**Minutes of the Norfolk Seniors Committee Meeting at 20:30 hours on Wednesday 26 February 2020 at The Swan Inn, 1 The Street, Ringland, Norwich NR8 6AB**

*Present:*  A. Gregory (Chair), M. Banham, A. Broughton, A. King, A. Lithins, C. Palmer, J. Perry, G. Saunders, C. Yallop

*1 .Welcome*AG welcomed the committee members attending.

*2. Apologies:*P. Thomas

*3. Minutes of last Meeting*

The minutes of the 8 October 2019 meeting were read and signed by AG as a true record.

*4. Matters Arising not appearing later in the Agenda*

AG reported that the Twitter account had not yet been set up, but that he continued to work on this.

*5. Correspondence*

JP reported that 123.com had sent the club an invoice via Martin Pearse’s son. After email discussion this had been paid. We continue using Weebly for web-hosting and the website is updated regularly. We are fortunate that this web-hosting is free.

*6. Chairman’s Report*

AG reported that he had circulated cricket authorities in Norfolk giving our details and asking that we are well publicised. He was pleased at the good attendance at indoor nets.

7. *Treasurer’s Report*

MB reported that we had received 18 subscriptions so far and that more were expected. We had over £2000 in the bank. Expenses for nets were already covered. We had not yet paid our National Seniors subscription but would do so soon. The upper limit on match fees is currently £15 and MB recommended this continue. He reminded the Committee that we need to cover all of the on-the-day expenses; therefore he recommended a minimum of £11 for match fees. This was accepted unanuimously. CP mentioned O60s2nd XI do not want minibuses. MB commended CP’s financial records; the O60s2nd XI usually paid £14 for home and £12 for away matches. AL recommends £12 for the O50s, which would cover everything. There was discussion of possible charitable donations to the Black Sheep Cricket Club that works to aid disadvantaged children; AG will develop this.

MB suggested that 1 April should be the end of registration, but noted that Malta tour players need to be paid up by 27 March.

8. *Report from* *AGM of O60s and O70s National Championship*

JP reported that he attended the National AGM at Banbury in November 2019. JP told the AGM that the National Secretary’s minutes of the 2018 AGM were not a true record of what occurred at the meeting; correspondence on this matter continues. Many issues were voted on; the most important for Norfolk were:

A National Management Committee proposal to exclude Yorks Ridings was withdrawn.

Counties confirmed that they wanted a smaller number of larger groups,

O70s will continue to be 45 overs

Duckworth-Lewis to be adopted in all games.

(JP subsequently emailed all members concerning DLS system app and how to operate it.)

The winning team shall be awarded the maximum of 20 points for the win. The losing team will be awarded Batting and Bowling Bonus Points in line with the current Rule Structure.

Colin Samuels was not well received by the meeting and came across poorly. He withdrew his nomination for Chairman.

9. *2020* *Championship Fixtures and travel implications*

CP, GS and JP informed the meeting of recent developments. The O60s 2nd XI and O70s have been put into inappropriate groups, containing Northern counties and ignoring the fact that travel times from Norfolk to these places are much greater than other counties, for example Bedfordshire. We have complained vigorously. The National Committee did do a lot of work but could not agree on a proper alternative. By the time they had reached this decision it was too late for ameliorative action, as counties had started to arrange fixtures. We received an oral apology from the National Chairman, Clive Ricks. JP stated that he believed that there was a possibility that this was a deliberate action by the National Committee because of Norfolk’s links with the previous National Chairman. JP hoped that we have caused so much fuss that this mistake will not be repeated. CP stated that we have been lied to after a previous promise was broken that it would not happen again. Even worse, we now have Shropshire in our group, which will mean an away fixture in Wellington.

There followed discussion about the National Committee’s suggestion that counties far apart geographically should arrange to play at neutral grounds, in some other county, approximately half-way between the two counties. CP said that he would not agree to play at such neutral grounds for several reasons. First, because we would have no control over the state of the pitch; secondly, because we could not guarantee the quality of the facilities, changing rooms, showers, kitchen, etc; thirdly, because the cost and quality of teas would be outside of our control; and also because there would necessarily be a lack of incentive in the hosting ground to communicate with and provide adequate services to the competing sides. All agreed with this analysis. Obviously, if Norfolk got through to a final or semi-final of a cup or plate competition at the end of the season, the situation would be different, but the strong feeling was that this should be the exception rather than the rule. It was pointed out that what was required was a recognition early in the planning process that Norfolk should not be disadvantaged by being placed in an inappropriate group. A vote was taken on the proposal that our future policy would be that we would not routinely play on neutral grounds half-way between competing counties, and was agreed unanimously.

CP would like Colin Croucher, the new Eastern Region representative) to see if there is enough interest for an East Anglian 2nd XI league; Cambs would join and Suffolk may come in also. CP agreed to ask Colin Croucher if he can sound out the other counties.

AL thought that pulling out of the National Championship would be too strong an action. He suggested that we must let Regional Committee take it to the National Committee and emphasise it must never happen again, and let the threat be known. CY agreed with AL. GS felt that the National Committee has changed a lot and noted that there is unrest amongst the northern counties. MB stated nothing could be done until 2021; all were agreed. CP reports that Cambs noted ECB rules that the maximum distance should be no more than 150 miles.

AL reported all O50s fixtures sorted and AK reported all O60s 1st fixtures sorted.

**Action: The distance of travel issue needs to be brought up at Eastern Group meeting; to start this process, CP will talk to Colin Croucher.**

**Policy: The Committee voted unanimously to adopt a future policy not to routinely play on neutral grounds, half-way between competing counties.**

10. *2020* *Registration and Play-Cricket issues*

AL had noted that in previous years some of our players names had been manually entered (in black and not highlightable) on Play-Cricket scorecards. He gave an example. A Norfolk scorer informed him that this was done because sometimes players had not been registered on the Play-Cricket site. AL was concerned that Norfolk would be liable for penalties for playing unregistered players unless this process was stopped. JP reported that he had spoken to Nobby Cobb and John Ruddick. It appears that no one is in ‘overall charge’ or ‘has ultimate responsibility’ for ensuring that the database of registration of Club members matches that on PlayCricket. JP therefore offered to take responsibility for this for the 2020 season. He noted that Captains should be aware that Derrick Sheldon of the National Committee regularly checks the results and matches them to registration on PlayCricket – and that we cannot assume that we will be able to get away with playing unregistered players in our sides! For O50s we would need to register players onto the ECB PlayCricket site.

**Action: JP**

11. *100 Club*

GS reported that North Norfolk District Council have been slow in registering us with appropriate gaming legislation, for which the club needs approval. The bank account is set up.

12. *Friendly match coordination*

CY reported that arranged friendly matches are increasing in number and that captains have been excellent in arranging these. CY asked captains to keep an eye on other games on that day. It was agreed that our ambition should be to form an O50s 2nd XI, and this can best be done by encouraging more friendlies during the season. MB asked whether we can add a calendar onto our Weebly website. JP agreed to look into this. Also, AB agreed to add forthcoming friendlies to his weekly press reports.

**Action: JP and AB**

13. *Malta tour*

Harold van Zanten had reported that 13 Norfolk cricketers were going on this tour this year.

14. *Any other business*

This year the Australian tourists will go to Fakenham for a match. It was agreed that for 2021 we should try to get them to play at Old Buckenham, to celebrate an anniversary when the Australian test team appeared there. JNP agreed to liaise with Russell Talman over this.

**Action: JP**

JP agreed to put on our website that John Lund and GS have been selected for trials for consideration for the England O70 squad. JP reported that Martin Pearse had not been invited; AG feels we must see how selection develops. Outdoor nets this year would be on 14 and 16 April with a practice game on 23 April; all at Old Buckenham. It was agreed there was no need for any further meeting before the season; most business could be settled via email.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 21:45.