

Devon Seniors Cricket Club 2014 Annual General Meeting

The Dartmoor Lodge

Saturday 22nd November 2014 at 6.30pm.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The following members were in attendance: D Gambie, C Theedom, S Munday, N Mountford, D Amery, S Lott, R Cavendish, P Nott, N Murrin, G Coish, G Darke, A Gibson, R Wensley, G Keen, P Shephard, B Flicker, T Overthrow, G Munday, M Trout, N Matthews, G Peach, S Taylor, P Berman, J Page, M Hunt, I Western, N Ashplant, M Canning, B Flicker, G Darke and P Gascoigne.

APOLOGIES: T Stanton, K White, D Rice, P Bees, R Pyle, R Newing, K Biggs

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

No matters arising.

Proposed by: G Darke, Seconded by: B Flicker.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman described the 2014 season as a resounding success. Good weather, plenty of cricket and much success on and off the pitch.

The teams have been well run and competitive and played in the right spirit and traditions of our club.

Seniors cricket is the only expanding section of cricket in this country and approximately 66,000 **cricketers** were lost to the game in 2014. More counties are joining seniors cricket and even more over 70 sides are being formed.

I am delighted to say that your committee **has** continued to work really hard to ensure that our seniors cricket remains highly regarded throughout the country and by the Devon Cricket Board. We are looked upon by many counties as one of the very best run in England. That is down to your captains and your committee. I would like to thank them all for their hard work.

In 2002 we had one team of 16 players and no committee or constitution. In 2014 we have five teams and a full committee and constitution. Having said that, all is not perfect. We need to improve our communication skills between committee, captains and members

We have had complaints again this year about selection issues, your committee has given captains guidelines on their duties and responsibilities and you will see on your agenda important amendments proposed to the constitution and player selection.

Having said that these problems will be solved and well before the start of next season.

He wished to say thank you to all those attending and all who have made 2014 a success.

The Chairman wished all teams, the new captains a good 2015 season and hoped that we may bring back a trophy.

Proposed by: Francis Pyle. Seconded by: Mike Canning,

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

It was pointed out that the secretary had erred in stating that the Over 60's 2nd XI had played in the 3rd and 4th side play off. In fact it was the Plate Final. This has been corrected.

Another "nearly year" played mostly in good weather and some good performances. The Over 50 side went through to their National knockout stage. However, they lost to Surrey in what was a hastily arranged and convenient draw by the organisers. The Over 50's 2nd XI had a reasonable season not helped in the early stages by the weather. The Over 60 1st XI went through to the last eight of the Seeventh National Competition losing to the eventual winners and a very competent Essex side. The Over 60's 2nd XI lost in a bizarre game for the final of the Plate competition when losing 4 wickets in the last over needing 1 run. The Club XI played two games (other games rained off) and we must thank Andy Gibson getting his sides together. Nevertheless the club had a not too bad a season.

That said we do need to improve when getting to and playing in the knockout stages of the competitions. As stated last season other sides are getting stronger. They appear younger and fitter. We do need to look at this if we want to remain competitive we have to encourage those that are about 50 years of age to consider extending their cricketing careers. It therefore follows that those that are aged 59 and 60 should be looking to play for the over 60 sides.

Roger Wensley, Fran Pyle and Stuart Munday are standing down from their respective captaincies and we thank them for their hard work, time and organising abilities that have seen our club grow over the last couple of years. We wish their successors all the best for next season.

As a tourist, may I thank Chris and Jackie Theedom for their, as usual, impeccable organisation of the tour to Canada in June. Superb weather good company and lots of laughs were enjoyed by those who visited Vancouver and the trip to Calgary. Glorious scenery, hard hitting batsmen on artificial wickets but winning the series 3 matches to 2 were exhilarating. Remembering the tour and stories will linger on for years.

A tour to Sri Lanka is currently being organised for Easter 2016. I do urge you to support this tour as you have done with others. It does build camaraderie and friendships in some beautiful parts of the world.

I know that communication over our club is based on the website of the Devon Cricket Board. I don't think that this is satisfactory and your committee is looking at this. We still need to get teams, results, committee minutes, AGM minutes and general news to our members in a much easier and timely format.

In time honored tradition and as usual we look to encourage more and more players to join and if members know of players who have now attained seniors age please get them to make contact.

I believe that the introduction of the £10 membership fee and £10 match fee has been a success. I do ask players to ensure that those who do take their cars are recompensed by passengers in a fair way. I know some car drivers are reticent to ask what it actually costs them.

Our Constitution needs amending to keep abreast of the mounting membership and teams that we have under our umbrella and I thank the President Dave Gambie for his knowledge and mastery of legal jargon to get the amendments fit for purpose. The members will be asked to vote in the new amendments at the AGM.

I can also inform you that the club is now covered for public liability insurance and personal accident insurance whilst travelling and playing for the Club. However, every player must consider whether this is sufficient in respect of their own personal situation and requirements.

The policy is held by the secretary.

Again, may I make my annual plea on behalf of the Committee to members to try and find a sponsor to include in our club handbook. A sum of £40.00 will secure a whole page advert and £25.00 will secure a half page advert.

All that said we remain a well-run and well organised club and many sides are envious of our organisational set up.

The club also wishes to thank those clubs in Devon that have welcomed us to their grounds, mostly without charge. It is greatly appreciated by the club and especially the players.

My thanks on behalf of Club, as usual, go to all the scorers and the umpires for giving up their time and their devotion for the cause during the 2014 season.

My thanks go to the President, the Chairman, the captains and the committee for their unsung and voluntary hard work during the 2014 season.

Once again I would like to thank the tea ladies for their hard work at the home games and all those who support the team home and away.

Lastly the club wishes to thank all those sponsors, advertisers and vice presidents that assist the club and especially Keith WHITE MBE of MICHAEL SPIERS, the Jewellers' who so generously are the main sponsors of the Club.

Proposed by: Graham Peach. Seconded by: Andy Gibson.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer circulated members with copies of the Club Accounts. The Treasurer commented that subscriptions were down. 48 players had paid their subscriptions. He thought that there should have been more **and** the captains were aware **of this but** he could only report on monies received.

There was £48 still outstanding for a jumper on the sale of clothing.

He reported on a profit for the net sessions that showed there was good attendance. He questioned whether from 2015 onwards people should pay for playing shirts. This was referred to the committee.

The treasurer stated that we would have £500 better off without the Jersey trip and he was aware that this trip was being looked at by the over 50's. However we still had £2484.00 in the bank.

There was comment on the cost of balls and their quality. This seemed to apply to the ECB competition and the Seevent competition. This matter was being brought up at the Seevent national meeting.

Nigel Mountford stated that the £50 fee paid to the ECB included the balls.

Francis Pyle thought that the 50 2nd XI balls may have been bought at Woolworths.

Mike Canning stated that the annual subscriptions were down but the increase in match fees were supposed to bring in more to cover this. Nigel Ashplant stated that we have nothing yet to compare like with like and does it matter. However, it was pointed out that a number of games were not played by the club side with the consequent loss of revenue.

The AGM in 2013 agreed that an honorarium be paid to Mark Horwell our scrutineer. It was agreed in committee that a bottle of spirits would be acceptable. The treasurer stated he would get round to this.

The President thanked the Treasurer for his report.

Proposed: Graham Darke. Seconded: Nigel Ashplant.

SUBSCRIPTION RECOMMENDATION FOR 2015:

Vice Presidents £10, Players £10, Match Fee £10

Committee proposed the above subscriptions remain the same.

Proposed by Mike Hunt. Seconded by Mike Trout

Passed unopposed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Election of the President – Mr D GAMBIE - **Unanimous**

Election of Officers – All the Club Officers were elected unanimously

- A) Chairman – Mr Chris THEEDOM
- B) Secretary – Mr Stuart LOTT
- C) Treasurer – Mr Stuart MUNDAY
- D) Fixture Secretary – Mr Danny DANIELS

There was a ballot between Mr Graham Munday and Mr Davis Tall for captain of the over 50's 1st XI. 68% of those entitled to vote did so. The President announced the winner as Mr Graham Munday. The captains of the over 50's 2nd XI – Phil Bees and the over 60's 2nd XI Peter Shephard were properly proposed and seconded and were elected unopposed.

The following were elected as Captains for 2015: -

- E) Captain Over 50's – Mr Graham Munday
- F) Captain Over 50s 2nd XI – Mr Phil Bees
- G) Captain Over 60's 1st XI – Mr Chris Theedom
- H) Captain of Over 60 2nd XI – Mr Peter Shephard
- I) Captain Club side – Mr Andy GIBSON

Election of Scrutineer – Mr Mark HORWELL – **Unanimous**

The President thanked Roger Wensley for his 2 year captaincy of the Over 60's and had captained conscientiously and commendably. However, the top prize eluded him. He also thanked Fran Pyle and Stuart Munday for their roles in taking the Club forward. He wished all Captains the best for 2015,

THE CONSTITUTION

The President stated that as the Club has grown our Constitution has become unfit for purpose. He stated that many hours and drafts had been prepared in order to present to the meeting a document that should cover our needs. The main changes were concentrated on Section 3 of the constitution relating to voting rights.

To assist the secretary had circulated a dictate that the members had had time to consider **regarding the proposed changes**. The President commenced to proceed with what was proposed to become the new section 3(3). **In the event that no nomination for elected officer positions was made the incumbent would automatically serve for a further term.**

He then outlined what would become the new section 3(4). Nominations for captains of the championship sides must be received by the secretary by the 30th September annually.

The President then covered the proposed the new section 3(5). The election of captains of the championship sides will be only by those players who have paid their subscriptions and who have played in any championship game at their respective age level in the past season prior to the AGM. The example given was that only 50 1st XI players could vote for the over 50 1st XI captain.

Barry Flicker challenged this as the wording did not specifically state that. It stated that all the 50's could vote for 50's captains.

The Chairman explained that he thought it was unfair that those who had not seen and had no idea how the side was performing or how it was being captained would be able to manipulate the outcome of a vote for the captaincy. He had seen it in other clubs. **However, after further discussion it was agreed that this proposal should be re-written and presented to the AGM in 2015. Hence the existing clause in the 2012 Constitution would have to stand for another year.**

The President then went through the wording of the new section 3 (6) stating that the nomination for the club side should be proposed and seconded by 30th September annually.

It was then discovered that the **published wording for the new section 3(9) was found to be incorrect at the last committee meeting on 28th October 2014 and a fresh wording formulated. Unfortunately, the secretary was incapacitated and unable to re-issue this to the membership. The meeting agreed to the revised wording and the explanation given thereby permitting this to pass into the new Constitution.**

The President then introduced the topic of selection that had been forwarded on the secretary's edict and would require a vote. The propositions put forward were as follows:-

A. In keeping with the spirit of the various championship competitions the Championship Captains can only select players in the relevant age range permitted by the rules of the relevant championship competition. For the sake of clarity, in the ECB Over 50s Championship, only players aged 50-59 and players who have played in the 50s competition during the season & reach the age of 60 before the end of the playing season should be selected. *In exceptional circumstances only, and subject to prior consultation with the Club Chairman, an over age player can be selected.*

OR

B. Championship Captains are entitled to select any player that is permitted by the Championship Rules to which they are playing.

The Chairman opened the debate stating that he was in favour of the age limitation. He stated that it was unfair on the number of players that have joined the club not being able to get a game. It was also grossly unfair on the Over 50 2nd XI players not being given a chance to play 1st XI cricket because over 60's were being selected ahead of them. It also sends out the wrong signal. The Chairman also stated that he was not able to pick his best side as over 60's were being selected for the over 50's. He stated that the committee had backed him 7 votes to 1 in favour of this motion. He stated that 4 out of the 5 captains wanted the motion passed.

Julian Page took the floor saying that he couldn't believe we were having this argument. He stated that we have now 5 teams and that the over 50 1st XI should be the best side of the club. He said if someone is 60, 65, 70 or 75 if he was good enough he should be playing (for the 50s 1st XI). If a great (over age) player from outside Devon moved into the area why shouldn't he be allowed to play (50s 1st XI).

Roger Wensley endorsed what Julian had to say. He believed that the Over 50 1st XI should be the best side of the club and the captain should pick who he liked. He stated that the Chairman was slightly wrong when stating there were a couple of over 60's that had played the whole season. He urged all of the guys from Devon to go forward and represent Devon at whatever age and support proposal B.

Neal Matthews asked what 'exceptional circumstances' were. The trip to Jersey was given as an example when 4 or 5 over 60 players went when Roger was short. It was stated that we would never put an over 50's team out without eleven players.

Fran Pyle the former captain of the over 50's 2nd XI said that only one player from his side was asked if they were available to go to Jersey.

Stuart Munday said in his capacity as the last over 60 2ndXI captain he was aware of lots of County's that were playing 50 year olds only in their 50 sides. Once you got to 60 you moved onto playing for the 60's.

The Chairman then gave a number of County's that had brought such age limitation in including Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire Surrey and Leicestershire. However, he was challenged

regarding Surrey as it appeared a 60 year old had played against the Over 50 side in the knockout stage.

Dave Amery stated that he had started the 50's 2nd XI in 2013 and had brought on 14 players that were in their 50's. However few were selected for the 1st XI and they felt they were being pushed out and haven't played again.

Graham Peach stated that we had heard pleas from the two sides - those who looked at the specific needs of the 50's 1st XI and 60's 1st XI and those that are looking at the greater good of the club. **This is what we should be voting on.**

Neil Murrin stated that the 50 1st XI should be the strongest side and players should be able to make their own mind up to who they played for.

Paul Nott endorsed this view.

Graham Munday stated as the new captain of the over 50 1st XI, he should be able to pick the strongest side irrelevant of age. He gave the example of Tom Graveney who at 65 was head and shoulders above any player in a side that Graham had played in and if he was available for Devon, Graham would pick him.

The President stated that we had heard the arguments for and against and it was time to vote and on a show of hands and by a margin of 19 to 10 the age restriction was passed.

The President reiterated that we had agreed the amendments to the Constitution as laid out save for amendment 3 on the dictate.

The President then stated for openness and transparency in future all committee meeting minutes and AGM minutes, once ratified, will be put on the website. Members will also be notified of the dates of the committee meetings and will be able to attend. They will not, however, be entitled to vote at the meetings.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 7.50pm.