

**MONTGOMERY CRICKET CLUB****Minutes of the Committee Meeting****Monday 30 March, 2009****Lymore Cricket Ground, Montgomery**

Before the business of the meeting started, John Barker noted the club's sadness upon hearing of the death of Eric Whittingham. The Checkers has long been the after-game home of the club and Eric will be remembered for his help both on and off the field.

**Present**

John Barker (Chair), Andrew Black, Jonathan Williams, David Thomas, Keith Griffiths, Brian Corfield, Mark Cadwallader, Robert Kinsey.

**1 Apologies**

Rob Yewdall, Neil Tuffin, Stan Davies.

**2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on 23 February 2009 were agreed.

**3 Matters Arising**

John Barker thanked Brian Corfield and Jonathan Williams for removing the logs after the overhanging branches had been removed. He also thanked them for their contribution of four cans of petrol used in an attempt to burn the stump as Wynford had requested.

**4 Correspondence**

John Barker noted the key dates in the Shropshire League newsletter. Andrew Black and David Thomas will liaise over the list of registered players to be submitted by 15 April. Andrew Black will contact Neil Tuffin about the Captains meeting at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury on 15 April. David Thomas confirmed that the ball order and cheque had been submitted before the deadline.

John Barker congratulated the club on being runners up as Club of the Year in the Montgomery Sports Council – County Times Sports Awards held on 6 March.

David Thomas tabled the registration forms for the Welsh Cricket Association. Andrew Black agreed to investigate whether the subscriptions are paid as a standing order or whether a cheque is required.

## 5 Financial Update

Andrew Black tabled the summary accounts for 1 January to 30 March. He noted significant recent payments including £900 for five Level 1 Coaching Courses, £585 for test tickets for the Cardiff Ashes test, and £352 for the Shropshire League cricket balls. He thanked Neil Tuffin for negotiating a £119.62 discount on the cost of the hire of the Town Hall for the Annual Dinner. He also noted two items of income, the first from the sale of the fine turf mower and the second an award from the 'Awards for All' fund for the research John Jones is carrying out on newspaper articles about the club.

## 6 Development Group Report

Andrew Black tabled a summary sheet of expenditure plans against grant opportunities. He noted the club has a good chance of success with grants from the ECB and Lord Taverners for the nets and artificial wicket, and sought approval from the Committee to submit the applications. This was agreed.

Andrew is less confident about success with an application to Powys County Council's Community Enablement Fund, the greater part of which is targeted at plans for clubhouse renovation. The Committee agreed to go ahead with the application but welcomed Andrew's efforts in exploring alternative sources including Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO), the Co-operative, and the Community Welcome Scheme.

Andrew noted that the Powys County Council grant is dependent upon securing planning approval. He has had a preliminary meeting with a representative of the Planning Department who advised including all the proposed work in a planning application. The Committee agreed this is necessary and Andrew Black will contact Phillip Humphreys about drawing up plans. Andrew noted that this should not hold up the application as it can proceed whilst planning approval is being sought.

Discussion then turned to plans for the nets. Robert Kinsey and Mark Cadwallader enquired whether a grass bowling end could be retained in one of the nets so that bowlers can use spikes during practice. Keith Griffiths thought this would result in a groove being worn which could become dangerous over time. The Committee agreed with this point and will go ahead with the current plan for an artificial surface at the bowlers end in both nets.

Jonathan Williams reported Stan Davies query about the removal of the concrete in the current nets. The Committee agreed that further discussion was required.

Mark Cadwallader suggested the Development Group be wound up as it completed its sole remit when accreditation was achieved. The Committee agreed, and the business of the ongoing development plan will now be reported directly to the Management Committee. Andrew Black will continue to act as the main manager of the plan in his capacity as Treasurer.

The Development Group Report will be replaced as a standing item on the agenda by fundraising plans.

## 7 Ground Issues

The Committee noted that the ground looks in good condition after the dry spell.

Jonathan Williams reported on an encouraging meeting between Stan Davies and Len Smith of the Welsh Cricket Board about the condition of the wicket. Len has commented that root growth looks excellent and that the only obstacle to a good hard pitch is the lack of covers.

The Committee agreed to organise a working party at the first practice session on the Lymore ground to ensure that all is ready before the start of the season.

## 8 Captains Issues

Jonathan Williams stressed that the purpose of the second team this year is to bring on young players and he warned that there will be no guaranteed places for anybody. All members of the committee agreed to stress this with players whenever the opportunity arises.

## 9 Child Protection Issues

There were no issues raised by the Committee.

## 10 Youth and Coaching Issues

The Committee noted its sadness at the death of Geoff Holmes, one of the Directors of the Cricket Board of Wales. Keith Griffiths commented on his support for Montgomery cricket over the past few years.

Keith then noted that a further five members of the club, Ed Davies, Aaron Ruff-Cock, Rob Bennett, Mike Williams and Neil Tuffin, have achieved the

Level 1 coaching qualification subject to them gaining first aid certificates on 30 March.

The Youth Committee suggested the creation of seven awards for the Youth Section – batting and bowling awards for each of the three competitive age groups, and a further award for the Under 9s. The Committee agreed and suggested that sponsors be found for some of the awards. This opportunity be highlighted in the fund raising letter which is to be circulated in the next few weeks.

Keith suggested creating an information board to give details of all qualified coaches at the club. John Barker suggested this information could be included on the website, and the Committee agreed

Peter Brett is keen to present the accreditation plaque on a Thursday evening youth training session. A suitable date will be agreed early in the season.

Keith concluded by circulating brochures for fund raising opportunities, including ones from Tesco's, Mudiad, and the online service [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk).

#### 11 Communication Officer Issues

David Thomas will continue the series of newsletters begun by John Brown. The first will be available early in the season.

#### 12 Any Other Business

John Barker noted that the first outdoor nets at Lymore will be held on 15 and 22 April.

Jonathan Williams suggested a practice game on the weekend prior to the start of the season. The Committee asked the two Saturday team captains to organise the event.

#### 13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 May at 8pm in the pavilion at Lymore.