



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

Minutes of a the Annual General Meeting Held at Cuckney CC on Saturday 4th October 2014 at 2.30pm.

There were 58 members present; M J Smedley, B Rivington, E Devney, G Bullock, B Cartwright, J Singleton, M Bonsall, R Arthur, G Graney, D Hodgkin, J Leaning, P Rice, I Rich, Gary Bardill, D Stanley, G Evans, S Broadley, A Rusinowski, C Tinker, F Lester, M Griffiths, R Swann, R Hepworth, J Whitworth, D Blizard, D Smith, Glen Bardill, J Heaman, G France, D Froggatt, CR Martin, N Roper, A Moffitt, P Freer, M Challand, P Barker, H Dobson, D Parnham, D Smallwood, P Sissons, G Woolley, G Tune, D Forster, M Hewson, W Henton, P Garnett, P McKenzie, M Dobb, D Whitlam, T Cope, N Hall, M Colley, T Spence, I Mather, P Tomlinson, and G Bembridge.

Apologies: were received from I Bennett, A Bennett, B Jarvis, C Russell, W Cope, FA Rhodes, J Hayes, T Hayes, S Sessions, L Jones, V Brown, D Shepherd, D Brumpton, M Cannon, D Flowers, G Wright and M Peat.

The meeting began with a one minute silence in remembrance of Brian Wilson who had recently passed away. Brian had been a member of the Association for 43 years and in that time he had been an active BDU Management Committee member, a member of the League Management Committee and President of the Bassetlaw & District Cricket League. Brian also acted as unofficial "court" photographer for the BDU when he would photograph all of our guest speakers; these have built up over the years to make a fine archive and a fitting tribute to Brian.

Minutes: of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th October 2013 had been distributed at the meeting, emailed to members and also published on the website and were taken as read and confirmed by the meeting.

Matters Arising: None

Hon Secretary's Report: The Secretary then gave a brief resume of the activities of the committee and his thoughts of the past year. A copy of his report is attached at appendix 1.

Hon Appointments Secretary's Report: John Leaning began by thanking everyone for their efforts during the year and their cooperation and willingness to move from one match to another at short notice. There was upwards of thirty movements of umpires per weekend and without that cooperation he felt that the job of appointing umpires to matches would be unworkable.

Twenty three umpires had retired or given up umpiring in the Bassetlaw this year, half of them actually during the season. Half again of those are what John would describe as Championship umpires. We are now reaching desperation point with only have around 80 full time umpires to cover 54 matches per weekend, a shortfall of 28 umpires. This does not take into account absences through holidays, sickness, weddings and other personal and family commitments which further reduce the number of available umpires. The extra week extension to the playing season also caused problems with many umpires having booked holidays before the fixtures were distributed. Since the end of the season John has received three further resignations from

the umpires list. We can no longer provide two umpires below division 4 or 5 on a regular basis. This will not affect new umpires who will be accompanied by an experienced umpire.

If you are concerned about your assessment mark these are now available from Brian, remember we are looking for an assessment mark of 4 and above for umpiring in the Championship. This is an ideal but, with the shortage of umpires, it has proved unsustainable and umpires with assessment marks of below 4 are needed to fulfill the championship fixtures. We would again remind everyone that a mark of 3 is satisfactory and that captains are happy with an umpires' performance. No Umpires in the Bassetlaw fall below a mark of 3.

John asked that members complete the fixture rota in good time and that they let him know of any holidays they have booked to enable him to arrange the fixtures accordingly.

Hon Treasurers Report: The Associations Balance sheet had been distributed to the meeting. The Treasurer informed the meeting that the Association had had a small operating profit for the year and there is no increase in subscriptions. The Accounts were accepted as a true record by the meeting.

Joe Richardson Memorial Trophy: The President then presented the Joe Richardson Memorial Trophy.

The Chairman announced this year's award would go to a stalwart member of the Association who had recently been suffering a period of illness but was now well on the mend. He first encountered him many years ago when he did an umpire assessment of him at Old Whittington CC.

This years award was made to Alf Moffitt, North Wheatley with Leverton CC.

Presentation of 20 year ties: A presentation was then made by the President to Mick Challand, Tony Cope and George Evans; unfortunately Stuart Whitlam was unable to attend due to being on holiday it is hoped to make a presentation to Stuart in November. The Association is always proud to make these awards in recognition of 20 years dedication to Cricket in Nottinghamshire and the Bassetlaw League in particular.

Level 1 Certificates:

The President along with the ACO Tutor Gerry Graney then presented certificates to each of the successful candidates from the winter ACO level 1 course. A high standard had been achieved by all with 4 attaining 100% and 1 at 98%.

Nigel Hall, Tony Rusinowski and David Stanley, each were presented with their certificates by the President. Mathew Peat and David Pickersgill were unable to attend.

Gerry also thanked Dick Arthur and Mick Bonsall for their assistance on the course during the winter.

Howard Walton Memorial Trophy: The President presented Tony Rusinowski with the Howard Walton Memorial Trophy in recognition of his having reached a high mark in the ECB Level 1 examination following the winter's course and in achieving excellent assessments for his first season as an umpire.

Many congratulations to all of them.

Election of Officers: The following were elected unopposed:

President	MJ Smedley
Chairman	B Rivington
Secretary/Treasurer	Gary Bardill
Appointments Secretary	JJ Leaning

Committee: Dick Arthur, Mick Bonsall, Graham Bullock, Brian Cartwright, Gerry Graney, David Hodgkin, Peter Rice, Ian Rich and John Singleton, elected unopposed.

Committee Vacancy: There is a vacancy on the committee due to the late resignation of Brian Lenihan after the date for nominations had closed. The management Committee will co-opt a suitable member at their November meeting. The Chairman stated that if anyone was interested they should let the Secretary know. He also reminded everyone that if they were interested then they had the opportunity to be nominated in the usual way at next year's AGM.

Proposals BDUAC Constitution: There were no proposals received for amendments to the Associations Constitution.

Proposals for the Bassetlaw and District Cricket League AGM: There were no proposals received for amendments to the League rules.

Report of the 2014 assessment programme in the Championship and Divisions 1:

The Chairman stated that we have had a very good season of reports on assessment from captains and partners. The assessments were available for anyone interested. The assessment committee will now meet and discuss the results.

There then followed a presentation to the retiring Secretary of a Pen set and wallet made by the President who had some complimentary things to say about him. It should be noted that there was nothing in the wallet! The Secretary thanked everyone for their help and consideration during his time as Secretary.

Announcements:

ACO Notts Branch Dinner at Trent Bridge 20th March 2015 the speaker will be MJK Smith ticket price £27.50 from John Hayes.

Next month's speaker had been tentatively booked and it will be hopefully Michael Gough, first class umpire, ex Durham CCC.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 3.45pm.



Bassetlaw and District Umpires' Association

(Affiliated to the ECB Association of Cricket Officials)

Website: www.bdua.org.uk

bassetlawumpires@aol.com

President

Mr MJ Smedley

Honorary Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the Bassetlaw & District Umpires Association

Saturday 4th October 2014 at Cuckney Cricket Club.

Good afternoon everyone;

WEATHER

It has been its usual mix of good, bad and mostly indifferent weather this season, with periods of dry followed by periods of wet, which I think reflects the lot of cricketers, with periods in form and periods out of form.

COMMITTEE

Number of Committee meetings during year 9.

Committee member	attendances				
M Smedley	8	B Rivington	9	E Devney	9
J Leaning	7	R Arthur	9	M Bonsall	8
G Bullock	9	B Cartwright	9	G Graney	7
D Hodgkin	7	B Lenihan	6	P Rice	8
I Rich	8	J Singleton	8		

During the year your committee met on nine occasions but apart from attendance at our meetings several members also attend meetings of the Notts ACO, Notts Cricket Board, League Meetings, Disciplinary Meetings and Umpire's Training during the season.

There are two vacancies on the committee with the resignation of the E Devney the Hon Secretary/Treasurer and B Lenihan with all other members being re-nominated. Gary Bardill has been nominated as your new Hon Secretary/Treasurer, unfortunately Brian resigned after the closing of nominations so there is still a vacancy on the committee to which the Management Committee will co-opt a member at the November meeting. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Management Committee please let Gary know.

MEETINGS WITH OTHER CRICKETING BODIES

We continue to meet with the League Management Committee annually to review the season and we believe that this continues to be beneficial to both the League and the Association. I attended the League Management Committee meetings as your representative and Mick Bonsall attended the Notts Branch ACO meetings on our behalf. Paul Barker also represents us at the Cricket Society.

DISCIPLINE

Midway through the season I commented to the League Secretary that we hadn't had any disciplinary reports. It was tempting fate because the second half of the season produced several really bad incidents. So bad that it has caused at least two umpires to give up and several more to question whether umpiring is worth all the hassle.

We are at a loss as to how to deal with this increase in poor behaviour. Over the past few years we have in conjunction with the League Management Committee improved the procedure for dealing with disciplinary hearings. The hearings have resulted in players being banned from playing, teams having points deducted and clubs being fined. Yet still they are on the increase. I know that compared to some leagues which have had incidents of actual fighting ours in comparison are relatively mild but still serious enough for umpires to give up the game. All we can do is report poor behaviour; in terms of discipline we are not the judges, we must report any incident fully on the leagues report form and let the disciplinary committee adjudicate. We must continue to conduct ourselves in our usual way "without fear or favour".

UMPIRES TRAINING & RECRUITMENT

Derbyshire ACO Branch have a Level 1A course taking place at Holmewood MW starting this Monday 6th October 2014 this course is open to all experience umpires and you need to contact Tom Munro. There is a Level 1 course starting at Cuckney, on Monday 7th January 2015, these are organised by the Derbys and Notts Branches of ACO respectively. There is also to be a Level 1A course at Cuckney hopefully starting in January but this is dependent on numbers, there must be at least 8 candidates. Anyone interested should speak to Gerry Graney. The numbers of potential new umpires attending training courses continues to decline. This is worry for cricket in general. Umpiring is a vital part of cricket but we are still unable to man all fixtures with two Umpires and in some cases there are no umpires. We are still struggling in terms of umpire numbers, we have had approximately 30 umpires retire in the past two years, and if this level of retirement continues then umpiring in the Bassetlaw is unsustainable.

Advancement beyond Level 1A is dependent on whether umpires are recommended to the Premier League. This is done by the Notts Branch ACO and we have had no input into who is recommended over the past couple of years. Our views are not sought even though we have assessed all our potential Premier Umpires. Umpires seeking to advance to higher levels of cricket must understand that it is entirely a matter for the Notts ACO and is not, or rather did not use to be, a quick process. In the past we had been informed that umpires must have at least 3 years Championship level experience in the Bassetlaw League before the ACO will even consider them. This does not now appear to be the case as umpires with less than this experience have been fast tracked by the Notts ACO to the Premier League. All Premier League umpires must be members of the ECB/ACO.

Because our views on who we feel has the potential to become Premier League umpires are no longer sought we have discontinued boundary assessments. Captains and Partner assessments are still being carried out; this is to help the Appointments Secretary determine the umpire's ability, and at what level they are able to officiate in our league. They are not considered useful by the ACO in determining who is promoted to the Premier League.

WINTER MEETINGS

Once again Paul Barker exceeded all our expectations all the speakers were excellent. Paul carries out his task of finding our speakers for no reward except a big thank you from this committee.

WEBSITE & NEWSLETTERS

The website is up and running. The web address is www.bdua.org.uk. At present there is not much content on it, but over the next few weeks I will be putting more stuff on there. There may be areas that still need to be tweaked by Jack Tarr and I will continue to liaise with him. I will email everyone with the web address to enable you all to access the site.

A Newsletter continues to be issued approximately every four months.

The website and Newsletters are important in trying to keep you up to date with developments in both the Bassetlaw and Umpiring in general and we try to highlight any problem areas that have been encountered during the season. Please use and read both.

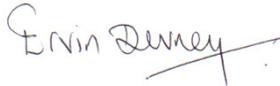
I have sent correspondence by email rather than Royal Mail, where practicable, to save the cost of postage which is prohibitive. It was my intention to also use electronic mail rather than the Royal Mail whenever I could; I would suspect that your new Secretary will do the same. So it is important that you inform the Secretary of any changes to your email addresses or if you acquire an email address.

THANKS

This is my last report as your Secretary. It has been a privilege to represent you for the last six years but I feel it is time for a new face and someone who may be a more proactive Secretary. I see challenges ahead for recreational cricket; many clubs are struggling to survive and just turning out eleven every week is a triumph. We are losing upwards of twenty umpires from the list this year alone. This is unsustainable for the League to survive in its present form. Player discipline and attitude is also deteriorating and is one of the main causes of umpires giving up, we don't help ourselves in this by allowing serious incidents to go unreported. I am sorry to sound so pessimistic but this is how I see things and the reason why we need a new face as Secretary.

Finally let me thank Cuckney Cricket Club, to Andy and to Sharon, again to Paul Barker for his unstinting efforts in persuading speakers to come in the depths of winter for very little reward, our President, Chairman, Appointments Secretary and Committee members for the giving of their time and effort. To Gary France for the tremendously hard work he puts in as League Secretary, they will miss him when he goes, and I wish to thank him for the help and assistance that he gave me, I want to wish Brian a successful year as President of the League, to wish Gary Bardill all the very best for a successful tenure as your secretary, and finally Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for all of your efforts without you there is no meaningful cricket.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ervin Devney". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ervin Devney
Hon Secretary/Treasurer
October 2014