**Minutes of the Norfolk Seniors Committee Meeting**

**held Thursday 16th Dec. 18:00 by Zoom**

The Chairman welcomed those attending. Apologies were received from AK and AL.

The Minutes of the meeting held 20 October were approved; there were no matters arising or correspondence to report.

JP gave a brief report of what had occurred at the National AGM held in Horspath, Oxfordshire. In summary, Chris Swadkin, the incoming Chair, handled the meeting very well. He said that the organization needed to be more cooperative and collegiate, that he hoped it would continue to grow and that the NMC should focus on improving enjoyment of cricket, and that decisions should be communicated effectively. Regarding International cricket, the NMC will thoroughly overhaul the arrangements and sub-committee structures in 2022, but he saw little chance of actual internationals until 2023 at the earliest. The GDPR issue requires work. Also the NMC will look into the quality of the orange balls used and we are encouraged in future to send poor quality used balls to Len Attard for onward transmission to the manufacturers who have promised to study this. Several counties, including Norfolk, criticized the quality of the orange balls. In votes for Officers and Committee,  our nominee Andrew Gallant was not elected; all Officers and the vast majority of the Committee come from the south of the country. There is a new Secretary, Chris Dennis from Cornwall. Other members of the incoming Management Committee are: Bob Baxter – Treasurer (Middlesex), Len Attard, Geoff Beale, Richard Merriman, Dave Murphy and Derrick Sheldon. Regarding Competition Rules, there were many outcomes that Norfolk did not vote for. The main changes were: For O60s, only one player is now allowed per team at 59 years of age on the date of the match; for O70s just two players are now allowed per team at 69 years of age on the date of the match. Regarding eligibility, the old rule 4.3 was amended so that to qualify you must either live in or have been born in your county (or qualify under so-called Grandfather Rights) – this was a major blow to EAVL. Regarding Playing Regulations, Norfolk again raised the issue of the guidance to umpires on wides, but was advised that the NMC had already considered this and were happy with the wording.  Regarding structure for next year – there will be 33 O60s 1st XIs, 28 O60s 2nd XIs, same number of 70s 1st XIs as this year and six O70s 2nd XIs. Discussion of counties’ wishes from the questionnaire, showed O60s 1st XI would *probably* be in 5 groups (four groups of 6 and one of 7), but nothing was decided and the NMC would now deliberate and come back early in 2022.

Discussion was held on the need to coordinate selection between teams. It was agreed that captains should meet before selection was finalised for each week; the most efficient way was approved as a meeting between the four O50s and O60s captains and, separately, a meeting between the four O60s and O70s captains.

The changes at the National AGM and their effect on EAVL and our plans for the Norfolk O70s 2nd XI were discussed. KE expressed strong disappointment. The meeting concluded that poor coordination amongst the previous NMC had led to previous promises to EAVL to have been broken. The NMC have offered EAVL the opportunity to play under the Norfolk banner as thr Norfolk O70s 2nd XI in an informal friendly league with O70s 3rd teams from three other counties. EAVL will therefore have at least 12 fixtures in this season – on Wednesday. The understanding is that if things go well, EAVL will be invited to join the National Championships to play in a league structure in 2023. Meanwhile Derrick Sheldon will hold the registrations of EAVL players previously submitted on PlatyCricket as pending. AG agreed to write to Chris Swadkin in January to demand a plan of action to facilitate ladies cricket in the Championship.

**Action: AG**

It was agreed that the current ECB Anti-Discrimination Code should be accepted by our Club and by all players explicitly when they re-register. Also, at our next AGM it should be absorbed into our Constitution.

Indoor Nets for 2022 were discussed. GS reported that we had lost the February sessions, leaving two hours on each of the nights of Monday 10 January, Monday 17 January, Wednesday 16 March and Tuesday 22 March. MB’s suggestion of a charge of £5 per head to be collected on the night was agreed. Since there is a maximum allowed of six per net in each of four nets at any one time, it was agreed that the three first XI captains would email members to assess demand before making a final decision regarding allocations. GS will supply current covid rules to the above captains.

**Action NI, MC, GS**

It was agreed to hol President’s Day at the end of the season in September, with a morning start. Possible venues of Old Buckenham, Horsford and Rocklands were discussed. It is to be hoped that future seniors players of around 45+ years old will be invited to play.

Sponsorship was discussed. AG said that this was to be welcomed, but should be on a Club basis, not a team basis; MB and MC agreed with this. NI outlined initial discussions for possible sponsorship based on about £3K per season, to include the sponsors logo on reduced price kit to include polo shirt, training top and playing shirt. It will be possible for existing shirts to be returned to Masuri for sponsorship logos to be added. Players would purchase kit and then be reimbursed a proportion of the cost. Sponsors would be invited to Presidents Day and the end of season Dinner. Publicity would be offered on Play Cricket, Website, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and a possible Club yearbook. NI agreed to progress discussions.

**Action: NI**

Under Any Other Business the following items were discussed: O50s fixtures; O50s 2nd XI scorer for 2022; county groups for 2022; the responsibility of captains to seek pitches for a maximum of £50; defibrillator maintenance and purchase; a future Zoom meeting after Christmas 2021.

There being no further business AG declared the meeting closed at 19:18.