



MIDLANDS CLUB CRICKET CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 37

March 2005

Honours and Awards

Conference Cricketer of the Year

Nick Clewley Wellington C.C.

Cricketers of the Year Playing

Chris Pearce Camp Hill Old Edwardians C.C.
Nathan Perry Swindon C.C.
Richard Afford Great Houghton C.C.
Steve May Old Elizabethans C.C.

Esmond Lewis Wicket Keeper of the Year

Carl Bland Coleshill C.C.

Leslie Jones Secretarial Trophy

Bill Tansell Worcester C.C.

Tiny Wildsmith Club Person of the Year

Alf Foley Netherton C.C.

Norman Sharp Award

John Sutcliffe Avoncroft

Cricketers of the Year Administration

Mrs Lesley Hopkins Trysull & Seisdon C.C.
Ian Reid Rugby C.C.
Ken Kniverton North Warwick C.C.

Alec Hastilow Trophy

Chris Paget Milford Hall C.C.
Christopher Cheslin Leamington C.C.

Halesowen Trophy

Rob Wood Kidderminster Victoria C.C.

Young Club Member

Mark Baker Earls Barton C.C.

Whilst the quality of the nominations was to the usual high standard the quantity submitted was unusually low. This is very disappointing as there are so many administrators who deserve recognition for all their effort and dedicated service that they give to clubs. Perhaps it is a sign of the times that so few players have any interest in the club, other than playing, that the contribution made by the Administrator goes totally un-noticed. Even more disappointing is when a nomination has been made that the club members do not support their nominee when he receives his award at the Annual Dinner. It is fair to say that administrators in general do not do the job for reward if they did most clubs could not afford to pay them as their contribution way exceeds that of a paid player. It would be nice though if a little thought was given by the club members to nominate their workers for one of the many awards that are on offer. A request will go out with the September Newsletter asking for nominations, I hope that clubs will be more responsive.

The question of funding, or lack of it, in the recreational game continues to be at the forefront of discussion. The reduction in money available to club cricket is now attracting comment by a number of leading figures. Each year over the past three

years the allocation of funding to support grassroots cricket has been reduced and some County Boards are struggling to provide the basic services. Whilst accepting that the England Team and the County structure is the pinnacle of English cricket it is the grass roots at club level that shoulder the main responsibility of producing the next generation of England players. That this system is working is endorsed by the list of Alec Hastilow U16 cricketers, who have gone to play County Cricket and in the case of Vikram Solanki, Jim Troughton and Steven Davies, U19, Captain who have played for England.

Increasing pressure is being brought to bear, on clubs, to meet the demanding regulations that are being imposed on those that run youth cricket. There is a full time job in producing the documentation that is required for those clubs striving to obtain Clubmark Accreditation.

It is necessary to have at least:

A Child Protection Policy.

Codes of conduct for all Coaches, Officials and Volunteers.

Attendance Records which include medical records.

Sports Equity and Ethics Policy.

A constitution that embraces all aspects of child protection and is non discriminatory.

Code of Conduct for Parents / Carers / Young People.

Club Development Plan.

In addition to the administration costs clubs have to finance coaching courses, ground courses, first aid, child welfare and protection, introduction to coaching, disability workshops, purchase of youth equipment just to name but a few. All this is on top of the normal expenditure of running a club and budgets are becoming very stretched. A number of clubs are finding it extremely difficult to operate and are either folding or are merging.

The cry for help seems to fall on deaf ears, with the powers that be intent on preserving, at all costs, the County Clubs. One has to ask the question are the County Clubs utilising their facilities to obtain maximum revenue, is the county fixture list drawn up to achieve maximum attendance i.e. when most people are available to watch at the weekend. More money is desperately needed at grassroots level to maintain the development of clubs otherwise the bright dawn that has emerged for English cricket will quickly fade and the role that clubs are playing in providing youngsters with a community environment the opportunity to play sport and exercise will be lost for ever.

Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting the retiring President, Malcolm Willcox, thanked the members for allowing him the privilege of being President of Conference, he had through the year been very impressed that Conference was continuing to maintain the standards as set out in 1947 when the Conference was founded. The core activities of Conference were at the heart of club cricket and emphasis should be given to concentrate and develop them further.

The Chairman, Alan Neal, welcomed Mike Smith as the incoming President. Mike was a much respected all-round sportsman who had played cricket and rugby for England, captained England and Warwickshire CCC and when he had retired from the game served on the Warwickshire Committee being the Chairman for 8 years.

Mike thanked the Conference for asking him to be President and hoped that their confidence would not be misplaced. He had enjoyed watching cricket at Leamington particularly the U11 team who had gone on to win the U11 National Competition. The regeneration of cricket was dependant upon clubs that were totally focused on a youth policy and he was looking forward to the coming year particularly with regard to the youth competitions.

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.

Amenity Land Services Limited

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D. Cooper Cricket Coaching Mats

Cricket Shop, Edgbaston

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Stuart & Williams

Malcolm Willcox & Co.

Conference is indebted to the above Advertisers who through their advertisement help to reduce the publication cost of the Year Book. Most of the Advertisers are directly linked to cricket club requirements, it would be much appreciated if when requiring a product or service that our Advertisers are given the opportunity to quote and possibly supply.

Representative Cricket

In 2005 there are 7 Representative matches and 1 Anniversary game. The club celebrating an anniversary is Water Orton celebrating their 125th year.

After 19 years David Hollyhead has retired as the Team Secretary for Representative Cricket, he has though continued to arrange the fixtures, venues and the scorers. Conference would like to record their appreciation to David for his dedicated approach to the job; his services have been very much appreciated.

Conference is looking to find a replacement for David who would take on the role of Team Secretary. The position would suit a person who is in contact with club cricket and would like to be involved in matches that are of a prestigious standard.

If you feel that you could fulfil the role of Team Secretary please contact Alan Neal 0121 744 6656.

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, **Howard Clay 0121 477 3686**. Howard will pass on to the Cricket Committee, nominations for the Representative games, he will though continue to organise the Conference Anniversary matches, for which this service is very much appreciated.

Fixture List

<i>Date</i>	<i>Opponents, Venue and Time</i>	<i>Match Manager</i>
Friday April 29th	M.C.C. Lords Cricket Ground 11.00am	Mike Smith
Wednesday May 4th	Solihull School Solihull School 11.30am	Gordon Baker
Thursday May 12th	Loughborough University The Campus, Loughborough 11.30am	Tom Gray
Wednesday June 15th	Cambridge University Fenners 11.15am	Phil Williams
Thursday July 7th	Water Orton C.C. Water Orton C.C. 2.00pm	Howard Clay
Tuesday July 12th	RAF Wolverhampton C.C. 11.00am	Ken Lancaster
Wednesday July 27th	Royal Navy Portsmouth 11.00am	David Shaw
Wednesday August 10th	Club Cricket Conference Amersham C.C. 11.30am	Robin Viner

Annual Dinner 2004

The rebuilding of The National Motor Cycle Museum, necessitated by the fire, had been completed in time for the Annual Dinner. The renovation has produced a superb venue and all those in attendance had a most enjoyable evening.

Charles Dagnall unfolded details of his progress in County cricket and the comedian Mickey Gunn was very entertaining. The Presidents comments on the proliferation of overseas players playing County Cricket, at the expense of English qualified players, found favour with the majority of the audience. He elaborated on this theme illustrating that it took 7 years for Dennis Amiss to score his maiden century for Warwickshire but went on to play for England and scored 102 centuries. In today's climate Dennis would not have been given that opportunity and would probably have been lost from the game.

The Award Winners, that were present, received their certificates and trophies from the President, Mike Smith.

We are indebted to Warwickshire and Worcestershire C. C.C.s, The National Motorcycle Museum and the Wisden Cricketer for providing the raffle prizes.

Greg Shakeshaft organised the Dinner and on the night he performed the task of Toastmaster, two duties he performed with great credit and he is to be congratulated on a most successful evening.

Spring Quiz

The attendance was disappointing in that only 7 teams were present when more had been promised. After three rounds Bewdley led on 28 points closely followed by West Bromwich Dartmouth, Sheldon Marlborough and Aston Unity on 26 points.

At the halfway stage Bewdley led on 45 points to Aston Unity's 41. Bewdley continued to lead but West Bromwich Dartmouth were closing the gap and by the eighth round only two points separated the two teams. Over the final two rounds Bewdley's all round strength was sufficient to maintain their hold on the trophy and they were very worthy winners scoring 83 points to West Bromwich Dartmouth's 79.

The Conference would like to record its appreciation to the Quiz Organiser, Gordon Baker, for all his efforts and to West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C. who so kindly host the Competition.

A special thank you to our new Quiz Master, Rhys Williams, who had the difficult job to follow Brian Hilson but one he did with some aplomb.

Tours Bureau

The unfortunate death of Bill Jones has necessitated a replacement and we are very pleased that Phil Williams has taken on the position of the Tours Bureau Secretary. Phil can be contacted on 0121 777 5607 or e-mail pjw.sarehole@virgin.net Some clubs are happy to continue visiting the same opposition each year but for those who would like to tour a different area or maybe tour for the first time then the Bureau is a good starting point.

Clubs that would like to host a touring team should register their availability with Phil 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

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

Leagues that have yet to confirm their participants: Group 2 (Walmley etc.), Group 3 (South Staffs) and Group 4 (East Birmingham).

Any Club that might be interested in playing should contact **Jon Roe 01562 850535** or e-mail spinone@btconnect.com

The date for the final this year is the traditional Bank Holiday Tuesday, August 30th, at Harborne C.C.

Under 11 Competition

We are very pleased to welcome Long Eaton and Sawley, who will, for the first time, be one of the six venues hosting the preliminary rounds of the U11 competition. The other five venues are Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Moddershall, Malvern and Barnt Green. Neil Banks looks after the organisation of this competition and his input is much appreciated.

The finals day is Wednesday 27th July at Wolverhampton C.C.

Ground Advisory Panel

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

Worcester Area	Roy McClaren	01905 423446
Central Birmingham	Steve Rouse	0121 446 4422 Mobile 07770 728407
Black Country	Jonathan Cook	0121 557 6957 Mobile 07720 393754
Stratford Area	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

The decision, taken in 2004, to charge a premium telephone rate for enquiries or vacancies registered with the Fixture Bureau will continue in 2005. As from April 1st all telephone calls to the Bureau will be on 09057 890133. As stated this is a premium rate service and will be charged at the rate of 80p per minute. The average cost per call last season was £1.60. 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.

The Fixture Bureau opens on the 1st April.

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.

2005 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 the Secretary **David R. Thomas, 01384 278107.**

The Year Book, Editor, is Andrew Jackson, who does a superb job in compiling all the information that makes the Book so interesting to read. We thank Andrew for his total commitment, time and energy that is absolutely necessary to produce the Yearbook.

Subscriptions

When you receive your Club's notification of Subscription and Insurance, could you please pass on immediately, to the Treasurer, in order that your Club can take advantage of the discount for early payment. Your co-operation in paying promptly not only maintains the cash flow but it helps considerably that the Conference Officers don't have to keep chasing clubs' for outstanding dues. Please act promptly on receipt of the invoice otherwise the matter gets overlooked.

Insurance

We cannot stress too highly the importance of clubs having adequate insurance; you have a moral responsibility to your club members to ensure that you have covered them for "Personal Accident" and "Public and Employer's Liability". As was pointed out last year "Public Liability" only covers the club that has taken out that insurance. If an accident occurs and the offending club are not covered by Public Liability the Home Club might well find that they are responsible for making good any resulting costs.

Commencement of the Season

2006	Saturday 29th April
2007	Saturday 28th April
2008	Saturday 25th April

Conference Directory of Clubs

Clubs telephone to say that they have not received their mailing, on investigation it emerges that the Secretary has changed and the details have been sent to the wrong person. When a Secretary has departed on amicable terms there is not normally a problem, unless he has moved house, but when the parting has been acrimonious then the post is not passed on to the new person, consequently we have a break down in communications.