



# Midlands Club Cricket Conference Newsletter April/May 2011

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## Conference Officers for 2011

Our 2011 President is the former Warwickshire and England opening batsman D.L. Amiss M.B.E.

President Elect	David R. Thomas
Chairman	Alan Neal
Vice-Chairman	Bill Tansell
Honorary Secretary	William George
Assistant Secretary	Philip Williams
Honorary Treasurer	Mike Smith
Cricket Ctte Chairman	Alan Neal
General Purposes Ctte Chairman	Phil Williams
Youth Ctte Chairman	Vacant
Honorary Match Secretary	David Shaw

You will notice that Conference has a new Secretary - William George. We welcome him to the Conference. Willie has played his cricket at Pickwick CC and Solihull CC before having a few final years at Olton & WW CC. He has been a long term member of initially the Warwickshire Cricket Association and then the Warwickshire Cricket Board for whom he has been u11 competitions manager for more years than he cares to remember. He is on the Committee of the Warwickshire Cricket Board and also of Solihull District Cricket Board. We wish him well in his new post.

Conference agreed to split the job of Honorary Secretary into two parts and elected an Assistant Secretary Phil Williams whose role covers many of the day to day matters of Conference including Tours Bureau, database secretary and website.

Conference is keen to find a volunteer to be Chairman of the Youth Ctte. If you are interested in Youth Cricket could you spare us 10-20 hours a year?

## New Law Changes.

During the winter there were revisions to some of the laws. One of them relates to Fitness to Play. Printed below is an article from ACO Newsletter 8 printed with permission which you may find useful.

### **Tech-Tactic #005**

#### **Fit for Play?**

The change in the Law relating to the fitness for play in October 2010 provides a clear message relating to the management of the suitability of conditions for play and the responsibility for the decisions to be made.

One of the clear objectives behind this change is to ensure that playing time in cricket matches is maximised but at the same time to be truly effective the umpires need to be seen as being decisive with their application of the revised Law. The decisiveness must be evident in the actions and communication of the umpires and in the manner that any decision is reached.

The change applies to all decisions relating to the suitability of the conditions for any match to be continued or to start. Whereas the umpires have been able to manage this process in relation to the fitness of ground effectively in the past, the main area of adjustment that will need to be made will be with regards to the management of light and its suitability for play.

The responsibility for assessing the condition of the light is now solely with the on-field umpires. **Neither the fielding side nor the batting side has any right of appeal against the condition of the light at any time** and are not to be included in the decision making process.

The on-field umpires will need to be decisive in their decision making and not be seen as hesitant. The perception created in such incidents is all important and clear explanations are to be given to both captains at the appropriate times. It needs to be emphasised that the batting and fielding sides have no right of appeal with regards the condition of the light and such decisions are to be made according to Law 3.8.

The on-field umpires are faced with just one judgement - the point at which the conditions are such that to continue play would constitute a risk to the safety of players or the umpires themselves. If the conditions were such that either side was merely disadvantaged alone, play is not to be suspended. As a result of the application of this revised Law it is expected that play will continue beyond the time when in the past light would have been offered to the batting side and as such what was a multi-stage process has been reduced to a single stage. The outcome of this revised Law will result in there being more cricket with the players unable to accept (or not accept) the offer of light for tactical reasons.

The umpires are required to use their experience and judgement to determine the point at which conditions are such that it is too dangerous for play to continue and should consider suspending play when they are finding that it is no longer possible to follow the flight of the ball, whether from the bowler's hand or the bat or from returns by fielders to the wicket. However the context of any such decision changes constantly throughout each match and any decision to suspend play will be specific to conditions at that time and that time only. This means that no comparisons should be made with previous occasions when play had been suspended as justification for suspending play or not.

Play is only to be suspended when both umpires agree that conditions are too dangerous to continue and play will continue until both umpires are in agreement. Similarly with respect to the commencement or recommencement

#### **Tech-Tactic Tips**

Umpires should ensure that:

- T** Within the parameters set out above that playing time is maximised
- T** Play should not be suspended as soon as conditions become less than perfect but only when the conditions constitute a risk to the safety of players or officials.
- T** Through their actions and communication they are decisive in their decision making in this regard.
- T** They endeavour to apply their judgement in context and in a consistent manner.

(Article taken with permission of the Association of Cricket Officials from ACO Newsletter Number 8)



Attiq Chisti receives his Midland Club Cricketer of The Year Award from Dennis Amiss MCCC President, and below William Bailey of Broadway CC is awarded The Norman Sharp Award for club secretaries.



## MCCC Annual Dinner and Awards

Conference's Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation took place as usual on the first Friday of March – March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Tally Ho Conference Centre in Edgbaston Birmingham.

Guests enjoyed a lovely four course meal before listening to a fascinating speech by Dennis Amiss MBE MCCC President for 2011 and then a trip down memory lane with Colin Tunncliffe of the joys and sorrows of a county cricketer before a final rip roaring conclusion from comedian Jamie Sutherland.

During the meal Presentations were made to MCCC award winners which included Attiq Chisti MCCC Cricketer of the Year; Ken Lancaster the Leslie Jones award for consistent service; William Bailey of Broadway CC for the Norman Sharp award for club secretaries; Phil Mackie of Old Vigornians for the Bill Jones Award and Gordon Brindley of Moseley CC for the Tiny Wildsmith Clubman of the Year Award.

Michael Hingley of Old Hill CC and Tom Fell of Wolverhampton CC shared the Alec Hastilow award for u16 players whilst Aaron Khatkar of Four Oaks Saints and Gary Hawkins of Olton & WW CC shared the u21 cricketer of the year award.

## CONFERENCE FIXTURES 2011

Wednesday 27 April	Solihull School 11.00 a.m. Match manager: M.J.D.Smith; Umpire J.Nash; Scorer D. Parkes
Thursday 12 May	Stratford CC –D. Hollyhead Memorial Match 2.00p.m Match manager: A. Neal: Umpire D. Cook
Monday 16 May	Oxford University at The Parks 11.00 a.m. Match Manager: D. Peplow; Umpire P. Jones
Wednesday 8th June	Shirley CC 60 th Anniversary at Moseley 2.00 p.m. Manager: H. Clay: Umpire C. Powell
Tuesday 14 June	Walmley CC 125 th Anniversary 1.30 Match Manager: J. Chester; Umpire A. Kemino
Thursday 23rd June	Cambridge University at Fenner's 11.00a.m. Match Manager: R.Viner; Umpire M. Gumbley
Tuesday 26th July	R A F at Kibworth CC 11.00 a.m. Match Manager: K. Lancaster; Umpire T. Gray
Thursday 4th August Horden	Club Cricket Conference at Dunstable CC 11.00 a.m. Match manager: W. Tansell; Umpire K.
Wednesday 17th August	MCC at Moseley CC 11.00 a. m. Match Manager: D. L. Amiss; Umpire P. Mitchell

## Subscriptions

For 2011, subscriptions remain unchanged for the seventh year in succession. By paying before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011 clubs not only save £5 but reduce the considerable time and costs incurred by Conference in chasing outstanding subscriptions.

Outstanding subscriptions are a perennial problem. Despite on-going efforts, a significant number of clubs have still not paid their overdue subscriptions and committee members are making concerted efforts to chase them. In the main, these problems arise because we have not been advised of changes to the club secretary or the subscription notice has not been forwarded to the club treasurer. The new website should help in this regard as it incorporates a member portal which can be used to update club details on a regular basis.

Some treasurers have asked for the subscription notice to be sent direct to them. If we were confident that our database was up to date we would do so. Unfortunately, it is not, and we will continue to contact clubs via the secretary as we believe this to be the most reliable point of contact.

## Insurance

It is our belief that there are still some clubs who are playing cricket but are not properly insured. Whilst personal accident is a decision that the club makes on behalf of its members and only its members are affected by that decision, Public Liability insurance is a difference matter. It covers a club in the eventuality of a third party being involved either through injury or accidental damage. If your club is not insured, how would you cope if a claim was to be made against you?

In terms of this year's insurance, we have examined a number of options with our brokers, Willis before deciding to retain existing arrangements. Unfortunately, and for the first time since 2008 it has been necessary to make a small increase in the premiums and this is primarily due a rise in Insurance Premium Tax from 5% to 6% last January. Personal Accident insurance cover will continue to be provided by Royal Sun Alliance with the annual premium being £100.70 per club. Employers and Public Liability insurance cover will continue to be provided by Aviva (formerly known as Norwich Union) at a cost of £225 per club. This cover includes £2,000 of "all risks" for club property and there is also an option to increase this sum to meet your specific requirements.

For further details please contact **Mike Smith; 0121-246-1988 (H), 07921-819110 (M) or email ([mjdsmith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mjdsmith@blueyonder.co.uk)).**

## Emergency Fund

The Emergency Fund is available to clubs that require urgent finance to cover a cost that has arisen through theft, fire, mechanical breakdown, health and safety or meeting League requirements. Funds are available as an interest free loan repayable by monthly standing order over a maximum period of three years. All loans must be covered by a personal guarantee from club officials.

For further details please contact **Mike Smith; 0121-246-1988 (H), 07921-819110 (M) or email ([mjdsmith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mjdsmith@blueyonder.co.uk)).**

## Website ([www.mccc.co.uk](http://www.mccc.co.uk))

Officers from Conference have spent a considerable amount of time in discussion and having built a new website for Conference. They placed the contract for building the site with David Abell of SME Web Design and since the summer Mr. Abell has been building the site and parts of it have been gradually introduced. By the time this newsletter is produced the site will be largely running. Already one of the benefits to Conference is that Conference will be able to sell advertising space on the website and the first advertisers are signed up and can be seen on the home page. Adverts can also be placed on other pages within the website.

The second major change will be that clubs will be able to keep conference up to date with their own development. Each club will have access rights to its club page and members will be able to change the details of officers and to add photos, history and general information about their club. This is your chance to make your page really interesting and we urge you to take this opportunity. At the end of the Annual Report will be instructions on how to access your page.

The new website allows us to email members which we have done only irregularly before. We shall be using email increasingly to keep you in contact with what is happening in Conference.

### **How to Access your club page on the MCCC Website.**

1. Go to [www.mccc.co.uk](http://www.mccc.co.uk)
2. Go to Members Clubs and find your club page
3. Make a note of the email address for the Club Secretary, which is used for logging into the Members' portal.
4. If no email address exists then go to Phil Williams to ask for one.
5. Go back to the home page and click on Member login
6. Click on forgot password
7. Enter the email address used by the Club Secretary into the Reminder form and click the submit button.
8. If the correct email address is submitted then this will be confirmed and email will be sent immediately to this same email address confirming the login password. Please check your Spam in-box if no email appears in your in-box within five minutes
9. If the wrong email address was submitted a message will confirm this. In this event please refer to step2 and check that you entered the correct email address
10. Repeat step 4 and login using the correct email address and password.

### **Fixtures Bureau**

At long last through the website we are now able to offer our members the opportunity to arrange fixtures **absolutely free**. Go to the website and follow the links.

### **Newsletter**

Phil Williams has taken charge of producing the newsletter in a slightly different format from before and has gone back to producing three newsletters a year. He is very conscious that he lives in Warwickshire and is heavily involved in Warwickshire youth cricket and does not want the Newsletter to be dominated by Warwickshire news. There are other counties served by Conference and he would be delighted to hear of any news from Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Leicestershire and Gloucestershire clubs and leagues to include in the newsletter. Make the newsletter **YOUR** newsletter and not his!

### **Girls' u13 competition**

Does your club have a girls' team? Yes. Then the MCCC new girls' competition may be of interest to you. This is only the second year of the competition. Just four clubs entered the festival last year and we would like to double that this year. It's a one day festival played in August. Arthur Pickering runs it and if you want to enter please contact him on 07737 931 392 or [jp004f4753@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jp004f4753@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **Membership Benefits**

- ❖ Club Insurance
- ❖ Fixture Bureau
- ❖ Free emergency loan
- ❖ Anniversary/celebratory matches
- ❖ Two youth competitions
- ❖ A girls' competition
- ❖ Opportunities to representative cricket
- ❖ Opportunities to host matches
- ❖ Overseas tours
- ❖ News from recreational cricket across the Midlands and further afield
- ❖ Prestigious awards for club players and members.

## MCCC at Kibworth Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup>

We are delighted that Kibworth CC has offered to host our match versus the RAF which starts at 11 am. If you are in the area or Leicestershire do come along and watch a cracking good match. Both teams scored well over 300 runs in the corresponding fixture last year.

Are you a player who would like to be considered for the MCCC team? Don't be shy give Alan Neal our chairman a ring (0121 744 6656) and offer. I am sure he would be delighted to hear from you.

## Quiz Night returns

John Nash is intending to resurrect the once popular MCCC quiz night with a one off quiz at the end of the season. From there we may grow again into holding more inter club quiz nights. So have you got a team of 4 brains who know the answers to all the trivia going? Would you be prepared to put a team together to challenge other clubs from across the Midlands. Contact John Nash [umpirejohn@live.com](mailto:umpirejohn@live.com) to register your interest. We'll keep you up to date via the website and via email to those clubs that respond.



The MCCC team versus Solihull School on April 27th

## Vice Chairman Bill Tansell introduces us to the Worcester Evening League

Our Vice Chairman Bill Tansell is also secretary of the Worcester Evening League now in its 78<sup>th</sup> season having begun in 1933. There are 14 teams in 2 divisions on Tuesdays and Thursdays with KO Cup games on Mondays. Barnards Green, newly promoted to the Birmingham League, will be defending their Div 1 trophy and the 2 Cups they won in 2010. Games are 16 eight ball overs with bowlers restricted to 4 overs and fielding circles. A full umpires' panel officiates. Anyone interested to know more contact Bill on 07836 528252

## Solihull School v M.C.C.C. at Solihull School on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Early morning cloud gave way to blue skies and on a placid wicket bat dominated ball for most of the day. Conference batted first with Ishtiaq Mohammed and Dawkins putting on 125 attractive runs for the first wicket. Mohammed was out for 40 just before lunch with Dawkins going shortly afterwards for 66. Runs continued to flow with the School bowlers unable to make any major breakthroughs. Ishfaq Mohammed (63), Hooper (44) and Chisti (49 not out) all made useful contributions enabling Conference to declare on 312 for 6 wickets off 41 overs.

In reply, the School began disastrously losing 2 wickets with only 9 runs on the board. However, Hooper and Harding came together and not only steadied the ship but added 187 runs for the third wicket. Hooper was out for 63 but Harding increased the tempo to compile 123 runs before being caught. Despite making several bowling changes, Conference was only able to take one further wicket and at the close, the School had reached 241 for the loss of 5 wickets off 40 overs. Overall, it was an enjoyable game with most batsmen making the most of an excellent wicket which offered little encouragement to the bowlers.

Match Manager; Mike Smith

[www.mccc.co.uk](http://www.mccc.co.uk)