behalf of everyone connected with BDPCL, I would like to thank Bill for his advice, his support and his commitment over the course of his tenure.

I am pleased to announce that Ian Stokes has accepted an invitation to become President for the 2022 season.

### **Vote of Thanks**

I would like to place on record my thanks to the members of the Management Board for their hard work and commitment during the very challenging last 12 months.

The Chairs and members of the various Committees for all the hard work and dedication they have shown over the last year, allowing the League to communicate, create and operate efficiently a new league format, meet our regulatory obligations and support the member clubs throughout the course of 2021.

I would also like to thank the clubs' League representatives, Captains and Chairs for attending and participating in a number of meetings throughout 2021. You should be very proud of your roles in getting the game on and meeting the challenging and changing playing regulations in 2021.

As always it is imperative, we continue as a League to engage with all stakeholders. To support this activity, we will be again hosting a member clubs Chairs meeting in January 2022 and a 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captains meeting in April 2022.

My personal thanks to Nick Archer, General Manager of BDPCL, for his guidance, absolute commitment to our League, support to myself, the members of the Management Board and all stakeholder clubs, helping to guide us all through all of the cricket related challenges presented by Covid19 in 2021.

Finally, I would like place on record my personal thanks to all of the Umpires and Scorers who stood in or scored games in 2021. Without you and your commitment, we would not have been able to play and enjoy BDPCL cricket in 2021.

David Manning  
Chair  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021