



# MIDLANDS CLUB CRICKET CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 34

April 2004

## Honours and Awards

We compliment the following recipients of Honours and Awards for the year.

### Conference Club Cricketer of the Year

Richard Hall                      Barnt Green C.C.

### Cricketers of the Year Playing

Tom Boyd                      Highcroft C.C.  
Ed. Milburn                      Nuneaton C.C.  
Richard Adam                      North Warwick C.C.  
Chris Howell                      Knowle & Dorridge C.C.

### Esmond Lewis Wicket Keeper of the Year

Sandy Allen                      Leamington C.C.

### Leslie Jones Secretarial Trophy

Michael Gardner                      Stourbridge Social C.C.

### Tiny Wildsmith Club Person of the Year

Fred Jones                      Shifnal C.C.

### Norman Sharp Award

Bill Miller                      Fillongley C.C.

### Cricketers of the Year Administration

Mick Black                      Warwickshire County Council C.C.  
John Priest                      Staffordshire Club Cricket Champ.  
John Edgecombe                      Dorridge C.C.  
John Chester                      Pickwick Post & Mail C.C.  
Derek Severn                      Kings Norton C.C.  
Des Boots                      Wythall C.C.  
Gordon McKenzie                      Smethwick C.C.

### Alec Hastilow Trophy

Nathan Newport                      Worcester Nomads C.C.  
Marc Webb                      Olton & West Warwickshire C.C.

### Halesowen Trophy

David Powell                      Swindon C.C.

### Young Club Member

Max Edwards                      Barnt Green C.C.

Once again the quality of nomination was of a very high standard and this year we had nominations for all the principal awards. The nominations for the Administration Awards were the most that we have received in a single year. This is particularly heartening for Conference in that we know that there are many worthy recipients out there but they do require the club's nomination. A sincere thank you to all the clubs that made the effort to highlight their member's achievement.

It would seem from all the legislation that has hit the recreational game recently that the administrators are going to be even more important to a club. An ability to cope with the "Welfare of Young People in Cricket", Clubmark, Community Club Development Fund and District Development Groups are just some of the items that have had to be addressed in the past 12 months. It is of concern that what funding is coming into the game is directed at the bigger clubs. Whilst not denying that they are in need of additional funding what will happen to all the one and two team clubs that might never be in a position to run youth cricket, cater for girls' teams or due to location incorporate an ethnic mix. Their chance of obtaining grants is minimal and consequently will struggle to survive. Already there are a number of clubs that are no longer in existence; some have merged with a bigger club others no longer exist. The emphasis is to try and get more people playing cricket but the trend is the reduction in the number of clubs where cricket can be played.

Another factor affecting recreational cricket is the financial burden that has been imposed by the ECB in the reduction of the grants that are paid to the Cricket Boards. Last year it was 10% this year it is 13%, why is the recreational game the main loser in the cutbacks that have come about since the World Cup fiasco. More worrying is what the financial outcome will be if England does not tour Zimbabwe later this year. The ECB are in a no win situation, without a definitive no from the Government and the other Cricketing countries prepared to tour can we afford to be the conscience of cricket. The debate will continue, it is sad though that 90% plus of cricket played is by the recreational game but it is this area that is suffering the most.

## Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting the retiring President, Alan Oakman, gave an apology that he had been unable to give his full support because of his commitments with the Umpires and the County Club. Nevertheless Conference very much appreciated the commitment Alan had shown to his Conference duties. Alan commented on the Youth Competitions, the U11 games at Wolverhampton and the U16 finals at Moseley. He was full of praise for those that had organised the competitions and the standard of play executed by all the finalists. Alan concluded by stating how much he had enjoyed his year of office.

The Chairman, Alan Neal, welcomed Malcolm Willcox as the incoming President; he was delighted that Malcolm had accepted the invitation as under his chairmanship in the early 90s Conference and its member clubs had benefited from his considerable input.

Malcolm replied that it seemed a long time ago since he had joined Conference, it was pleasing to see that Conference was still run efficiently. Malcolm went on to state that it was a proud moment for him, as a former Treasurer, Vice-Chairman and Chairman it was good to see that Conference was in fine health. Conference had an important role to play in supporting recreational cricket.

Conference would like to record its sincere appreciation for the contribution made by the Sponsor and Advertisers: Lords Taverners for their sponsorship of Youth Cricket

The Advertisers in the Year Book:

G.R. Adams Ltd.  
Alpha Amenity  
Amenity Land Services Limited  
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Notts Sports  
Alfred Reader  
Warwickshire Cricket Board  
Stuart & Williams  
Malcolm Willcox & Co.

The above Advertisers have kindly given their support to Conference by advertising in the Yearbook. It would be appreciated if clubs would give consideration to the products or services offered by the above Companies when the need arises. Full details of their contact numbers can be found in the Yearbook.

## Representative Cricket

In 2004 there are 10 Representative matches and 5 Anniversary games. The clubs celebrating anniversaries are Coleshill, and Evesham 150 years, Dorridge and Weoley Hill 75 years and Fossils 10 years.

There are vacancies for cricketers to play in the Representative and Anniversary matches. If your Club has a player who would like to represent Conference please ask them to contact, **David Hollyhead for a Representative match 01789 293826, or Howard Clay who is responsible for the Anniversary games 0121 477 3686.**

## Fixture List

Date	Opponents, Venue and Time	Match Manager
Thursday April 29th	Loughborough University U.C.C.E. England Academy, Loughborough 11.00am	David Shaw
Wednesday May 5th	Solihull School Solihull 11.30am	Gordon Baker

Monday May 17th	Oxford University U.C.C.E. The Parks 11.00am	Tom Gray
Wednesday May 19th	Fossils C.C. Worcester C.C. 1.30pm	Howard Clay
Thursday June 10th	Australian Old Collegians Dorridge C.C. 11.00am	Alan Neal
Tuesday June 22nd	Cambridge University U.C.C.E. Fenners 11.30am	Bill Jones
Sunday July 4th	Arundel Castle XI Arundel Castle 11.30am	Robin Viner
Thursday July 8th	Evesham C.C. Evesham C.C. 1.30pm	Pat Bell
Tuesday July 13th	Royal Air Force Vine Lane, Uxbridge 11.00am	Ken Lancaster
Thursday July 22nd	Weoley Hill C.C. Weoley Hill C.C. 1.30pm	David Shaw
Wednesday July 28th	Royal Navy Leamington C.C. 11.00am	Phil Williams
Thursday July 29th	Coleshill C.C. Coleshill C.C. 1.30pm	John Chester
Wednesday Aug. 11th	M.C.C. Tamworth C.C. 11.00am	Malcolm Willcox
Wednesday Aug. 18th	Dorridge C.C. Dorridge C.C. 1.30pm	Phil Bees
Wednesday Sept. 1st	Club Cricket Conference Stratford-on-Avon 11.00am	Bill Tansell

### Other Cricketing Dates:

1. Lord Taverners/MCCC U.16 Competition Semi-Finals and Final at Moseley C.C. on Monday 23rd August 2004.
2. U.11 Playoffs and Final at Wolverhampton C.C. on Monday 19th July 2004

## Annual Dinner 2004

The fire at The National Motor Cycle Museum necessitated an unintentional change of venue. At the suggestion of the Museum the Windmill Village Hotel was offered as an alternative site. The Windmill Village with hotel accommodation and golf course provided additional facilities and whilst very few played golf a number were able to use the hotel.

There was an excellent attendance with 220 present. Bill Frindell, scorer and statistician of Radio's "Test Match Special" and the comedian Jerry Thomas entertained the audience respectively with some ancient and modern cricket stories and some delightful humour.

It was very pleasing that all the Award Winners were present to receive their certificates and trophies from the President, Malcolm Willcox.

We are indebted to our President, Warwickshire and Worcestershire C.C.C.'s, Windmill Village Hotel and the Wisden Cricketer for providing the raffle prizes.

Greg Shakeshaft, the Dinner Organiser, is to be congratulated on his efforts which were most successful, on the night he was also the Toastmaster a task he performed with great aplomb.

## Spring Quiz

Ten teams took part in the annual quiz including newcomers Highcroft & Great Barr Bloxwich and Olton. After three rounds Pickwick Nomads and Bewdley shared the lead on 27 points, closely followed by Sheldon Marlborough on 26. At the halfway stage Bewdley led on 44 points with Sheldon Marlborough on 42. After seven rounds Bewdley had increased their lead but were now being chased by West Bromwich Dartmouth. The gap closed to one point as Bewdley were being pursued by West Bromwich Dartmouth and Aston Unity. At the end of the final round Bewdley emerged as worthy winners on 80 points but Aston Unity and West Bromwich Dartmouth on 79 points had provided strong opposition. Aston Unity were the runners up on a count back.

The Conference would like to record its appreciation to the Quiz Organiser, Gordon Baker for all his efforts.

A special thank you to the Quiz Master, Brian Hilson, who at the end of the evening announced that this was his final appearance at a Conference quiz, as the Quiz Master. Brian has performed this task with great enthusiasm and has over the years gained the respect of all those attending for the standard and originality of his questions. Conference very much appreciates the time, effort and commitment that Brian has given.

## Tours Bureau

The Tours Bureau under the stewardship of Bill Jones is another service provided by the Conference for the benefit of members clubs. Clubs that tour on a regular basis will probably keep to the same itinerary each year but for those who want a change of scenery or the club looking to tour for the first time the Bureau is an ideal starting point.

Clubs seeking further information can contact Bill on 01905 422573.

Clubs that would like to host a touring team should register their availability with Bill as we do have numerous requests for fixtures.

## Emergency Fund

An Emergency Fund exists for the benefit of Member Clubs. All loans are interest free but they must be covered by personal guarantee from club officials. Details of the requirements can be obtained from Mike Smith 0121 246 1988.

## Youth Programme

### Under 16 Competition

We have experienced a downturn in the number of clubs that will be competing in this years Under 16 Competition. There are a number of contributory factors:- Lack of Administrators. The number of competitions now provided by the Cricket Boards. Some areas have drifted out of cricket.

The following Leagues have confirmed their entrance:- Coventry, North Birmingham, Moseley, South Worcestershire, North Worcestershire, East Worcestershire, Cotswold, South Warwickshire, Milton Keynes and Shropshire.

Any Club that might be interested in playing should contact **Gerald Wadley tel. 01531 640664**

The date for the final this year is not the traditional Bank Holiday Tuesday but Monday 23rd August, at Moseley C.C. In the event of inclement weather the reserve date is the 24th August.

### Under 11 Competition

Five venues have been confirmed: - Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Moddershall, Malvern and Barnt Green. It is hoped that a venue in Warwickshire can be found to make the sixth.

After a number of years service Arthur Pickering has retired as the U11 organiser, we should like to record a sincere thank you to Arthur for his hard work in making the competition run so efficiently, Arthur's services have been much appreciated. In his place we welcome Neil Banks and wish him every success.

## Ground Advisory Panel

If you require advice on your pitch, one of the following may be of assistance to you:-

<b>Worcester Area</b>	Roy McClaren	01905 423446
<b>Central Birmingham</b>	Steve Rouse	0121 446 4422 Mobile 07770 728407
<b>Black Country</b>	Jonathan Cook	0121 557 6957 Mobile 07720 393754
<b>Stratford Area</b>	Geoff Calcott	01608 663532 Mobile 07768 737445

Please contact the Panel Member in your area and after the visit but before leaving the ground make a contribution to the travelling expenses, suggested figure £40.00.

## Conference Fixture Bureau

A decision has been taken to charge a premium telephone rate when enquiries or vacancies are registered with the fixture bureau. As from May 1st all telephone calls to the Bureau will be on 0905 789 0133. As stated this is a premium rate service and will be charged at the rate of 80p per minute.

We expect calls to take no more than 4 minutes unless multiple vacancies are being registered. It is in your interest to be concise with the information that you are giving Miss Wheeldon. One of the conditions of the service is that it is not used by a person under the age of 18.

You might ask why we have chosen this method of payment. We could have charged each club registering a vacancy a flat rate but this would have involved invoicing and then collecting the money. This would be a time consuming operation and we do not have the people to handle this type of operation. So we have chosen the method that we feel will be the most simple and easiest to operate.

The Fixture Bureau commenced operations on the 1st April on the old telephone number; it will be superceded on May 1st with the new number.

The service is provided between the following times:

**Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 11.00am**

**Monday to Friday Evening 8.00pm to 9.30pm**

**The Bureau is closed on Saturday evening and all day Sunday.**

Miss Wheeldon operates the Bureau for your convenience; please do not abuse the service by telephoning outside the stipulated hours.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a flyer informing clubs of the new arrangement with regard to the Fixture Bureau, please pass onto the person that is most likely to be telephoning Miss Wheeldon.

## 2004 Year Book

Two copies of the Year Book will be posted to each club by the end of April/early May. We should like as many members of your club to know about the activities of Conference and would appreciate your cooperation in placing a copy in the clubhouse for all to read.

Additional copies will be available from Miss M. V. Wheeldon, 98 Borneo Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS4 2HY or through the Secretary David R. Thomas.

The Editor of the Year Book is Andrew Jackson; it is an excellent publication that requires a lot of hard work and considerable time to bring it to fruition. We thank Andrew for his dedication.

## Insurance

We have been in negotiations with our Broker since early January and it was the end of March before they were in a position to confirm the rates for 2004. For those clubs that use our scheme you will observe that the Personal Accident charges are very similar to 2003 but as with every other Insurance Company the rate for Public Liability has increased considerably. We strongly recommend that all clubs are insured.

## Liability Risk Improvements

Three clubs were visited in 2003 and a site survey was carried out of the premises and working practices. The following are details of the risk improvements raised:

### Cricket ball damage/injury to third party property/person

It was recommended that all clubs develop an evaluation methodology to identify the significant risks involved with adjacent properties and parked and moving cars.

Under this heading a member club who had taken out Public and Employers Liability made a claim against damage that had been sustained to property when the ball was hit out of the ground, landed on the roof of a house and dislodged a tile which fell through a conservatory. The batsman was a member of the opposition.

On submitting the claim it was rejected on two accounts: -

- a) The club had taken precaution to try and prevent this happening by installing safety netting to protect the property. In the eyes of the Insurance Company they had taken reasonable care to prevent an accident and the club were not liable.
- b) Under Public Liability the responsibility for the claim would be against the team batting. A club's Public Liability Insurance only covers the members of the club; it does not cover the opposition against any damage that might arise.

- c) Conference has checked this out with other Insurers offering alternative cover and they stated exactly the same.

## Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Training

Grounds People should be encouraged to attend a Groundpersons course which covers the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health and other health and safety matters.

In addition a policy should be developed to reduce/minimise the applications of weedkiller and fertiliser on pitches and grounds during the playing season and the display of warning signs where necessary.

## Provision of first aid equipment and appointed persons Health & Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

To provide as a minimum an appointed person to be responsible for administering first aid. Suitably stocked first aid boxes should be available.

## Recording of accidents and incidents

A mechanism should be incorporated for recording accidents affecting players and third parties and incidents affecting third party property.

## Development of an alcohol policy

An alcohol policy to be developed, with regard to the effect that alcohol would have on players, on the field of play and with regard to young players.

## Control of Contractors

Clubs employing contractors to cut the ground or spray pesticides should ensure that the contractors are suitably insured and have considered the risks involved in their activities. A monitoring mechanism should be introduced to check conformance with this requirement.

## Fire Evacuation and Fire Certificates

Develop documented fire evacuation plans and have them displayed prominently. A monitoring mechanism to be developed to check the clubs conformance with this requirement along with fire certificates, where appropriate.

The above risk improvement measures have been identified by our Insurance Company. They are intended to assist in reducing the likelihood of accidents occurring. An appropriate auditing and review programme will help identify weaknesses in the management of health and safety which could impact the culture. Once a positive culture has been achieved there will be an increased likelihood of safety deficiencies being highlighted before they become apparent through an uncontrolled incident.

## Subscriptions and Insurance

Enclosed with this Newsletter is notification of your Subscription and our Insurance proposals for 2004

**You will note that if the subscription is paid by the 31st May there is a reduction of £5.00; it is in your clubs interest to hand the subscription notice to your Treasurer as soon as possible for immediate action to be taken.**

## Insurance

It is the opinion of the Management Committee that all clubs should be insured for Public and Employer's Liability and for Personal Accident. You might not make a claim but is it worth the risk, particularly in today's claim culture.

## Commencement of the Season

2004	Saturday 24th April
2005	Saturday 23rd April
2006	Saturday 29th April
2007	Saturday 28th April

## ECB Directives

### Fast Bowling

The ECB "Fast Bowling Directive" for up to 19 years of age is as follows:-

Up to 13	4 overs per spell	8 overs per day
U14/U15	5 overs per spell	10 overs per day
U16/U17	6 overs per spell	18 overs per day
U19	7 overs per spell	21 overs per day

### Wicket Keeper Gloves

The existing regulations will continue to operate in recreational cricket for 2004, except in the following ECB competitions:

- Under 17 County Championships (male)
- Super 4s (female)
- County Championships (female)

Many of the gloves currently in use in recreational cricket do not conform to the requirements of the new law. Replacement of existing gloves may not occur annually but clubs are advised when renewing wicket-keeping gloves that they conform to the new regulations.

The matter is under constant review and a decision will be made at the start of a new playing season.

## Bromsgrove Cricket Club

Bromsgrove C.C. has their beautiful ground for hire on a Sunday. Cost £100.00 to include teas. A reduction will be given for larger bookings. Please contact Tracy Husbands for details 07791 254664.

## Tours

### South Africa

Arrangements have been confirmed that a tour to South Africa commencing 11th February to the 26th February, 2005. The tour will be based in two centres, Cape Town for 11 days and Stellenbosch for three days. A tour party has been selected under the captaincy of David Banks. The joint Managers are Alan Neal and Robin Viner. Seven fixtures have been confirmed and an eighth which has been agreed in principle will be finalised in August.

Conference has received considerable help from Ken Childs of Capetown who has been instrumental in organising the fixtures and accommodation. Clubs or organisations

contemplating a tour to South Africa who would like to take advantage of Ken's expertise can contact him through his e-mail address pksports@yebo.co.za mobile number 0027837 548 080.

## Licensing Act 2003

From mid-January 2005 the above act will replace the current licensing system completely.

It will be controlled by Local Authorities that may have different objectives from both planning and resources perspectives, it will be governed by strict guidelines laid down by the Government.

Significantly, any premises used for the sale of alcohol will need a Premises Licence, this is a 10 year licence which could be expensive. Any person who authorises the sale of alcohol or a designated supervisor directly in control of the premises in the absence of the licensee will need a Personal Licence. A Personal Licence application must be by persons over the age of 18 years and have an approved British Institute of Innkeeping or similar qualification.

The Premises Licence application must show that your operation promotes the so called "licensing objectives" laid down by the Government: these include the prevention of nuisance, the protection of children from harm, protection of public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder.

The cost for a National Certificate for Licensees will be between £150.00 and £200.00, it may be more depending on who is running the workshop.

It might be in the interest of clubs if they were to pursue the above with their local M.P. to try and get the Act amended so that clubs with limited financial resources are not subjected to even more crippling expense and legislation. Small clubs selling alcohol are going to have to consider the implications of the above Act very seriously as to whether it is economically viable to continue selling alcohol.

The Premises Licence will apply to clubs, who do not sell alcohol but allow entertainment to take place.

## Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs)

### Who is likely to be affected?

Amateur Sports Clubs registered with the Inland Revenue as CASCs.

### General description of the measures

This measure will increase the tax thresholds below which CASCs will pay no corporation tax. As a result more clubs will be removed from the requirement to complete a tax return on an annual basis.

### Operative Date

1st April 2004

### Tax exempt thresholds for CASCs

With affect from 1st April 2004, exemption from corporation tax on certain classes of income for registered CASCs will be as follows:-

- Profits from trading and fund-raising where gross income is less than £30,000 pa.

- b) Income from property where the gross income is less than £20,000 pa.
- c) Provided that the income is applied for qualifying purposes.

**Mandatory Rate Relief**

CASCs that are registered with the Inland Revenue are entitled to mandatory rate relief of 80%. Some clubs already benefit from discretionary relief of up to 100%, awarded on a case-by-case basis by the Local Authority. From 1st April 2004, registered CASCs are entitled to mandatory relief of 80%. Further relief up to 100% will still be available on a discretionary basis.

Mandatory rate relief brings CASCs in to line with their counterparts in the charities sectors, who have enjoyed this treatment for some time. Clubs that remain unregistered will have to negotiate discretionary relief or suffer normal business rates as before.

**Details on how to register as a CASC can be obtained from the Inland Revenue (<http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/>)**

**What needs to be in the Clubs Constitution?**

There are four particular areas that the Inland Revenue need to see in the clubs Constitution. These are:-

Purpose - to promote the amateur sport of cricket

Membership - open to anyone interested in the sport

Property and Funds - operating on a non-profit basis

Winding up - a Dissolution Clause acceptable to the Inland Revenue

The two particular areas that have given rise to questions from clubs, relating to membership and dissolution.

**Membership**

The Inland Revenue requires that the majority of members are active - that is, they are not purely social members. This does not mean that they are necessarily playing members but it does mean that they have an active involvement, i.e. coaches, junior team managers, assistant managers, club administrators, people preparing the teas and other volunteers.

**Dissolution**

The CASC requirement is that any net assets remaining after settling all liabilities must be given to:-

Another club with similar sports purposes which is a charity and/or

Another club with similar sports purposes which is a registered CASC and/or

The club's governing body for use by them for related community sports.

In order to make a decision a club would be advised to obtain the documentation from the Inland Revenue to make sure that they are fully aware of all the requirements, the benefits and the final disposal of the assets should the club cease to exist.

If your club owns its own ground on the fringe of the greenbelt becoming a CASC may not be to your advantage.

Once a club has registered as a CASC it cannot de-register.

**MCCC Website**

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

The website, operated by Greg Shakeshaft, has been functioning since May 2003, during that time there have been over 50,000 hits.

**Safe Hands launched to Protect the Welfare of Young Cricketers**

The most comprehensive national policy for cricket to date emphasises the ECB's firm commitment to ensuring that cricket provides a safe, friendly and fun environment for children and vulnerable young adults in particular.

SAFE HANDS provides guidance and principles for all those involved in sport and will ensure that cricket can continue to offer wonderful opportunities in an environment where boys, girls, vulnerable adults, coaches and volunteers all feel safe and secure both now and in the future.

The implementation of the policy is mandatory and the ECB has stressed to Clubs, Leagues and County Boards that child safety is paramount and that all young people have a right to participate in a safe environment.

Copies of the policy can be obtained from the local County Board Welfare Officer or visit [www.play-cricket.com](http://www.play-cricket.com)

At present ECB is processing 500 CRB forms per week. A lot of clubs have submitted their forms but are still awaiting replies; they will be dealt with as soon as possible. For the coming season commonsense needs to be applied but all should be working towards a common goal of obtaining clearance for all those who are working with children. All clubs that have youngsters playing for them should make sure that they are conforming to good working practices. Don't do anything. The appointment of a Club Welfare Officer, who has a basic knowledge of and is familiar with the pertinent legislation, should help to ensure that a club is fully aware of its obligations.

**Midlands Club Cricket Conference**  
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