



# MIDLANDS CLUB CRICKET CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

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December 2004

## Cricket

The success of the England team in 2003 was continued throughout 2004. Comprehensive series wins against the West Indies, both home and away and at home to New Zealand were excellent achievements. The one disappointment was the defeat in the final of the ICC Champions Trophy, by the West Indies. As all club cricketers know, who play in evening cricket leagues, the fading light can be more detrimental to the fielding side than the batsmen but no excuses West Indies adapted to the conditions and won with an over to spare.

On the domestic front Warwickshire had a wonderful season and were worthy winners of Division 1 of the Frizzell County Championship. Worcestershire, for the second year running, reached the final of the C&G Trophy only to lose at the final hurdle to Gloucestershire; they were also relegated from the 1st Division of the County Championship. There was some consolation in being promoted to Division 1 of the totosport League.

The Twenty20 competition is going from strength to strength with an anticipated attendance at all matches in excess of 285,000. Leicestershire emerged as Champions after a hectic day of semi-finals and the final, which was held at Edgbaston.

Our congratulations to Wellington who retained the Banks's Birmingham & District Premier League title, they are the first club to do so since the League was re-constituted under the ECB accreditation system. Also to Kibworth, who in their first year in the Club cricket competition, won the final of the Cocksput Cup.

On the back of the England team success, club cricket should be flourishing but is it? Lots of clubs are having difficulty in fulfilling fixtures throughout the season. Sunday cricket is struggling to survive as fewer players are prepared to commit themselves to two days of League cricket. Lots of clubs run youth teams that are overflowing with youngsters, up to the age of 13 but then rapidly lose them to other attractions. Cricket does need to be in the forefront of exposure if it is going to grip the imagination of the young generation. Television coverage is the most important media tool to maintain and develop cricket but the opportunity has to be there for the mass of people to watch. Whilst cricket cannot survive without money, at club level the situation is even more desperate; it was very disappointing to learn that terrestrial television coverage in future would be minimal. To emulate your heroes you have to be able to see them perform and copy what you see. Television provides that inspiration, particularly the replays, it will not do so if viewing is not for all.

Club cricket is going through a very difficult period of enforced legislation. The ramifications of Child Protection in Sport are just beginning to make an impact and only time will tell if they have a serious adverse affect on all the youth programmes. As with other sports, cricket is very dependant on the volunteer but already concern is being expressed as more people become enveloped within the requirements. The administration to comply with the legislation requires a Club Welfare Officer, a League Welfare Officer and a County Welfare Officer. Will official funding be made available to compensate these appointments?

The majority of clubs are dependant on the "Bar" for a large part of their income. Most clubs are familiar with the current licensing regulations and comply accordingly but the 2003 Licensing Act will necessitate additional expenditure and possible outside expertise in order to fulfil the requirements. Are we trying to encourage the growth of opportunity for people to play sport or make it so difficult for the volunteers that they find something else to do?

Raising the standard was about having the best clubs in competition with each other; unfortunately the best players do not necessarily play against one another as they are seduced by clubs keen on buying success. Consequently the standard achieved today is not moving upwards but at best is standing still.

## Annual General Meeting

Enclosed is the notice of the Annual General Meeting to be held at the **County Ground, Warwickshire C.C.C., Edgbaston, on Wednesday 12th January, 2005.**

At this meeting our President, Malcolm Willcox, will have completed his year of office and will introduce to the meeting our President Elect, Mike Smith.

Malcolm has very much enjoyed his year of office and as a former Officer of the Conference has been able to contribute pertinently on Conference matters. The highlight of the social year was the Dinner where we were richly entertained by Bill Frindell, scorer and statistician of Radios "Test Match Special", and the comedian Jerry Thomas.

Our President Elect, Mike Smith, was a brilliant all-rounder who was a double international representing England at Cricket and Rugby Union. Mike briefly played cricket at Leicestershire before joining Warwickshire, where he became Captain. He scored a 1000 runs in a season 20 times and in 1959 had a most prolific season when he scored over 3000 runs. Mike captained England 25 times in 50 Test appearances. Mike is a past Chairman of Warwickshire C.C.C. and his contribution to sport was recognised with an OBE. We look forward with much pleasure to Mike's year of office.

## Computer Print Out

One of the most difficult jobs is to keep the Data Base up to date. We try very hard with the issue of the **Secretarial Directory Form** in September and December but if clubs refuse to respond it is impossible to guarantee that we are making contact with the correct person. If you have already responded to the September mailing then ignore this request but if the return is still outstanding we would appreciate your co-operation in returning the form as soon as possible, at the latest **19th December, 2004.** **Please if you are no longer the Secretary could you pass the Newsletter on to the new official, your assistance would be much appreciated.**

## Year Book 2005

A few club reports have been received and there is still time for your club to send a resume of 2004 by e-mail to Andrew Jackson, [kingswinford@leeshaw.com](mailto:kingswinford@leeshaw.com) or hard copy to **Andrew Jackson,**

19 Harvine Walk, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 3BQ. For those with access to a fax machine you can send the report to **David R. Thomas 01384 835687**.

The option of three methods of sending a report makes the procedure user friendly, it just needs 30 minutes of the Secretary's time to complete the deal. If you can find the time to send a report please do so before the **19th December, 2004**.

## Annual Dinner

**Friday 4th March 2005**

at the

**National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull**

Enclosed is the proforma for the Dinner detailing the credentials of our guest speakers, the price £29.00 and the booking form to confirm the members from your club that will be in attendance. The main speakers are Charles Dagnall, currently playing cricket at Leicestershire C.C.C., and a comedian, Mickey Gunn. Our President Elect, Mike Smith will be presiding over the evening's events.

The Museum has been totally renovated following the disastrous fire and in the words of the Management is now inspirational. The Conference is very pleased that the price has been maintained at the same as 2004. Overnight accommodation is available at Windmill Village Hotel, Allesley, where the Dinner was held last year. When booking mention that you are dining at the National Motorcycle Museum as a concessionary price was promised.

The Dinner is the occasion when the Award presentations take place. Each year Conference salutes a number of people who have either made a contribution to cricket on the field or have given considerable service in the administration of the game. The success of the evening is dependant upon a good attendance to recognise the individual achievements of the Award Winners, over the past few years the numbers have increased and this has led to some excellent Dinners. We look forward to good support from clubs who have a Member receiving an Award and also a positive response from clubs that have attended the recent Dinners.

If you do not have access to the proforma the Dinner Organiser is **Greg Shakeshaft 0121 705 2568**, e-mail, [dinner@mccc.co.uk](mailto:dinner@mccc.co.uk) Contact direct to reserve your place.

## Spring Quiz

The Spring Quiz will take place on **Thursday 17th March, 2005**, at West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C. at 8.00pm.

Enclosed is the entrance form which must be returned to **Gordon Baker**. We much appreciate the use of the facilities at West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C. who have hosted the quiz competition for a number of years. The venue is close to the motorway system and the location is just off the M5. We are very pleased to see the return of a number of clubs but equally would welcome new entrants. With the retirement of Brian Hilson we have a new Quiz Master, Rhys Williams. If your club has a quiz team please pass on the entry form so that they at least know about the competition. The evening is conducted in a most relaxed atmosphere and is totally informal.

## Fixture Bureau

Although we operated the Bureau, in 2004, through a premium rate service the charge was not excessive at an average cost per call of £1.60. Over the season there was a benefit to the Conference of £590.00. Once again member clubs are indebted to Miss Wheeldon for her continued support of administering the Bureau, her contribution to this Conference activity is very much appreciated by all participating clubs.

## Subscriptions

All the officers of Conference are volunteers who devote a considerable amount of time in carrying out their respective duties. The job is made more demanding by clubs who through oversight or lack of communication fail to send their subscriptions. In addition to sending a reminder we now have to resort to telephoning clubs to make sure that we are targeting the correct person. All our mailings are sent via the Secretary as we feel this contact, from information obtained, to be the most reliable. We rely on the Secretary to pass the information onto the Treasurer, judging from the outstanding subscriptions this does not appear to be happening. **It would be very much appreciated when receiving an overdue subscription notice that prompt action is taken to pay, so that it does not get forgotten.**

## Vacant Dates

Whilst most clubs play league cricket there are still some that play friendly fixtures even on a Saturday. If you have any vacant dates that you would like to record with Miss Wheeldon please do so? A list will be compiled and will be available for issue in January. Fixture Secretaries' to then make contact with the club of their choice to agree a fixture.

## Representative Cricket

A comprehensive report of all this years matches will be available in the 2005 Year Book. There were 9 Representative games of which 4 were won, 1 drawn, 3 lost, 1 cancelled and 1 abandoned.

Of the 45 players who represented Conference 19 were making their debut. The outstanding performance of the season was that of Solly Ndima who in his first season scored 458 runs in 8 matches at an average of 65.43. Gerry Snyman, who recently represented Namibia against England, played in 4 matches scoring 242 runs at an average of 60.50.

## ICC Competition

Conference was delighted to accept the invitation to play Pakistan in a warm up game at Moseley. A week before the match was due to be played it was cancelled. The next day, before the players had been notified of the cancellation, there was the offer to play India at Dorridge, on the same date.

10 of the players touring South Africa with the Conference in February were in the team of 12. R Dravid captained India with S.C. Ganguly acting as non-playing Captain, both these players played against the Conference, in 1991, as members of the Indian U19 team. Dravid opened the batting with V. Sehwag putting on 104 in 18 overs before Alan Gough removed Sehwag for 59 runs off 47 balls. Dravid retired on 68, Gavaskar 51 and Agarkar 45 n.o. brought up a total of 311 for 8 wkts. off their 50 overs.

Conference had a brilliant opening stand of 97 from 17 overs, Solly Ndima 54 from 47 balls and Imran Jamiel 53 off 87 balls. Solly hit Agarkar for 3 consecutive 4s in the first over and scored five 4s and one 6 in his first 7 scoring strokes. Jonathan Hartley scored 21 from 23 balls and at the end of their 50 overs Conference had replied with a very useful 234-8 wkts. It was a most meritorious performance against international opposition; all agreed that it had been an excellent day's cricket and Dorridge were congratulated on hosting the fixture.

Producing players of the calibre to play in the Representative Matches, on a regular basis, can prove very difficult. Most of the good players have other cricket commitments and their time is limited to the games that they can play. The good young players are either attached to an Academy or at University. David Hollyhead who has been the Team Secretary for 19 years has retired from the post. David has stated that he will continue as the Fixture Secretary and organise the venues, Umpires and Scorers. Conference is indebted to David for a job that was well done with great diligence, his efforts have been much appreciated by all and we thank him for his service.

Five clubs had anniversary matches and Conference were very pleased to support Coleshill, Fossils, Dorridge, Weoley Hill and Evesham.

The fixture list for 2005 has been arranged. Matches have been arranged with Solihull, Loughborough University, Oxford University U.C.C.E., Cambridge University U.C.C.E., Royal Air Force, Royal Navy, M.C.C. and Club Cricket Conference. The position of Team Secretary is to be filled, hopefully a volunteer will be found to confirm at the A.G.M.

Only one Commemorative match has been arranged to date and that is against Water Orton who are celebrating 125 years. These fixtures do allow us the opportunity to offer all players the chance to play for Conference. Please submit your names to **Howard Clay 0121 477 3686**.

## A review of the League Winners and Runners-up 2004

	<i>Winners</i>	<i>Runners-up</i>
<b>Birmingham &amp; District Premier League</b>		
Premier	Wellington	Barnt Green
Division 1	Leamington	Kenilworth Wardens
Division 2	Sutton Coldfield	Walmley
Division 3	Penn	Kings Heath
<b>Burton &amp; District Cricket League</b>		
Premier	Draycott & Hanbury	Alrewas
Division 1	Medina	Swadlincote
<b>Proactive Personnel Shropshire Premier Cricket League</b>		
Premier	Whitchurch	Oswestry
<b>Shropshire Cricket League Sponsored by Banks</b>		
Division 1	Shelton	
<b>Beechdale Saab Derbyshire Premier League</b>		
Premier	Sandiacre Town	Quarndon
<b>Nottinghamshire Lexus Premier League</b>		
Premier	West Indian Cavaliers	Welbeck
<b>Wilkinsons Basset Law League</b>		
Division 1	Mansfield Hosiery Mills	
<b>South Nottinghamshire League</b>		
Division 1	Gedling Colliery	
<b>Everards Leicestershire County Cricket League</b>		
Premier	Kibworth	Leicester Ivanhoe
<b>Marches League</b>		
Division 1	Monmouth	Talgarth
<b>Northamptonshire Cricket Championship</b>		
Premier	Northampton Academy	Finedon Dolben
Division 1	Rushton	Isham
Division 2	Old Northamptonians 2	Kislingbury
<b>North Staffordshire Cricket League</b>		
Division 1	Woodlane	
<b>Pipemaster North Staffs and South Cheshire League</b>		
Premier	Longton	
<b>Staffordshire Club Cricket Championship</b>		
Division 1	Beacon	Aldridge
<b>Rutland &amp; District Cricket League</b>		
Division 1	Market Overton	Peterborough Town
<b>Warwickshire Cricket League</b>		
Division 1	Aston Manor	
<b>Worcestershire County League</b>		
Division 1	Pershore	Ombersley
<b>Warwickshire Sunday League</b>		
Division 1	Harborne, Sutton Coldfield	(Joint Champions)
Division 2	Walmley	
<b>Worcestershire Sunday League</b>		
	Droitwich	Kidderminster Vict.
<b>South Staffordshire Sunday League</b>		
	Aldridge	
<b>Sunday Border League</b>		
	Coseley	

## Umpires Courses

More umpires are needed to officiate in the numerous leagues; unfortunately at present there numbers are in decline, for a number of reasons. Some are getting older, some find the length of matches and the travelling to be very time consuming, others find difficulty in coming to terms with the behaviour of a few of the players. In fairness to the League Management Committees they are giving their full support to the Umpires but what it really needs is for all the Clubs to adopt a similar policy. The very nature of League cricket is to win but not at all costs by any method. If we require Umpires to oversee the matches then they must be allowed to enjoy their contribution just as much as the players. The various Umpire Associations are doing their best to increase the standard of umpiring by arranging winter courses throughout the Midlands, they now need volunteers to fill the places on offer. Most of the courses are spread over a duration of 10 weeks.

Please "Secretary" will you make a point of bringing the courses to the attention of your members and if there is anybody in your Club that is interested in Umpiring or Scoring ask them to contact the centre of their choice.

### Courses 2005

#### Burton on Trent

GL6 (was Part 1)

Venue: Rolleston CC

Commence: Tuesday 4th January at 7.30pm

Contact: Cliff Loverock 01283 712064

GL5 (was Part 1)

Venue: Winshill C. C.

Commence: mid January

Contact: John Hardwick 01283 565115

#### Northamptonshire

GL16

Venue: Northamptonshire County Cricket Club, Indoor School

Commence: Monday 10th January for 8 weeks

Contact: Terry Owen 01604 847478

#### Worcestershire CU&SA

GL6 (was Part 1)

Venue: Evesham Working Mens Club

Commence: Wednesday 12th January at 7.30pm for 10 weeks

Contact: Tim Grainger 01386 552613

GL6

Venue: Worcester Cricket Club

Commence: Monday 10th January for 10 weeks

Contact: Peter Stevens

GL6

Venue: Kidderminster Chain Wire Social Club

Commence: Early January for 10 weeks

Contact: John Collins 01384 270197

#### Wolverhampton

Venue: Wednesbury Cricket Club

GL6

Commence: Wednesday 12th January at 7.00pm for 10 weeks

Contact: John Rushton 01902 847535

#### MCCCUA

Part 1 Two courses

Venue: Warwickshire County Cricket Club, Indoor School, Edgbaston

1) Commence: Saturday 5th Feb. for 10 weeks 9.30am-12 noon

2) Commence: Monday 7th Feb. for 10 weeks 7.00pm-9.30pm

Contact: Ed McCabe Warwickshire Cricket Board 0121 446 3615

Part 1

Venue Highway Cricket Club

Commence: Thursday 10th Feb. for 10 weeks 7.30pm-10.00pm

Contact: Ed. McCabe Warwickshire Cricket Board 0121 446 3615