*Minutes of a Steering Committee Meeting held on 12 September 2022 at Diss CC Rectory Meadow, Diss IP22 4HA, starting at 19:30*

Present: President, Mervyn Mann; Chair, Andy Gregory; Vice-Chair Ian Parkin; Secretary, Joe Perry; Treasurer, Mike Banham

The Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting held 1 August 2022 was circulated on 30 August 2022. There were no matters arising.

1. Treasurer’s report plus match fees for 2023 (MB)

The Treasurer, MB, reported that our current balance was £5059.82. MB had about £1300 match fees to collect and said he would appreciate a message from either Chairman or President to members to pay up quickly after the final demand, due soon. We owe about £1275 for ground hire. Only Fakenham have charged more than the £50 agreed as the limit for 2022. It was discussed that many grounds will be charging more than £50 next year. MB will ask grounds what they will charge next year, but we should prepare for £60 hire next year as our new upper limit. Match fees may well therefore rise next year. Umpires cost is currently £50 and scorers £30; we have already paid Umpires £1600 & selected scorers £570. Probably teas will not come back next year. We need to break down exactly where our match fees go. Defibs will not cost anything over the next three years. We have yet to pay minibus expenses of £370. Our projected end of season balance is about £3600. The 100 Club lottery has provided £605 for first 5 months with 5 more to come. We have is stock over 12 match balls but need to audit what captains still have – having lost 17 out of 74 planned fixtures there should be surplus balls. We hold stock of 3 caps of 100+; 10 of 50; and 18 of normal; we got quite a number free with last delivery.

2. Membership report (JP)

We now have 129 members; 56 aged 50-59 at start of next season; 50 aged 60-69; 23 aged 70 and over.

3. Review of Season 2022

The Chair reported that the O50s 1st XI did as well as could be expected, but as a small county we probably have not got the quality of players. The O50s 2nd XI did very well – they fulfilled all their fixtures and got through to the cup. They were helped occasionally by using of 1st team players. The O60s 1sts did as well as could be expected with the quality of players available. The O60s 2nd XI also did OK, but had to use O70s players. The O70s should have done slightly better than they did,’ they threw games away from potentially winning positions. The O60s/O70s friendly Nomads team was a successful initiative; they benefitted with help from a lot of ‘better’ players. A game a month was about right. Other friendly games went well.

4. Initial discussion of Captains for 2023.

It was agreed to run the following past the full Committee prior to the AGM: O50s 1st XI – Neil Irons; O50s 2nd XI - Roger Carpenter; O60s 1st XI - Graham Taylor (but Robin Yates was mentioned strongly); O60s 2nd XI - Chris Palmer; Nomads 60s/70s - Mike Banham; O70s - Ian Parkin. Suggest we should not nominate an O70s 2nd XI (ladies) captain. AG will speak to all potential candidates plus Robin Yates.

5. Development plan

5.1 Quality of Players

It was agreed that first XIs were suffering from a dearth of high quality players for example with Minor Counties or EAPL experience. It was agreed to target recruitment through umpires, focussing on better clubs. Previous minor counties players have not played for Seniors. ISP will ask Alliance and EAPL for a list of O50s.

5.2 Structure of teams (number of teams, in what leagues, friendlies, etc.)

Nomads will play, but only close to home and will leave it late to arrange fixtures. O50s 2nd need our support in arguing against many games scheduled consecutively away. ISP will talk to Ted Ellis about need for fixtures closer geographically (venues such as Harrogate are unacceptable). After discussion it was agreed unanimously that there was no case for an O70s mens 2nd XI.

5.3 Committee Meetings

It was agreed to schedule six Steering Committee meetings plus a further four full Committee meetings. The latter would take place (i) after AGM; (ii) just prior to start of season; (iii) mid-season; (iv) end season prior to AGM.

5.4 Communication and flow of information

It was agreed that captains especially need to communicate better with each other. JNP agreed to put team selection announcements onto the Club website as soon as they are received in 2023.

5.5 Selection policy

ISP thinks O50s selection could be coordinated by the President. Will need good communication between CP and ISP next year.

5.6 Future sponsorship

Need to explore idea of sponsorship by Coop Funeral Directors. Need to get input from Neil Irons at next Committee meeting before the AGM.

6. Events outside cricket (Annual Dinner, President’s day, Golf day)

Annual dinner OK – it was suggested that NI asks for funding for an award from our current sponsors. MB agreed to source an O50s 2nds shield/cup. Golf Day only will be planned for 2023 if a member comes forward to organise. Date for President’s day to be the May/June bank holiday Monday.

7. Fixtures booklet

AG had circulated a draft which was well received. It was suggested that it be printed to go in clubs in County, for NCB and for Committee members. AG to edit and perhaps ask GRS to print? Our members to access via electronic media (website, PlayCricket, etc.)

8. 100 Club

MB has no control of accounts, but it is being run well.

9. Draft changes to Constitution

It was agreed to circulate draft and explanatory introduction to full Committee.

10. Arrangements for AGM

Venue was agreed to be Sprowston if we can get it. JNP agreed to take this forward.

11. National Management Committee issues (JP)

It was agreed that Chris Swadkin was doing a good job as new Chair. It was recognised with disappointment that there seemed little prospect of the EAVL ladies making much progress within the Championship. It was agreed that Norfolk should reiterate that the balls are of poor quality and that we would be prepared to pay more. It was noted that temporary ECB PlayCricket accounts will be removed on 1 March 2023. JNP to ask Nobby to check again who has TMP membership.

12. Black Sheep CC

There was discussion of how best to prevent the Black Sheep Charity Club from ceasing activities. This needs further discussion at the next full Committee meeting. MB sees no problem if the accounts are kept separately. It would provide extra games on a Sunday. We need to think through the logistical issues. AG would be match manager. Would try to play lesser teams.

13. Any other business

(i) AG advised that our AGM should be in mid-late November, but that no steering committee meeting would be needed before this.

(ii) It was agreed unanimously to put forward the following players for Honorary Life Membership: John Lund, Martin Pearse, Richard Taylor.

(iii) Several players from Norfolk Seniors had been entered for NCB Volunteer Awards.

(iv) The next full Committee meeting should be in early November.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 22:00.