



# MIDLANDS CLUB CRICKET CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

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September 2005

## Cricket lovely Cricket

At this time of the year we would normally be reflecting on the season's achievements but this year is different in that the final test match against Australia does not commence until the 8th September and the final championship matches commence on Wednesday 21st September. With so many different types of games to accommodate throughout the season the extension is welcomed by all cricket lovers unfortunately early morning September dews and reduced daylight hours do present problems. After the early mismatch of fixtures against Bangladesh the season has developed into one of pulsating drama with some marvellous cricket played by both England and the Australians. The interest generated by the series has been fantastic for cricket and hopefully the exploits of all the players will encourage more youngsters to play the game.

The initiative by the Cricket Foundation to regenerate competitive cricket in state schools through "Chance to shine" cannot have been launched at a better time as cricket continues to dominate the headlines in the press and national television has made it possible for all to watch the test series, something that will be not be possible in 2006. We sincerely hope that state schools will accept the challenge of playing cricket, as this will certainly help all those clubs who for too long have had to shoulder the responsibility of providing youngsters with the opportunities to play cricket. Over the years the clubs running youth cricket have done a marvellous job, dedicated commitment by coaches and administrators has ensured that clubs have new talent whilst the game has not folded through lack of playing opportunities. If a club is to be successful this policy must continue and it could be, with the reduction in school sports fields, clubs will be asked by some schools for the use of their facilities in order to provide cricket.

It would appear that overall there has been a reduction in the number of disciplinary cases dealt with by the various leagues; this can only be good for the game when it is played in the right spirit and umpires can officiate the play rather than be involved in disputes.

## Chairman's Report

The M.C.C.C. representative teams have had a fine season following on from the successful tour of South Africa. The three most convincing performances were against Loughborough University, Cambridge University and the Club Cricket Conference who still haven't recorded victory over us for twenty years. Despite this excellent run, the most pressing problem is the one of availability. What with

Minor County commitments and the number of days off individuals can devote to mid week cricket, putting teams on the field can be a headache for the selection committee. Once players have tasted Conference cricket against the teams mentioned above, or participated in an overseas tour, they usually thirst for more. If players read this newsletter and feel they haven't been approached, do not hesitate to contact us.

Referring back to the Birmingham and District Premier League, it is pleasing in talking to several umpires they feel the standard of discipline on the field this season has much improved. I must say from my observations in both playing and watching I would concur with these views. Umpire numbers will only rise if the aspiring official feels he is going to enjoy the game and not be constantly verbally abused for six hours. Let us hope this improvement can be maintained.

The playing season has been enhanced by the presence at most matches of our President M.J.K. Smith. His keen interest and wonderful knowledge of the game at all levels has meant we have been privileged to have been in his company. Many thanks Mr. Pres!

S. Alan Neal

## 2005 Year Book

Congratulations to Andrew Jackson on the production of another excellent Year Book. Within a voluntary organisation the task of producing the Year Book is so much more difficult than that experienced commercially where contributors have to meet deadlines otherwise their job could be on the line. Each year the Conference sets a target date for the Year Books to be with the clubs at the beginning of the season, this is only possible with the full co-operation of all the Award Winners, Secretaries and other Contributors to ensure that their copy is available by the due date.

We have only had one anniversary match this season against Water Orton which was a most enjoyable game. In 2006 we have been invited to send a Representative Team to Kibworth, Wroxeter and Woodleigh, if your Club is celebrating an anniversary in 2006, we should be delighted to be involved in your festivities. It is also possible for your club to produce an article for the Yearbook, thus highlighting the history of the club and listing your celebratory events.

The section in the Year Book devoted to Club Reports is made available for clubs to report on their season. Not every club will have won a league or a cup, there are those who will have been relegated and may feel reluctant to tell

other clubs about their misfortune but in life there are always going to be highs and lows and the club reports are a way of communicating on all the activities undertaken by a club throughout the year. Please Secretary spare an hour and put a report together, if your time is short, précis the report you submitted to the Club AGM. The clubs who submitted reports for inclusion in the 2005 Yearbook are to be congratulated on the excellence of the content and the Club Secretary's thanked for their reports.

It is pleasing to report that more Club reports were received for the 2005 Year Book; we sincerely hope that this trend will continue, it is though solely dependant on you Secretary.

Your co-operation in submitting a report would be appreciated.

Would all secretaries, club and league, adhere to the following when submitting reports to **Andrew Jackson, 19 Harvine Walk, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 3BQ.**

1. All material must be in by the **14th November, 2005, preferably earlier.**
2. Club reports must be precise.
3. In acknowledgement of the increase in the size of leagues the coverage is to be extended. Brief Reports and tables will be continued within the above limits.
4. Reports from Cricket Boards should not exceed one page.
5. It would be helpful if the report was typed, where this is not possible please submit clear manuscript preferably printed.

## **Annual Dinner 2006**

The Annual Dinner will be held on **Friday 3rd March** at The National Motor Cycle Museum when the President Elect, Terry Church, former Chairman of Conference, will be presiding.

The cricket speaker is Graham Lloyd, ex-Lancashire C.C.C., the comedian is John Styles and the price per ticket is £30.00.

## **Representative Cricket Celebration Matches**

If your club is celebrating a special event next year and would like Conference to provide a Representative team please contact **Howard Clay 0121 477 3686.**

## **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will take place on **Wednesday 18th January, 2006,** at the County Ground, Edgbaston.

## **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 & safety or meeting the facility requirements of the League.

Funds are available as an interest free loan for a period of repayment to suit the individual club's finances. All loans must be covered by a personal guarantee from officials or members of the club.

For further details please contact **Mike Smith 0121 246 1988** or **David Thomas 01384 278107.**

## **Secretarial Directory**

**Over the past 2 years we have tried hard to update the Data Base so that the information sent out reaches the right person, to a degree we have been successful.**

**Unfortunately there are clubs who never return the form and we only find out that their officers have changed when one of our Members of Committee telephones to chase up the payment of outstanding subscriptions.**

**Enclosed with this mailing is the standard Secretarial Form which we ask you to return but only if there has been a change of officer or other information within the past 12 months. If there have been no changes we will continue to list the information held until notified otherwise.**

**Alternatively the Secretarial Information Form is now available on the web site [www.mccc.co.uk](http://www.mccc.co.uk) if you prefer to use this method of communication then it can be down loaded and e-mailed to [rob.bird@coventrybabas.cc](mailto:rob.bird@coventrybabas.cc)**

**If there have been any changes in your directory information please let Rob Bird know by the 30th November, 2005 for inclusion in the Year Book.**

## **2006 Fixtures**

If your club has vacant dates for 2006 and would like assistance in filling them please register them with **Miss Wheeldon, 98 Borneo Street, Walsall, West Midlands. WS4 2HY** by the end of November 2005.

A comprehensive list will be drawn up of all the vacancies and circulated to all the clubs who recorded them.

Fixture Secretaries should then contact the club of their choice to confirm a fixture.

Other clubs that require a copy of the list of vacancies should contact Miss Wheeldon in January 2006.

## **Fixture Bureau**

The Conference is indebted to Miss Wheeldon for the dedicated service that she devotes to the running of the Fixture Bureau.

The advent of the Sunday Leagues has meant that more clubs have their fixtures pre-arranged but even so the Bureau is still in demand and clubs are obtaining fixtures.

Please do not forget to notify Miss Wheeldon when a fixture has been confirmed, this avoids other clubs making unnecessary telephone calls.

## Ground Advisory Panel

If you are having problems with your square or you would like advice on the end of season ground work that should be carried out Conference do have a panel of experts who are prepared to visit your ground to advise accordingly.

We also have a number of Companies that advertise in the Yearbook who are prepared to offer specialist information on all matters relating to the ground.

With regard to seed, fertiliser, top dressing etc., we would like you to approach our Advertisers for a quotation to supply your needs as they do support Conference with their advertisements.

Special machines are available for vertidrainage, scarifying and seeding. If you are hiring make sure that you place your order early enough to guarantee that they are available to suit your programme.

## Advisory Panel

<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 travel expenses, suggested figure £40.00.

## Conference Honours and Awards

### Cricketers of the Year Playing

Have you a Player that has had an outstanding season; if so nominate him for a Cricketer Playing Award. From the nominations received the Cricket Committee will then deliberate on whom they feel to be the most worthy recipient of the **Player of the Year Award**.

Of course it is obvious if no nomination is received the Committee will be unable to give any consideration to what might be the one opportunity that your club member has of achieving recognition by a wider audience.

### The Esmond Lewis Wicket Keeper of the Year Award

The Esmond Lewis Award for wicket keeping is an award that surprisingly receives very few nominations yet every club has one, two or three wicket keepers. If your keeper has done well behind the stumps this season and maybe also contributed with the bat let us know about him.

Nominations for Cricketers of the Year Playing should be sent to **Howard Clay, 22 Hemyock Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29** by the 31st October, 2005.

## Cricketers of the Year Administrative

The Administrators are the backbone of the club, without their dedicated support clubs would cease to function. Once an individual accepts a position of responsibility it can be a job for life as in most cases there are very few volunteers.

Whilst the players are only involved during the playing season, the season for the Administrator is 12 months of loyal service.

There may be recognition at the club AGM when nominations are being voted on but invariably the clubs' officers are voted en bloc and the matter is dealt with very quickly.

Their service is not just on match days and in the season but throughout the year, not just one year but in some instances a life time.

The Awards to the Administrators is an acknowledgement of the hard work and commitment that they have given to a club.

The administration of a club has become very demanding particularly with all the legislation that has to be dealt with, Child Protection, Health and Safety, Licensing requirements, Liability Risk Improvements, Club Mark etc make a huge demand on the time of the Secretary.

The Administration Awards recognise that there is a wide field of activity in running a club. Awards are given for administration, financial, ground work, umpiring, scoring, fund raising and preparation of teas just to name a few facets of behind the scenes activity.

Please let us have your nominations for one of the following:

### Leslie Jones Secretarial Award

Awarded to Secretaries or Fixture Secretaries who have given service over many years.

### Tiny Wildsmith Club Person of the Year

An award for the all rounder, a person who takes on numerous tasks working most of the time in the background.

### Norman Sharp Award

Presented for many years of outstanding service

### Player of the Year Administration

For non-playing activities such as financial, umpiring, scoring, fund raising, teas etc.

Nominations for administrative awards to be sent to **David R. Thomas, 4 Silverdale Gardens, Wordsley, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY5 5NU**, to be received by the 17th October, 2005.

## Youth Awards

Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter addressed to the Youth Organiser detailing the full requirements for the three Youth Awards.

It would be appreciated if the Secretary would pass on the enclosed letter, to the Youth Organiser, for further consideration.

## The Alec Hastilow Award

Two awards are made to the most promising young cricketers under 16.

## Young Club Member Award

For making a considerable contribution to the club participating in off the field activities and is under the age of 21.

## Halesowen Trophy

Youth Organisers or Administrators that have been responsible for their club's youth development.

Nominations to Jon Roe, Nestledown, Sheepwash Lane, Wolverley, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 5SE to be received by the 31st October, 2005.

Nominations for Players, Administrators and the Youth Awards does depend upon the club to make the recommendation, in the first instance we need your help in bringing to our attention people worthy of consideration.

On receipt of the nomination we shall then judge accordingly.

## Representative Cricket

There was some excellent cricket played with good individual performances. 6 matches were played of which 5 were won and 1 lost.

It is apparent that players find it much more difficult to obtain time off work to play in Conference fixtures as the number available for selection decreases each year.

The initial selection is straight forward the problems arise when players selected are forced to cry off at a late stage and replacements have to be found.

A number of people have been involved in finding players and Conference would like to record its appreciation to all of them for their help and perseverance.

We should like to record our appreciation to David Hollyhead who arranged all the fixtures, scorers and venues and Tom Gray who was responsible for the umpires.

For next season new players will be most welcome, if there is a player in your club that would like to play Representative Cricket please contact Alan Neal 0121 744 6656.

## Match Statistics

### v M.C.C.

MCC 209-4 wkts. dec. off 61 overs. Alan Gough 2-19 runs.  
MCCC 147 off 49.1 overs. Imran Jamiel 65 and Mark Davies 36. A partnership of 85 for the 2nd wicket.  
Lost by 52 runs.

### v Solihull

MCCC 240-9 wkts. off 54.3 overs. Waquar Mohammed 62 and Kaushik Patel 48.  
Solihull 199 off 42.4 overs. Tony Bussey 3-19 runs, Lee Bird 3-39 runs and K. Patel 2-19 runs.  
Won by 52 runs.

### v Loughborough U.C.C.E.

Loughborough U.C.C.E. 156-9 wkts off 45 overs. E. Wilson 3-30 runs and A. Redkar 3-27 runs.  
MCCC 159-2 wkts. S. Ndima 66 and K. Pearson 55 n.o.  
Won by 8 wkts.

### v Cambridge University U.C.C.E.

MCCC 306-9 wkts off 40 overs. S. Ndima 110 and A Ur-Rehman 102. 3rd wicket stand 156.  
Cambridge University U.C.C.E. 116 off 39 overs. M. Rawnsley 2-17 runs.  
Won by 190 runs.

### v Royal Air Force

MCCC 239-8 wkts. off 50 overs. D. Banks 101 and J. Simpson 43. 6th wicket stand 126.  
Royal Air Force 147 off 40.2 overs. A. Mullins 4-29 runs and L. Bird 2-22 runs.  
Won by 92 runs.

### v Royal Navy

No play possible

### v Club Cricket Conference

MCCC 223 off 48.2 overs. F. Abdullah 50 and K. Pearson 47.  
CCC 127 off 39.4 overs. A. Bryan 2-21 runs, K. Pearson 2-24 runs, M. Palmer 2-30 runs and F. Abdullah 2-32 runs.

## Celebration Matches

Our only celebration match this year was against Water Orton who were celebrating 125 years. The Conference had a most enjoyable day, delightful hospitality and we were very pleased to have played a part in their celebrations.

### v Water Orton C.C.

MCCC 182 a.o. J. Hartley 56 runs.  
Water Orton 185-4 wkts.  
MCCC lost by 6 wkts.

## **MCCC Lord's Taverners U11 Competition 2005**

### **For the Tom Graveney Challenge Trophy**

On the day the competition was scheduled to be played heavy rain was forecast and the competition was postponed.

The new date is **Sunday 18th September, commencing 10.00am at Wolverhampton C.C.**

## **2005 MCCC/ Lord's Taverners Youth Cricket Under 16 Competition**

### **Finals Day at Harborne C.C.**

The four Clubs contesting the final rounds of the Under 16 Competition were Bedworth, Evesham, Old Elizabethans and Stratford upon Avon. On a gorgeous August Bank Holiday Tuesday the draw for the semi finals was Evesham v Old Elizabethans and Bedworth v Stratford upon Avon.

Old Elizabethans batted first in their semi final and scored 156 - 6 wickets, James Bull 30, Jamie Alford 30 and Jamie Boyle 27. Bowling for Evesham, James Creman 4 overs, 2 wickets for 18 runs and Luke Fisher 3 overs 4 wickets for 24 runs. Evesham made a very spirited reply scoring 151-6 wickets, Chris Jones 99 not out. This is the second highest score recorded in the final stages of the competition being surpassed by Wayne Law who scored 103 not out for Walsall in the final against Stourbridge in 1984.

In the second semi final Bedworth batted first and scored 108-7 wickets, Irfan Khan 58 not out. Chris Hazell took 2 wickets for 13 runs off 4 overs and Fred Gravestock 2 wickets for 14 runs off 2 overs. In reply Stratford upon Avon scored 112-1 wicket, Jamie Collins 78 not out and George Nava 32 not out.

Batting first in the final Stratford upon Avon scored 127-7 wickets, Chris Hazell 32, Charlie Hayter 27 and Will Wright 22. For the Old Elizabethans Eddie Ford bowled 4 overs for 18 runs taking 2 wickets, this was in sharp contrast to the semi final when his 1 over went for 26 runs, Eddie Smith took 2 wickets for 26 runs off 4 overs. In reply Old Elizabethans quickly scored 131 for 2 wickets off 13.3 overs, winning by 8 wickets. Jamie Alford scored 73 not out and Paul Biggerstaff scored a rapid 30.

In the play off for 3rd and 4th place Evesham made 148-6 wickets, Matt Knight 33, Chris Jones 31 and Henry Newman 28. Gurgeet Minhas returned the best bowling figures of 2 wickets for 24 runs off 4 overs. In reply Bedworth were all out for 129, Sean Harris 36 and Irfan Khan 20. Andrew Fisher 2 wickets for 16, Luke Fisher 2 wickets for 21 runs and Jamie Anderson 2 wickets for 37 were the pick of the bowlers.

Presentations were made to all 4 teams by the Chairman of Conference, Alan Neal, who went on to thank the Lords Taverners, through their Representative Tony English, for their generous support that enables the Competition to function so successfully.

Tony English, on behalf of the Lords Taverners congratulated all four teams for some excellent cricket which was most entertaining. He then presented the Man of the Match Award to Jamie Alford for his 73 not out.

On behalf of the Conference Alan recorded its appreciation to Harborne C.C. for the ground and facilities, the Tea Ladies for an excellent tea and the Groundsman Trevor Townsend, for the preparation of the pitches. The Umpires who officiated throughout the day Bob Mason, Mike Iwamicki, Roy Froggart and Brian Hamblett. The Scorers, George Ford - Old Elizabethans, Kelly Selby - Evesham, Gavin Scorey - Bedworth and Alex Hazell - Stratford upon Avon. Alan congratulated the Youth Committee, Chairman Gerald Wadley, supported by Tom Gray, Jon Roe and Ross Edwards for all their efforts in bringing the Under 16 Competition to a successful conclusion. Brian Webb was thanked for the finals day organisation and his commentary on the day's progress keeping everybody informed of the state of play in all the matches, he was assisted by Tom Gray.

**Are there any volunteers who would like to join the Youth Committee? If you are interested please contact Gerald Wadley 01531 640664.**

## **Insurance**

It is our belief that there are still clubs that are playing cricket who are not 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 it is the Public Liability aspect that is of concern. Public Liability covers a club in the eventuality of a third party being involved either through injury or accidental damage. If your club is not insured ask yourself how you would cope if a claim is made against you, unfortunately most clubs would struggle to finance a claim of any description. Further details on the Conference insurance scheme can be obtained from the Treasurer Mike Smith 0121 246 1988.

## **Licensing Act 2003**

It is hoped that all the clubs that run a "Bar" will have made their applications before the due date. It would be interesting to know how much each club had to pay in order to obtain their new licence as the Conference, on your behalf, lobbied the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and 20 Midland Members of Parliament to try and get the costs of registration reduced.

Through Mr Peter Luff the matter was raised in the Adjournment debate on the Licensing Act on Wednesday 8th June when amongst other items he portrayed the costs that would be incurred by Ombersley C.C. to obtain their new licence. Coverage was also given in the Daily Telegraph by Kate Hoey who made reference to the costs that cricket and other sporting clubs were facing with the new legislation.

Unfortunately the Government do not share the views of sports clubs in that they feel that if clubs were exempted from the new licensing fees it would effectively be a subsidy for alcohol consumption rather than for participation in sport.

The Department claim that the concerns of amateur sports clubs were debated in detail before the Act was passed but when the fees were announced the Chairman of the Central Council for Physical Recreation stated that they were bitterly disappointed as the fees announced were 50% higher than proposed only two months previous.

The Department claim that the fees are reasonable and fair, a small cost to ensure safety, the avoidance of nuisance to neighbours and the protection of children from harm.

"We are still waiting for the Department to issue the statistical information on how many of the 140,000 amateur sports clubs, that the Government are committed to supporting, were failing in their duty to carry out the correct procedures applying to these three items".

Clubs will save money as they will not have to pay for additional licences for parties, weddings and similar events so long as they are added to their Operating Schedules on application.

"This may well apply to the big clubs but the majority of clubs run the Bar for social purposes that take place after the match".

Clubs that register with the Inland Revenue as Community Amateur Sports Clubs receive mandatory 80% rate relief and a package of other tax benefits.

"Prior to the introduction of this legislation enlightened Councils already gave 80% relief, all clubs had to do was apply. Now, clubs are being burdened with forms and more forms all to be filled by the harassed Secretary who has sufficient tasks, one wonders if the Government appreciates that amateur sport is run by volunteers and that there numbers are very limited".

The DCMS are committed to putting £60 million into amateur clubs in 20 major sports through the Community Development Programme.

"This amount is spread over 4 years and when divided by the 140,000 amateur sports clubs that the Government is committed to supporting, it equates to £107.14 per club, per year, hardly sufficient to pay for the alcohol licence".

A letter was sent to the DCMS on the 22nd June requesting answers to various questions and also offering them the opportunity to visit Member Clubs to obtain first hand knowledge of how a club is run. To date there has been no reply.

## Obituary

### Charles Palmer CBE

Charles Palmer was President of the Conference in 1985. He played for England, Worcestershire and Leicestershire, a man of the Midlands and a first class player and administrator. When playing for Worcestershire, he was a teacher at Bromsgrove School; he took three days off to play against the 1948 Australians. Facing Lindwall and Miller, who were at their peak, he scored a thrilling 85. Such was the impact of that innings he received in early July, with only one more match played, an invitation to tour South Africa in the coming winter.

He served Leicestershire C.C.C. as a Player, Secretary, Chairman for 25 years and as President. He became President of the MCC in 1978.

Having been so closely involved in Test and County cricket his year of office with the MCCC in 1985 gave him the opportunity to look more closely at recreational club and youth cricket. As he expected and to his delight he saw the dedicated voluntary work of so many people who had the true interests of cricket at heart. Whilst standards were constantly changing it was Mr Palmer's wish that the game should remain in the hands of people who were proud and happy to have received the heritage of cricket and who would be prepared to fight for the maintenance of the courtesies, dignities and decencies which have characterised both the playing and administration of the game.

Later in life he was the Chairman of the Cricket Council and the TCCB and he also chaired the committee which produced the Palmer report of 1986, advocating the introduction of four day cricket.

## Proposed U21 Tour to Holland in August 2006

The Conference is currently in the process of organising an U21 Tour to Holland in August 2006. It is proposed, subject to confirmation, to run the tour from Sunday 20th August-Friday 25th August. This will be an excellent opportunity for players who have played at County representative level to add to their cricketing experience.

An experienced management team will be in charge of the Tour and they are currently in touch with the Dutch Cricket Development Board. They are looking to arrange matches at suitable venues against similar standard teams. The proposed means of travel will be by coach to Harwich and a ferry to the Hook of Holland. The coach will stay with the party for the duration of the tour. Accommodation will be in a suitable hotel which will be confirmed when the match venues are known but provisionally the Hague area is being considered.

An estimate of the cost is £425.00 per person to be paid prior to travelling. A deposit will be required and the remainder can be paid by instalments.

In the first instance, players who are interested are asked to contact Ross Edwards (who will be the cricket coach) on 07780 902894 or [rossianedwards@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rossianedwards@tiscali.co.uk)

This is a good opportunity to get overseas experience and all players in this age range are encouraged to at least consider putting themselves forward.

Howard Clay Tour Manager 0121 477 3686

### Midlands Club Cricket Conference

Hon. Secretary: D. R. Thomas, 4 Silverdale Gardens,  
Wordsley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 5NU  
Telephone: 01384 278107 Fax: 01384 835687