



THAMES VALLEY CRICKET LEAGUE



Established in 1972, The Morrants Thames Valley Cricket League is an important component of the ECB Premier League structure

AGM Minutes 2017

Thursday, 30th November, 2017

Venue: Slough C.C.

Management Committee:			
Raj Patel (Chairman) RP	Matthew Stevenson (Secretary) MS	Martin House (Treasurer) MH	John Goodman (Fixture Secretary) JG
Rob Bartlett RB	Vic Devers VD	Rod Dye RD	Arun Oram AO
Richard Thomas RT	Simon Webb SW	Martin Wilson MJW	Phil Wise PW
Mike Woodwards MW			

Full Member Clubs (58):			
Amersham	Aldershot	Bagshot	Beaconsfield
Binfield	Boyne Hill	Bracknell	Bradfield
Burnham	Chalfont St. Peter	Chenies & Latimer	Chesham
Chiswick & Whitton	Cookham Dean	Cove	Datchet
Eversley	Falkland	Farnham Common	Farnham Royal
Finchampstead	Fleet	Gerrards Cross	Harefield
Hayes	Henley	High Wycombe	Hillingdon Manor
Hurst	Ickenham	Kew	Kidmore End
Maidenhead & Bray	Marlow	Newbury	North Maidenhead
NPL	Old Merchant Taylors'	Princes Risborough	Purley-on-Thames
Reading	Royal Ascot	Ruislip	Slough
Sonning	Stoke Green	Sulhamstead & Ufton	Taplow
Thatcham Town	Theale & Tilehurst	Tring Park	Wargrave
White Waltham	Windsor	Wokingham	Wooburn Narkovians
Wraysbury	Yateley		

Associate Member Clubs (4):			
Barnes	Eastcote	Marlow Park	Uxbridge

Present

- Neil Doody, League President (ND).
- All members of the management committee except PW.
- All member clubs except [Burnham](#) and [Windsor](#).
- John Bushby (JB), Philip Newfield (PN).

The meeting opened at 7.55pm.

1. Apologies for absence:

- PW, Kevin Fraser, [Burnham](#).

2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM:

- RP advised that the minutes of the last AGM had been distributed with this year's notice. They were approved without amendment and duly signed by RP.



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3. Matters Arising from 2016 AGM:

- 'Average points': [Reading](#) asked why this system had been imposed on three divisions during the 2017 season; they pointed out that a related proposal had been rejected at the 2016 AGM and argued that this action had been unconstitutional. MJW responded by explaining that the mancom had been left in an invidious position following the numerous withdrawals and forfeits, and had decided that something needed to be done in response to these exceptional circumstances. He said that the decision to adopt the AVP calculation in three divisions had not been an easy one and nor was it something which we would wish to do again - he hoped that the proposals to this year's AGM would address this matter. He explained that the mancom was fully entitled to make this decision although he did acknowledge that it could have been better communicated.

4. Chairman's Report:

- RP gave a verbal report. He congratulated Wokingham who were our league champions in 2017 and all the other divisional winners. He thanked all the management committee members who had served in 2017, noting that it had been an especially busy year because of the 2018 expansion. He welcomed our new member clubs and wished them every success in the TVCL competition. He reported another successful annual dinner – this time at a new venue in Windsor and with Robert Croft as the guest speaker. He mentioned the open forum meeting held during the summer and the latest ECB Player Survey, which have both informed this year's AGM proposals. Finally, he congratulated NPL 2 for winning the 2017 Fair Play Award.

5. Secretary's Report:

- RP advised that the secretary's report (see below) had been distributed with this year's AGM notice. It was proposed by [Ickenham](#) and seconded by [Bagshot](#) and adopted unanimously.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- MH submitted accounts for 2016/17 financial year (see attached), which showed a surplus of £7937 on the year leaving a balance sheet value of £29,475. MH commented that main single reason for this was nearly £3k increase in fines revenue to £7747 (other reasons included reducing the surplus of balls held from previous years and reduced IT costs now that TVCL16 has bedded in).
- The Treasurer's Report was proposed by Amersham and seconded by Fleet, and approved unanimously.
- [Ickenham](#) asked if the mancom had any plans to spend the surplus? RP said that mancom intended to return the money to the clubs and was considering best way to do this. RT mentioned possibilities of subsidising better quality balls in higher divisions or extending Fair Play award to perhaps have divisional winners. [White Waltham](#) pointed out that the balls initiative would only benefit the small number of clubs who had teams in the top divisions; RP noted and accepted this comment. [Kew](#) suggested giving financial incentives to clubs that supply umpires to panel (as opposed to fining those who do not); RP said that he thought this was a good idea and would add it to list of options. [Bagshot](#) suggest a 'subs holiday' for 2018; RP said that he would add this to the list of options as



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well.

- MH then confirmed that the annual subscription rate would remain unchanged at £25 per team.

7. Rules and Match Conditions:

- MJW explained that some of this year's proposals had been done electronically prior to the meeting in order to save time. The results for the electronic proposals are listed below. To note: we now have 62 member clubs, 58 full members (who can vote at general meetings) and 4 associate members (who cannot); participation in the electronic vote was optional and 51 of our 58 full members submitted votes.
- [Bagshot](#) commented that it was very disappointing that 7 clubs did not bother to vote.

Changes to Match Rules

- **E1: Adoption of new 2017 MCC laws**
{In favour 50, against 0, abstentions 1 – Passed}
- **E2: Removal of references to now defunct Fixtures & Results sub-committee**
{In favour 49, against 1, abstentions 1 – Passed}
- **E3: Withdrawn teams – remove from league tables but retain match and player stats**
{In favour 50, against 0, abstentions 1 – Passed}
- **E4: Sightscreen to be positioned outside boundary as per new 2017 laws**
{In favour 49, against 1, abstentions 1 – Passed}
- **E5: Start match once 7 players in attendance**
{In favour 51, against 0, abstentions 0 – Passed}
- **E6: Stricter laws re beamers now redundant as per 2017 laws**
{In favour 50, against 1, abstentions 0 – Passed}
- **E7: Clarification of powerplays in win/lose format**
{In favour 50, against 1, abstentions 0 – Passed}
- **E8: Stricter laws re short-pitched deliveries – clarification re 2017 laws**
{In favour 49, against 2, abstentions 0 – Passed}
- **E9: Both umpires to agree re GWL as per new 2017 laws**
{In favour 50, against 1, abstentions 0 – Passed}
- **E10: Fix to flaw in cancellation/forfeitures 40% rule**
{In favour 49, against 0, abstentions 2 – Passed}
- **E11: Clarification re incorrectly submitted results**
{For 42, against 8, abstentions 1 – Passed}



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- **E12: Clarification re unknown players on match scorecards**
- {For 40, against 10, abstentions 1 – Passed}

Changes to Discipline & Complaints

- **E13: Non-payment of fines – reduce window from 28 to 14 days**
- {For 35, against 14, abstentions 2 – Passed}
- **E14: Points penalty for third mark below 3 for pitch/ground**
- {For 43, against 5, abstentions 3 – Passed}

Changes to Format of League

- **E15: Differential when points level – penalty points above wins**
- {For 39, against 9, abstentions 3 – Passed}
- **E16: Mancom to be given formal authority to regionalise from L4 down**
- {For 48, against 2, abstentions 1 – Passed}
- **E17: Rewording of Gradings & Standards chapter**
- {For 43, against 4, abstentions 4 – Passed}

Changes to Player Eligibility

- **E18: Rewording of team strengthening rule**
- {For 38, against 10, abstentions 3 – Passed}
- **E19: Alignment of G&S complaints procedure with D&C**
- {In favour 50, against 0, abstentions 1 – Passed}
- **E20: Clarification of inter-club transfer rules re new website processes**
- {For 48, against 0, abstentions 3 – Passed}
- MJW then introduced the proposals for changes to the rules and match conditions to be discussed and voted on 'on the evening'. He explained that A3, A4 & A5 would be discussed and voted on before A1 & A2 because the decision on the former might inform the decision on the latter. Burnham and Windsor not in attendance so 56 clubs eligible to vote on each proposal.

Changes to Constitution and Format of League

- **P1: Feeder structure**
- RP and MS both hoped that the clubs would support this proposal, which will help to create an aspirational pathway for all clubs in the HCPCL pyramid.
- **Stoke Green** were worried about creating a blockage in the structure around the entry point level (which would probably be L4 or L5). MS acknowledged that this was a concern.
- {For 53, against 3, abstentions 0 – Passed}



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Changes to Match Rules

- **A3: Introduction of split format in new Levels 3-7.**
- Fleet asked about the use of DLS. MJW clarified that DLS would only be used in divisions with universal panel umpire coverage, i.e. L1 and L2.
- {In favour 41, against 11, abstentions 3 – Passed}

- **A4: Introduction of all win/lose matches in new Level 8 and below.**
- Ickenham against – young players need to learn the traditional game.
- Beaconsfield also against – very few draws in TVCL in recent seasons.
- Chesham, Fleet, Newbury & Aldershot all in favour – it is the format that younger players want and length of traditional match problematic for new and less committed players.
- Kew were worried about leg side wide rules lengthening match and potentially disheartening young bowlers.
- Gerrards Cross favoured a more gradual introduction of new formats.
- {In favour 37, against 14, abstentions 5 – Passed}

- **A5: Adoption of proposed win/lose match rules for Level 3 and below.**
- Stoke Green against five bowlers per innings rule – suggested 10 overs per bowler in 40/40 matches in L8 and below. MJW commented that five bowlers per innings across board would make rules considerably easier.
- Bagshot asked what process would be if drafted rules were not accepted. MJW said that there would have to be further discussion and SGM(s). MJW made clear that he plans to consult clubs and tinker with drafted rules anyway – so one way or another there will be an SGM to approve finalised rules. JB proposed setting a deadline for clubs to submit proposed modifications – agreed.
- Barnes against fielding restrictions in lower levels – would slow down game unnecessarily and be hard to apply without panel umpires.
- Kew and Chesham against strict leg side wides in lower levels – see above. MJW commented that consistency of application would be the most important aspect to any leg side wide rule.
- Beaconsfield worried that clubs will have shortage of bowlers in lower XIs as each higher team would need minimum five bowlers.
- {In favour 45, against 3, abstentions 8 – Passed}

- **A1: New ball to be mandatory in traditional format.**
- {In favour 30, against 23, abstentions 3 – Not passed}

- **A2: Match points for win in traditional format – only get 25 batting second if lose toss.**
- Chiswick & Whitton in favour – liked 25/20 split.
- Henley against – like the straight 25.
- {In favour 31, against 23, abstentions 2 – Not Passed}

- **A6: Not allowed to withdraw team once season has started.**
- MS explained background to this proposal. Mancom was placed in invidious position last season by three clubs asking to withdraw higher XIs from TVCL competition due to sudden loss of players. The mancom decided that all things considered it would be best to allow said clubs to withdraw higher XI, leaving 3 9-team divisions. However, mindful that



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not all clubs might have supported these decisions, the mancom has put this proposal forward so that clubs can choose between mancom using its discretion and a codified rule saying that it is not allowed. MS said that if clubs thought mancom handled the above well then it should probably vote against proposal.

- [Yateley](#) thanked mancom for allowing them to withdraw their 2nd XI in 2017 – said this had effectively saved their club.
- [Fleet, Aldershot and Stoke Green](#) strongly supported how mancom had handled difficult situation in 2017.
- [Reading](#) took a different line and said that clubs should honour their commitments.
- {In favour 12, against 39, abstentions 5 – Not Passed}

- **A7: Points penalties for forfeiting.**
- {In favour 43, against 12, abstentions 1 –Passed}

- **A8: £75 fine for forfeiting five or more matches in one season.**
- [Farnham Common](#) in favour.
- [Beaconsfield and Ickenham](#) against – points penalty sufficient disincentive.
- {In favour 29, against 22, abstentions 5 – Not Passed}

- **A9: Change start time of all matches to 12.30pm.**
- [Chenies and Latimer & Beaconsfield](#) against – prefer to keep mornings free; those who work on Saturday mornings will not be able to play.
- [Boyne Hill and Fleet](#) also against - concerned about pitch availability clashes with junior cricket.
- [Barnes Wild Geese](#) in favour – dislike late finishes (but have no vote as an associate member).
- [Theale & Tilehurst](#) against – problem is over rates not start times.
- {In favour 20, against 28, abstentions 8 – Not Passed}

- **A10: provisional cut-off time in traditional format.**
- [Stoke Green](#) against – bonus points may still be available. In response MJW emphasised that *both* captains would need to be in agreement to call time on match.
- [Fleet](#) against – providing excuse for slow over rates.
- [Tring Park](#) in favour – would be rare occurrence that both captains saw no point in continuing, but in those circumstances why not?
- {In favour 39, against 14, abstentions 3 – Passed}

- **A11: Adjustment to bonus points in win/lose format.**
- [Fleet](#) in favour but asked why similar adjustment not being proposed for traditional format? MJW said that he thought this may have been ‘too ambitious’, but said that he may consider for SGM.
- {For 43, against 4, abstentions 9 – Passed}

- **A12: New unfair play & conduct laws only to be applied by ECB ACO qualified umpires.**
- [Beaconsfield](#) against – said that should be two ECB ACO qualified umpires standing for new laws to be applied. MJW advised that meeting could only vote on the proposal made, but that if there was a subsequent ECB recommendation then this could be amended by an SGM process.
- {For 47, against 9, abstentions 0 – Passed}



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8. Election of Vice Presidents

- RP said no nominations this year.

9. Election of Officers

- RP said that all of the current officers were prepared to stand for re-election. He asked if there were any other nominations from the floor – there were not.
- **Chairman:** RP was nominated by [Beaconsfield](#), seconded by [Bagshot](#) and re-elected unanimously.
- **Secretary:** MS was nominated by [Amersham](#), seconded by [Hillingdon Manor](#) and re-elected unanimously.
- **Treasurer:** MH was nominated by [Royal Ascot](#), seconded by [Hayes](#) and re-elected unanimously.
- **Fixture Secretary:** JG was nominated by [Maidenhead & Bray](#), seconded by [OMT](#) and re-elected unanimously.

10. Election of Officials

- **Current management committee members:** RP said that all of last year's management committee were prepared to stand for re-election. They were nominated by [Gerrards Cross](#), seconded by [Yateley](#) and re-elected unanimously.
- **New management committee members:** There were no nominations from the floor.

11. Election of Honorary Independent Examiner

- **Honorary independent examiner for 2015/16:** Ray Wood was nominated by [Hurst](#), seconded by [Bagshot](#) and re-elected unanimously.

12. Any Other Business:

- **Umpire shortages & training:**
- RB gave short presentation to meeting outlining problems with umpire recruitment and retention. He outlined various training options being offered by ACOs and some initiatives from TVCL re funding. He said that clubs must 'take ownership' of problem re declining numbers of umpires – ACOs and leagues cannot solve this problem on their own.
- RB also announced that umpire fee will go up to £45 in 2018 – first increase for 8 years.
- RB noted point made by [Kew](#) in treasurer's report re rewarding clubs financially for supplying umpires to panel.
- **TVCL16 interfaces to other systems:**
- [Wargrave](#) asked what the latest position was on interfaces between TVCL16 and ECB's Play Cricket system? MS referred question to JB, who confirmed that this interface had been fully operational since start of 2017 season.
- **TVCL16 training for new clubs:**
- VD pointed out that new clubs would need to get up to speed with TVCL16 website before start of 2018 season. MS said that JB was already chasing new clubs to set up their player databases and added that training sessions would be organised for the spring. (MS



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also commented that these sessions would be open to other clubs as well, for instance, any new captains for 2018.)

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



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Hon. Secretary's Report

The 2017 season was mostly dry and sunny apart from two or three weeks of wet weather in late July which seemed to put everything on hold just as things were coming nicely to the boil. Wokingham were our champions for 2017 and we wish them every success in the Home Counties Premier League next season. The outstanding team performance of the year came from NPL who won every match that they played in Division 4a. Our other divisional champions were North Maidenhead (2a), Slough 2 (2b), Wokingham 2 (3a), Amersham 2 (3b), Wooburn Narkovians (4b), Hillingdon Manor (5a), Boyne Hill 2 (5b), Boyne Hill 3 (6a), Sonning 2 (6b), Theale & Tilehurst 2 (7a), Farnham Royal 2 (7b), Theale & Tilehurst 3 (8a), Slough 5 (8b), Wargrave 3 (9a) and Farnham Common 3 (9b). Congratulations to all our divisional champions, and to the other teams who also gained promotion, and bad luck to those who just missed out or got relegated – there is always next season!

Last winter the TVCL began an expansion process. Sixteen clubs applied to join as new full members. Each application was considered in detail. After due process had been followed, one existing associate member club, Ickenham, and six other clubs, Binfield, Bradfield, Sulhamstead, Taplow, White Waltham and Wraysbury, were nominated and elected as new full members at an SGM in April. We welcome them all and wish them every success in the TVCL competition in the years to come. At the same time, two current full member clubs, British Airways and Teddington Town, resigned their membership of the TVCL at the end of the season. We wish them both every success for the future.

Three member clubs felt obliged to withdraw teams from the 2017 competition: Marlow Park 1 from Division 3b just before the season started; and Yateley 2 from Division 3a and Windsor 3 from Division 5b some weeks after the season had started. All three clubs experienced a sudden and sharp decline in player numbers, and in each case it was mainly players from their higher XIs who either left the club, retired or were unavailable for other reasons. The TVCL management committee was placed in an invidious position by these events: to either force these teams to continue when they were palpably too weak to do so leading to mismatches; or to allow them to withdraw at the cost of the integrity of our ten team divisions. It was a 'no win' situation and we decided that the latter approach was the lesser of two evils. There is a proposal to this year's AGM which addresses this dilemma. .

There was also a serious problem in 2017 with forfeitures in the lower levels. This too has presented a major headache for the management committee. The decline in player participation numbers is a major concern for both the TVCL and the wider game. On the one hand, we do not wish to discourage member clubs from entering teams and trying to get more people playing our great game; however, on the other, we have a responsibility to all the teams who enter our competition to give them a full list of fixtures, so there is a need to discourage member clubs from entering teams when they do not have the numbers and then letting down opponents and compromising the integrity of our competitions by forfeiting. Again and as above, there are proposals to this year's AGM to address this issue.



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Incorporating the new clubs into our existing structure, and dealing with member clubs withdrawing lower XIs (see below) and resigning from the TVCL, meant that putting together the 2018 structure was a major task for the development team. As it transpires, with two clubs resigning and others deciding to withdraw lower XIs set against fifteen new teams coming in from the expansion, we have ended up with a very similar number of teams in our competition to last season – and the same number of divisions, seventeen from 1 down to 9a and 9b. It is inevitable that there will be some oddities in 2018: some teams will prove stronger than anticipated and others weaker. However, we hope that things will settle down quickly and that the new structure will provide the competitive divisions that we have become accustomed to in the past in the TVCL competition.

We continue to work closely with the other leagues in the HCPCL region; we are all one 'cricket family' and it makes no sense for the leagues within our geographical area to operate in isolation. One of the initiatives that we have been working on is to create a single aspirational pathway for all the clubs in the HCPCL 'pyramid'. Again, there is a proposal to this year's AGM to mandate the management committee to create a '1st XI team-based' promotion/relegation arrangement, with strict checks on ground and facility standards, with the other leagues in the pyramid (noting that we already have such an agreement with the HCPCL). We have written a detailed rationale for this proposal, which is attached to the AGM notice, and we hope that our member clubs will support this initiative.

The data from the annual ECB player survey and other anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a strong demand, from younger players – especially - to play the win/lose format. We are therefore offering proposals at this year's AGM to extend the split format which we have in Levels 1 and 2 all the way down to Level 7, and to introduce straight 40/40 win/lose cricket in Levels 8 and 9. There are well-established arguments for and against win/lose cricket and there is no need for me to repeat them here. We leave this issue to our member clubs to discuss and vote as they see fit.

The Representative XI had a quiet season in 2017 with an early exit in the Sovereign Trophy and our annual match against the Cherwell League rained off. We did however play a game against Bagshot in July to celebrate their 150th anniversary and have a game already arranged for next season against one of our younger members - Purley-on-Thames, who will be celebrating their 50th anniversary next year.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the management committee and various sub-committees of the TVCL during the last year. It is always difficult to single out individuals, but Phil Wise of Eversley, who has managed the expansion with such diligence and enthusiasm, and his two loyal lieutenants, Tom Mellor of Boyne Hill and Jeff Sheldon of Kidmore End, who together did a lot of the pre-season leg work visiting and inspecting grounds, have made an exceptional contribution to our league this year.

Matthew Stevenson