

Sevenoaks & District Bat & Trap League Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2006

Held at the Chequers Inn, Heaverham on Monday 3rd April 2006, 8:00 p.m.

Committee present: Mike Curd – Chairman
Keith Russell – Treasurer

Teams represented: Blue Anchor
Bull's Head
Chequers 4ths
Chequers A
Chequers B
Crown Knockholt A
Crown Knockholt B
Crown Seal A
Crown Seal B
Gamecock
George & Dragon
Heaverham Hackers
Old Jail
Rising Sun
Rose & Crown A
Rose & Crown B
Stanhope Arms A
Stanhope Arms B
White Rock

Apologies were received from the Bull and the Blacksmiths Arms

1. Registration

Registration forms and subscriptions were received from 19 teams. With the Bull and the Blacksmiths Arms having confirmed their intention to enter a team each, the Chairman announced that for the 2006 season three divisions would be created.

The meeting proper was opened by the Chairman at 20.15

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the last AGM, held on 8th November 2004 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

2005 saw 2 new teams - The Bull Brasted B and the George and Dragon Wrotham, who both completed the season successfully. This brought the league to 20 teams, the maximum for a 2-division league.

After comments that fixtures for the 2004 season were not balanced between home and away matches an effort was made for 2005 to have matches scheduled in a more even manner. Hopefully this worked out well although, due to some venues having 2 teams there will never be the ability to schedule home/away/home etc.

Again, a reminder that matches must start promptly at 8.30.

Administration this year was done solely by email and the website which seems to suit everybody. Rankings and fixtures can be downloaded whenever needed and will always be up-to-date. The website has been redesigned for 2006 which should make it faster and easier to use. There are some events which have no photographs so any contributions would be gratefully received

One comment regarding the website was that contact details were available for anybody to read. Originally all information including email addresses was freely available. When I took over I decided that it was best to hide email addresses from public view but that all other info was not really important to hide. This has now been changed and contact information is only available after logging in.

Thank you to Joy and Bob and everyone at the Rose & Crown Halstead for hosting the One-Day Event, 16 teams took part - up on last year's 13 teams. Congratulations to the Cup winners The Rose & Crown A and the Plate winners The Crown Seal B.

Finals day was, as ever, a lengthy affair. In the future it may be necessary to play the doubles and trebles at a different time, or have 2 venues.

A big thank you to Peter Crowther for once again organising the presentation evening. We sold 167 tickets making it the busiest event ever. It has been requested that more time is given to the presentation of trophies, whilst most teams are perhaps more interested in the bar and buffet, it is agreed that a happy medium needs to be sought.

Again there were complaints of unsporting behaviour, particularly by one team. I would like to stress that any indiscretions this year will result in suspension or ejection from the league.

5. Financial Report

Keith Russell went through the accounts for the 2005 season, noting that even with greater expenses than last year we still had a surplus of just over £20 on the year making the balance in the account £1,871.25.

Keith pointed out that, thanks to Peter Crowther's organisation and diligence, the presentation evening is largely self-funding. It does however need to be paid for in advance thus the need to keep the account balance at roughly this level.

6. Election of the Committee

Current committee are:

Mike Curd – Chairman/General Secretary (willing to stand)
Keith Russell – Treasurer (willing to stand)
Peter Crowther (willing to stand)

There were no other nominations and the floor unanimously approved the current committee for another year.

7. Subscriptions

Will be kept at £30 per team, reduced to £25 on attending next year's AGM.

8. Rule changes

The Rose & Crown asked for clarification on **rule 12**:

“A batsman striking the ball more than 7 feet high at the bowler's end between the posts is out.”

After much discussion it was agreed that this rule is impossible to enforce. Given that rule 11 states the ball must touch the ground before passing the posts, rule 12 seems to be unnecessary.

A vote was taken and the floor agreed that rule 12 would no longer apply.

Rule 39:

“Alterations or additions to these rules can only be made at the Annual General Meeting.”

The chairman wished to change this rule to allow modification to other rules during the course of the season. He stated that there have been situations in the past couple of years where oddities have come to light, which could have been sorted out more easily and fairly had there been scope to clarify or alter rules. It was stressed that rules would only be changed after consultation with each team captain and the committee.

The following proposed change was put to the floor and approved:

*“Alterations or additions to these rules can only be made:
(i) with the approval of a majority of team captains and the committee
(ii) at the Annual General Meeting.”*

Rule 21 (2nd paragraph):

“Should there be a tie at the end of the season for league places, which affect winners etc., the winner will be the team with the most wins in the season. If this is the same the winner will be the team who beat the other home and or away during the season collecting more points for those matches. If this is the same there will be a play off or the title will be shared. This is the case unless otherwise agreed between the two Captains.”

The Crown Knockholt suggested that, should there be a tie for points at the end of the season and both teams had won the same amount of matches; a play-off would be a fairer way of deciding an outcome.

This was put to the floor and agreed. Rule 21 now reads:

“Should there be a tie at the end of the season for league places, which affect winners etc., the winner will be the team with the most wins in the season. If this is the same there will be a play off or the title will be shared. This is the case unless otherwise agreed between the two Captains.”

Rule 24:

“Matches must commence by 8.30pm on the day of the fixture. If both captains agree that a match is unplayable due to the weather, they must rearrange the fixture and inform the Secretary. Matches may not be cancelled for any other reason; if a team cannot make a fixture then 3 points are awarded to the team who were ready to play. All rearranged games must be played by Finals Day.”

It was suggested that a team who were let down by their opposition should be awarded 4 points instead of the current 3. A team could potentially gain a favourable advantage by not turning up to a match, thereby giving their opponents only 3 points rather than a potential 4.

The proposal was put to the floor but not carried. Rule 24 stands.

9. Any other business

- Simon Cuffe from the George & Dragon proposed that the awards for most runs and most wickets should be run over the course of the season, rather than being given for a single match.

Lengthy discussions followed on how this could be achieved and whether each team captain would be willing to keep the necessary records. Eventually

Keith Russell offered a suggestion that team captains could nominate one of their opposition players as 'player of the match'. This was greeted with much approval from the floor.

The format for such an award will be as follows:

For each league match team captains will choose an opposition player they feel deserves the title 'Player of the Match'. They will not disclose this to anyone except the Secretary when entering their scores. The Secretary will keep a record of all nominations and an award will duly be given for 'Player of the Season'. There will be one award per division.

- As the presentation evening is becoming larger and larger, Peter Crowther has requested help in arranging this event.

Lynsey Ebdy from the White Rock kindly offered to help with the presentation evening.

Being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.10