|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **MI Dental**  **Liverpool & District**  **Cricket Competition** |  |
|  | **The ECB Premier League in Lancashire** |  |
|  | [**www.lpoolcomp.co.uk**](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\Administrator\My%20Documents\Cricket%20June%202010\001%20ldcc%20post%20June%202010\1%20Minutes\12%202013%20Minutes\006%20Jun%2013\www.lpoolcomp.co.uk) |  |

**MID L&DCC End of Season 2016 Special General Meeting:**

**Sefton Park Cricket Club Tuesday 25th October 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Agenda**

**1.    Welcome.**

**2.    Apologies.**

1. *Previous 2016 meeting minutes at AGM*

**3.    Roll call of member clubs.**

**4.    Chairman’s opening remarks**

1. *JW: introductory presentation*
2. *Congratulations*
3. *Promotion / Relegation Sept 2016*
4. *Welcome to Prescot & Odyssey CC 1st and 2nd XIs in 2017 Farewell to Sutton CC*
5. *Dates for season 2017*
6. *Cancelled games*
7. *Discipline*
8. *Fraudulent use of players*
9. *Lack of umpires*
10. *Rep cricket 2016*
11. *U19s ECB T20 2016*

**5.    L&DCC Season 2016/17**

1. *Report from the Review Group re Cup Fixtures*

*FIXTURES 2017*

1. *ECB Cricket Unleashed*
2. *Conceded games*
3. *Payments to umpires*
4. *Fixtures 2017*
5. *Feeder League: Promotion / Relegation to Division 2 in 2016/ 2017*
6. *Developments in Lancashire*
7. *3rd XIs in brief – their AGM is to come*
8. *Fines 2016/ Club Accounts*
9. *Live update & Computers in 2017*
10. *Representative cricket 2016/17*
11. *Winter League 2016*

**6.    Club and Ground 2016/17.***-*

1. *C&G 2016 Inspections*
2. *Letters to all promoted clubs based on C&G 2016*
3. *Umpires marks & Captains Marks 2016*

**7.    MCUA 2016/17.**

**8.    PDP 2016/2017**

**9. Any other business.**

1. *Annual Dinner 2016 and 2017*

**10. Notices**

1. *EoS 3rd XI meeting Tues 8th Nov 2016 Sefton Park CC 7.30pm*
2. *AGM Tues 10th Jan Bootle CC 7.30pm*

**11. Close of meeting**

*Re-Check roll call: Attendees*

*Safe Journey Home*

**1.    Welcome.**

*7.30 pm* The Chair John Williams (JW) delayed the start of the meeting a little as there was heavy local traffic through the tunnels and on the M62 as Liverpool FC was playing at home this evening.

*7.36 pm* meeting commenced.

**2.    Apologies.**

1. Alan Bristow (Hon Treas)

Personal apologies were also received from Lytham, Ormskirk, Prestatyn, Southport and Birkdale, Wallasey and Widnes, such apologies were always accepted but club apologies could not be accepted under the terms of our Constitution 12.1.1 and the clubs would be fined for non-attendance if not represented.

Previous 2016 meeting minutes would be taken at the AGM as usual

**3.    Roll call of member clubs.**

End of Season SGM 2016 25th October 2016 Sefton Park CC

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **CRICKET CLUB** | Present  / absent |
| **1** | **AINSDALE** |  |
| **2** | **ALDER** |  |
| **3** | **BIRKENHEAD PARK** |  |
| **4** | **BOOTLE** |  |
| **5** | **BURSCOUGH** |  |
| **6** | **CALDY** |  |
| **7** | **COLWYN BAY** |  |
| **8** | **FLEETWOOD HESKETH** |  |
| **9** | **FORMBY** |  |
| **10** | **HIGHFIELD** |  |
| **11** | **HIGHTOWN ST MARYS** |  |
| **12** | **LEIGH** |  |
| **13** | **LIVERPOOL** |  |
| **14** | **LYTHAM** |  |
| **15** | **MAGHULL** |  |
| **16** | **NEW BRIGHTON** |  |
| **17** | **NEWTON le WILLOWS** |  |
| **18** | **NORTHERN** |  |
| **19** | **NORTHOP HALL** |  |
| **20** | **OLD XAVERIANS** |  |
| **21** | **ORMSKIRK** |  |
| **22** | **ORRELL RED TRIANGLE** |  |
| **23** | **PARKFIELD LISCARD** |  |
| **24** | **PRESTATYN** |  |
| **25** | **RAINFORD** |  |
| **26** | **RAINHILL** |  |
| **27** | **ST. HELENS TOWN** |  |
| **28** | **SEFTON PARK** |  |
| **29** | **SKELMERSDALE** |  |
| **30** | **SOUTHPORT AND BIRKDALE** |  |
| **31** | **SOUTHPORT TRINITY** |  |
| **32** | **SPRING VIEW** |  |
| **33** | **SUTTON** |  |
| **34** | **WALLASEY** |  |
| **35** | **WAVERTREE** |  |
| **36** | **WIGAN** |  |
|  |  |  |
| ***1*** | ***BIRCHFIELD PARK*** |  |
| ***2*** | ***BIRKENHEAD ST MARYS*** |  |
| ***3*** | ***GOODLASS*** |  |
| ***4*** | ***IRBY*** |  |
| ***5*** | ***MERSEYSIDE CULTURAL AND CRICKET*** |  |
| ***6*** | ***NORLEY HALL*** |  |
| ***7*** | ***PRESCOT & ODYSSEY*** |  |
| ***8*** | ***WIDNES*** |  |

**4.    Chairman’s opening remarks**

1. The Chair explained that, while we remembered in full all those connected to the L&DCC at the AGM, it was right that we remembered now both John Lonsdale from Sefton Park CC and Ronnie Cockbain from Bootle CC who had both passed away in the last few days. He asked the meeting to stand for a moment and to remember them.
2. The Chair welcomed Bobby Denning M/D of the LCB, Shaun Anders Coach/Education Officer at the LCB, Paul Edwards of the Liverpool Echo and Ray Rigby of the MCUA to the meeting.

The Chair also welcomed Prescot & Odyssey CC 1st and 2nd XIs who were newly promoted to the L&DCC now as full members in 2017. We bade farewell to Sutton CC who now joined the Southport & District Amateur Cricket League, we wished them well. Birkenhead St Marys had prospered in this league in 2016.

1. *JW: introductory presentation - Copies of this had been distributed*.

*Chairing the Liverpool Competition continues to be a privilege. On my travels with junior cricket throughout Lancashire and other counties I am regularly reminded of the high regard in which our League is held.*

*Congratulations to all the League and Cup winners in 2016. They have been appropriately rewarded at the Annual Dinner.*

*Congratulations to all the boys, girls and senior players who have gained representative, county, national and international honours – the list is far, far too big to mention.*

*Congratulations to our U12 and U18 Representative sides for winning their Lancashire County Competitions with thanks to Andy Grice, James Cole, Simon Sutcliffe and Andy Davies for coaching the teams. Thank you also to the clubs who kindly hosted games during the season, Old Xaverians, Liverpool, Formby, Hightown St Mary’s and New Brighton.*

*Thank you to our sponsors Med Imaging and MI Dental who, having originally committed to three years’ sponsorship then gave us a fourth year in 2016 – which will be their last. Their support has been much appreciated.*

*Thank you to the MCUA and all the umpires – we could not manage without them.*

*I also thank all members of the Cricket Committee who have been severely tested on a number of occasions this year and prove once again how important it is to have club officials on the Committee to help make decisions to run the League.*

*It is impossible to overstate the amount of work that is undertaken by my Management Committee colleagues. All of it is done to provide cricket for those who choose to play in the Comp. We do it as volunteers and always act to the best of our ability. I thank them all for what they do.*

*In 2016 two issues have taken a disproportionate amount of administrative and management time:  1. Problems agreeing dates and playing cup-ties within set timescales and 2. Playing of ineligible players, particularly in 2nd and 3rd X1’s together with anecdotal evidence of players playing under aliases. We will spend the next two months attempting to simplify the rules and regulations around both areas and bring proposals to the AGM.*

*Finally, this is a time of great change in the structure of League Cricket in Lancashire. As I have said before the Liverpool Competition has been way ahead of the game in establishing an effective ECB Premier League structure, providing the highest quality of league cricket in the County. We cannot stand alone however and must be prepared to join in the inevitable discussions that will seek to establish a county-wide Premier structure enabling the very best teams in the county to regularly compete against each other. Whenever they take place we must also ensure that we keep everyone informed and act in the best interests of all our 44 clubs.*

The Chair added Highfield to the list of clubs that had helped the Comp by staging representative games. He repeated his thanks to all, there would probably be more such games in 2017.

The Cricket Committee had been very helpful in 2016, it had worked hard. Scheduling Cup Fixtures had been very difficult.

The Chair had been in post now for five or six years, this had been his most satisfying season so far, antagonism towards M/C and between clubs had diminished. It had been a successful season with a lot of good cricket.

1. *Congratulations*

See 4.3

1. *Promotion / Relegation Sept 2016*

See 4.2 The matter was returned to. There was a meeting between the L&DCC and the S&D ACL 31/10/2016. Sutton would be contacted after this meeting. They remained as members of the L&DCC until the 31/12/2016.

1. *Welcome to Prescot & Odyssey CC 1st and 2nd XIs in 2017 Farewell to Sutton CC*

See 4.2

1. *Dates for season 2017*
2. 15th April should be the start date relative to 2016. This was Easter Saturday. Delaying the start by a week to the 22nd and finishing on Sunday 24th Sept 2017 was suggested by M/C. If we did that we would need to start at 11.30 am on Saturday 23rd Sept.
3. There were other options. The Review Group <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management_bulletins.php?id=2699> would perhaps be looking at this too. Comments were invited.
4. On a show of hands no one was in favour of starting on Easter Saturday.
5. Bootle asked if we could we play Cup games on Sat/Sun/Mon of Easter week end? This would need an AGM proposal in respect of Bank Holidays the comp having recently voted in 2015 overwhelmingly not to use them – with the exception of New Brighton and Wallasey as per AGM 2016.
6. Skelmersdale asked if games could be at the discretion of clubs. The answer was no, this had been at the heart of so much of the difficulty with Cup games in 2016.
7. Wigan felt that using the 23rd Sept was not that different to the way the season was two or three years ago, it had worked then, it was unlikely to be a problem in 2017.
8. Old Xaverians asked about dual use grounds like their club and Caldy on the 23rd Sept. The Chair assured that the usual 1st XI away, rearrange your 2nd XIs requests would be allowed if requested before 30th November.
9. The Chair summarised without dissent; clubs preferred starting on the 22nd April 2017. We intended to start with league fixtures, there would be a Cup Saturday two or three weeks after that.
10. The position of Cat 3 players was queried. The Chair replied that M/C intended to make a proposal to AGM 2017 to allow them to be available to play in all Cup rounds including the first round. The Review Group was thought to have one from Craig Jenkins for premier division clubs to play in Cup Competitions from the second round onwards, another was to seed clubs. These would require proposals to AGM 2017. Tournaments might be merged, a whole raft of suggestions had been made.
11. The Chair made clear that the primary aim of the Review Group was to make Cup Competitions simpler.
12. *Cancelled games*

EH would deal with these under 5.3.

1. *Discipline*

Richard McCullagh would be producing a season 2016 report to AGM 2017 as usual this would be published and circulated.

There had been fewer incidents this season, this had been one of our best seasons over the last five or six years.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2016 | 2015 |
| Three Hearings  Nine Club Sanctions  Nine Accumulated Bad Behaviour Sanctions | Five Hearings  Ten Club Sanctions  Sixteen Accumulated Bad Behaviour Sanctions |

Discipline had been better, the cooperation from captains excellent.

JW felt that this compared well with other leagues.

Bobby Denning agreed, this was pretty good; LCB did not attempt to collate such data across the various leagues in Lancashire.

1. *Fraudulent use of players*

This was noted and would be taken later in the meeting.

1. *Lack of umpires*

This was also noted and would be taken later in the meeting. EH commented that we were having two training sessions for umpires this winter

1. *Rep cricket 2016*

The number of games had increased again this season and the programme had been very successful, we had won the LCB U12s and the U18s. This gave young players another and proper pathway in elite cricket.

1. *U19s ECB T20 2016*

ECB was keen on this competition, it had been a success across the country particularly so in Lancashire. 2016 was its second year. It was disappointing that some of our clubs had failed to play any fixtures at all in their particular geographic area. There had been communication difficulties and lessons had been learned but it was still disappointing. U19s T20 was here to stay. There would be a proposal to AGM 2017 that all premier division clubs must take part in future – rather like the requirement that they must take part in the full All-Age ECB T20.

Entry into the LCB version would not be mandatory for Cheshire clubs who could choose the Cheshire version if they wanted to and the Welsh clubs could enter the North Wales version.

**5.    L&DCC Season 2016/17**

1. *Report from the Review Group re Cup Fixtures*

There was no report yet- see 4.7.9, the group was to meet first on the 27th October.

*FIXTURES 2017*

See 4.7

1. *ECB*

*5.2.1* *Cricket Unleashed*

The Hon Sec (CW) was introduced. He apologised for there being no copies of the presentation, this had been the intention. He outlined briefly Cricket Unleashed as a new and overarching strategy for cricket from ECB – see <http://cricketunleashed.com/>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C:\Users\Chris\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCacheContent.Word\cricket unleashed.png | This slide summarised a basic outline of the strategy. We would hear more of this in due course in 2017.CW ran through the contents of the slide.  *5.2.2 National Cricket Playing Survey 2016*  We had received a summary of the L&DCC responses to the league specific questions that had been in this survey. In outline:  205 people had responded  178 Core 87% /23 Occasional 11% /4 Cameo 2%  The age profile was a symmetrical curve with a dip in the middle.   1. *New (earlier) start times 2016?*   Better 19% Wasn’t aware 26% No impact 50% Worse 5%   1. *New (later) end times 2016?*   Better 23% Wasn’t aware 13% No impact 41% Worse 23%   1. *Duckworth Lewis in Cup Competitions?*   Happy 45% Neither 19% Unhappy 36%   1. *Short format games on Sunday?*   Happy 53% Neither 25% Unhappy 22% |
| *5.2.3 ECB/LCB L&DCC Memoranda of Understanding*  We are a premier league, these MoUs remained in place and worked really well for L&DCC/LCB. LCB/L&DCC met three times a year, MoUs mapped out what we were trying to do.    Bobby Denning spoke briefly to agree that the LCB/L&DCC MoU worked well. Everything at this meeting reflected aspects of the MoU in place and in action. No Leagues in Lancashire have an MOU except ourselves and the Northern League (the Northern league being a partly accredited Premier League. The Northern League does not use the MOU to the same extent.) | |

The Chair agreed, MoUs were like Business Plans. The workload in league administration was high, MoUs helped us plan what we were doing. He thanked the Hon Sec for looking after aspects of the MoU. This drew a round of applause.

1. *Fines and Conceded games*

The Chair introduced the President Eric Hadfield who operated the spreadsheet detailing the L&DCC annual fines. About half of our member clubs had asked for a breakdown of their fines. There had been more that 1000 fines in 2016, there had been 6 errors

The 2015/16 fines total has exceeded the previous year's total by more than £700 . Whether it was player fatigue or complacency the fines almost doubled in the last two months of the season to reach a total of £7,900.  Twelve clubs managed to collect fines totalling over £250 and two even got to £550 and beyond.

The table below shows how these 12 clubs compared.

**Club** **Total Fine**

Maghull                  £600.00

Ainsdale                 £555.00

Prestatyn                £375.00

Liverpool                £335.00

B/head Park           £330.00

Formby                   £315.00

Wigan                     £310.00

N Brighton             £305.00

Alder                       £280.00

Ormskirk                £275.00

F/wood H               £255.00

Northern                 £255.00

Play-Cricket related fines totalled £1890, late or incomplete MRFs £1175, captains' responsibility for paying and reporting on umpires £1175, conceded matches £1170, non-attendance at General Meetings £875, 2nd XI umpires/scorers missing £640 and player-eligibility £570.  There were also fines for late return of trophies and problems in communications with MCUA etc.

*Conceded games*

*2nd XI*

Three league matches and five KO matches were conceded - £400 total fine. EH did not recall league matches being conceded previously and those conceded were in the Premier and Division 1.

*3rd XI*

Twelve Saturday matches were conceded by Premier (two) and Division 1 (ten) plus five Mike Leddy and two Embee fixtures - £440 total fine.

A total of 10 Sunday matches was lost by Div 1 NE (5) and Div 1 SW (5) and two teams were withdrawn from their division for conceding four matches. A total fine of £370.

1. *Payments to and reports on umpires*

1st XI captains were responsible for almost £1200 of fines for their clubs. Arranging for umpires to be paid before the match (Clause 8.1.2) incurred £575 and failing to submit reports on umpires (Clause 8.1.13) led to £600 in fines. Clubs were warned repeatedly about the need for reports by Wednesday and we amended the rule at the 2016 AGM. The intention of summoning clubs whose captain missed three deadlines was added to the rule. In the event seven clubs should have been called but the committee decided this was too much to deal with and warned them instead. The rule will be reconsidered for 2017.

The Chair thanked EH for his work in collating this information.

M/C felt that these fines were horrendous, they might help to run the league and to fund the Player Development Programme and to give Improvement Grants to clubs but M/C was very concerned by these fines. They showed that the rules and regulations of the L&DCC were not being followed by several clubs. These were not M/C’s regulations, they were regulations that all member clubs had discussed and voted on, they were the L&DCC’s regulations. M/C applied the regulations on behalf of all the clubs.

This was a serious issue. Instead of just increasing the fines – we the L&DCC had actually reduced them in the last three years – there would now probably be a proposal to AGM 2017 that, in the criteria for promotion and relegation between divisions, a club had to have been following the regulations to a certain level (perhaps the average level?) before promotion was allowed or a club could be relegated.

As part of M/C making clear how seriously it took this issue of fines and non-adherence to regulations, the three worst performing clubs over the last three years were to be called in to appear before M/C to give an account of themselves. Why should clubs who repeatedly failed to follow our regulations play in our leagues when others like Sutton that do adhere to them, get relegated?

Many clubs did not attend L&DCC AGM and SGM meetings, fourteen had not attended this one. The Hon Sec was asked to check which clubs had not attended the last three such meetings, these clubs would also be called in to give an account of themselves.

Skelmersdale asked that it be checked that they have paid all their fines. EH explained that the fines were balanced off in the Annual Financial Statement made to each individual club against any monies paid by the L&DCC to the club from the ECB premier league funds , the Reader Ball sponsorship if relevant, prize moneys received etc. Those statements had been issued to club treasurers at the end of September. It was the responsibility of club representatives to check within their club that any negative balance had been paid. Most clubs had a positive balance with the L&DCC.

1. *Fixtures 2017*

EH requested that, as usual, clubs notify him as soon as possible of events in 2017 that would require the 1st XI to be scheduled to play away when the fixtures were compiled and in any case by the 30th November 2016. There would be a posting on this and this would also be e-circulated and put on Twitter. Not all requests could always be guaranteed but there was zero chance of them being delivered if they were made after the 30th November. Fixtures needed to be written.

Colwyn Bay were concerned about County Cricket Club fixtures. EH made clear that M/C knew the dates on which such fixtures were released and reassured that making provision for these remained a given as far as M/C was concerned. We had consulted the clubs at length on this and other fixture related issues last year, nothing had changed.

The Chair together with EH went on to explain that, in view of difficulties experienced in 2016, the following proposal or something very similar to it would be put to AGM 2017. Of particular relevance to this meeting was the requirement for requests to be submitted before November 30th.

‘Requests for fixture scheduling on specific dates when a club's main ground is unavailable, e.g. County matches, other sports, fund raising events etc., may be made to the Fixture Secretary.  All such requests are to be submitted before the 30th November.  Every effort will be made to accommodate all requests by scheduling 1st XI fixtures to be played away but this cannot be guaranteed.  Corresponding 2nd XI fixtures, or any affecting 3rd XIs, which need to be rearranged will be indicated on the fixture lists as 'TBA'.  The home team is responsible for agreeing an alternative date/venue for rearranged fixtures and such agreement must be achieved before 31st May.  Failure to meet this deadline will result in the match being conceded by the home team.’

1. *Feeder League: Promotion / Relegation to Division 2 in 2016/ 2017*

This would operate in the same way in 2017. One up, one down seemed to work with both leagues.

1. *Developments in Lancashire*

The Chair made clear that the L&DCC continued to have no plans to change its prem/div1/ div2 format but, like several other leagues, it continued to stand ready to help LCB if a club was left homeless as a result of continued interleague disputes in the north of the county. The situation between the leagues did seem better. The latest LCB blog was well worth reading i.e.

[**http://www.lancashirecricket.co.uk/lcb/index.php?option=com\_k2&view=item&id=935:current-position-of-league-cricket-in-the-county&Itemid=154**](http://www.lancashirecricket.co.uk/lcb/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=935:current-position-of-league-cricket-in-the-county&Itemid=154)

Bobby Denning outlined the current position in the county. LCB was happy with the situation in what LCB refer to as “the Merseyside region” (accepting of course the make- up of clubs isn’t all from the Merseyside region).  The set-up of the L&DCC i.e. as a full ECB premier league was very different to that of most other leagues in Lancashire. There were still developments going on in the rest of the county. In the Greater Manchester region, the Central Lancs League had merged with the Saddleworth League to form the Pennine League and the two Bolton leagues had merged. There is also a new League called the Greater Manchester Cricket League. In the Lancashire region  it looks like the Northern League were coming to some understanding with the Palace Shield. For the best interest of cricket in the region, the LCB would like the Ribblesdale League to feed into the Lancashire League.

Local decisions were best, a period of stability would be helpful, attempts at further big expansions would be unhelpful as they would be detrimental to other leagues.

LCB would look to facilitate elite divisions in other leagues as well as in the L&DCC in the future. It has been suggested that the Greater Manchester Cricket League is a Premier League. BD confirmed this was not currently the case.

The Chair repeated that the L&DCC had no plans to change its structure and welcomed other such divisions in Lancashire.

1. *3rd XIs in brief*

The 3rd XI EoS SGM was to come on the 8th November again here at Sefton Park. Eddie Shiff the 3rd XI coordinator spoke briefly, he had little to add to that already discussed and reserved his 3rd XI presentation for that occasion.

1. *Fines 2016 / Club Accounts / Sponsorship*
2. *Report from Alan Bristow: Hon Treas*

Clubs had been paid over £14,000 at the end of this season. This comprised ECB money, Reader ball sponsorship and prize money. In addition seven clubs had received £3450 in Club Improvement Grants (“CIGs”.

Reader Cricket Balls provided sponsorship for the use of their cricket balls and this year that subsidy worked out at £3.50 per ball. (This did not of course apply to clubs using Dukes cricket balls). This money had also been paid to clubs.

1. Fines in 2016 were close to a total of £8,000; this was an increase of £1,000 on 2015 and very disappointing.

9 clubs still owe the League money and it would be appreciated if this could be paid as soon as possible.

The League accounts are now with the external auditors and a more detailed report will be made at the AGM in January 2017, the L&DCC finances were in pretty good shape.

1. The Chair added that we would honour our commitment of £5,000 to the Club Improvement Grants over a two year period, i.e. the balance of £1,500 would be disbursed in £2017. We had decided to disburse over half of the allocation in the first year as there had been so many very good applications in 2016.
2. *Sponsorship 2017*

The Chair continued. The MIDental sponsorship was coming to an end in 2017. We were very grateful to them, they had been very good sponsors*.*

The L&DCC was at an advanced stage with a new sponsor. The potential new sponsor was a large well known and locally based company.

1. *Live Update & TCS in 2017 and Registration matters*

The Chair introduced the 1st and 2nd XIs Fixtures Secretary Rob Durand (RD).

*5.10.1* *Live Update & TCS* RD described in detail that the future of TCS and Live Scores seemed uncertain. The company had been taken over by CricHQ who seemed to have an agenda involving setting themselves up as a rival to play-cricket. ECB could not tolerate this. ECB had informed that they were developing an in house play-cricket alternative. This may not be ready in 2017. We would need to soldier on with what we had in 2017 if that was the case.

# *5.10.2 Registration matters.* Following the posting <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management_bulletins.php?id=2718> on the removal of category 3 Registrations 2016, RD had followed this up with emails to every club listing their current Cat 3 players. Clubs needed to remove these as their registrations had automatically lapsed. If they were not removed by the 30th November the L&DCC would do so. Clubs needed to check for themselves as players might now be Cat 3 (Exempt) 18-48 months resident or Cat 1(b) 48> months resident and clubs had attend to any re-registrations themselves.

*5.10.3 Visas* The Chair referred to the recent letter received from Paul Bedford, Head of Recreational Cricket and posted on the website and e-circulated to clubs. [**http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management\_bulletins.php?id=2688**](http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management_bulletins.php?id=2688) The statements here were a clear warning to clubs to be careful to use Standard Visas properly or risk serious personal consequences if they did not adhere to the terms of these Visas. The Home Office had made it much more difficult for sports players to come to the UK and then get paid for playing (cricket). Penalties were severe, amateur meant amateur, amateur and professional were tightly defined. Standard Visas could not be used in lieu of Cat 5 Visas.

There was a big warning in this letter from Paul Bedford and clubs needed to understand it.

1. *Representative cricket 2016/17*

Covered under 4.12

1. *Winter League 2016*

RD reported that the 2016 programme has started at St Bede’s, there were 10 clubs participating.

There was no programme at St Margaret’s this year.

**6.    Club and Ground 2016/17.***-*

1. *C&G 2016 Inspections*

We had no C&G Chair. 13 assessment visits had been planned for 2016 and 11 of these were completed plus Prescot & Odyssey CC. Only Orrell Red Triangle and Wigan were missed in 2016 and will be added to the 2017 list with Birkenhead Park, Burscough, Formby, Northern, Ormskirk, Rainhill, St Helens Town, Sefton Park, Southport & Birkdale, Spring View and Wavertree. The 2016 Umpires marks will be added in the next few weeks and the completed scorecards for all clubs will then be entered on the website.

1. *Letters to all promoted clubs based on C&G 2016*

Letters were always sent to promoted clubs congratulating them on their success and outlining what they needed to do in the higher division in terms of Club & Ground based on the umpires card marks. The Hon Treas would be sending these.

1. *Umpires marks & Captains Marks 2016*

These had been posted on the website [**http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management\_bulletins.php?id=2709**](http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management_bulletins.php?id=2709)

Spirit Marks were up on 2015 which was pleasing, Pitch Marks were slightly down after a wet summer.

**7.    MCUA 2016/17.**

The Chair introduced Ray Rigby from the Merseyside Cricket Umpires Association.

RR commented that he had been in post for 14 or 15 years, he had been coming to three meetings like this every year for that length of time but he had never known the situation with the numbers of available umpires to be as bad as this year leading into next.

EH had slightly stolen some of his thunder earlier in the meeting over fining clubs when captains marks on umpires were not submitted on time but EH was right, we had had to collect the captains marks this year using an awful lot of cajoling. Kevin Wilson the LCB ACO Education Officer, collated the marks. KW rang/txtd to remind captains for the first half of the season and then stopped, only *then* did clubs start getting fined. The lateness of many of the marks had still raised £600 in fines!

Teaching on umpire training courses came from the ECB/LCB ACO. L&DCC and MCUA did not teach. The strength of the MCUA was that it was an independent association.

We had 51 active umpires in 2014, we had only 23 of them still active in 2016. We had lost 17 umpires in 2016 alone. In 2016 we trained 7 or 8 umpires at Bootle, all passed their L1 qualification. 4 came onto the MCUA panel, 2 went elsewhere we gained 2 umpires from other leagues. One was from Australia, Steve Fildes from Queensland, he was an outstanding umpire and was equivalent to one of our Minor Counties/County 2nd XI panel. In Australia they travelled huge distances to play and umpire games, they showed real dedication. Steve F had stood in a lot of LCB games too. He had to go home half way through the season as a result of family illness but hoped to return in 2017.

Last season we had 32 mostly Division 2 games with only 1 umpire, it was certain to be an even worse situation next season as a number of the current umpires had retired in 2016, RR gave a list. Others - such as Dave Jones and Hughie Evans - were reducing their commitments in 2017 and retiring at the end of 2017. A further pair could only operate on a part-time basis in 2017.The situation was critical. Single umpiring was creeping into Division 1. Without five umpires from other leagues on the last day of this season we would have been in deep, deep trouble.

We were running two training courses this winter to try to fill some of the gaps [**http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/news.php?id=2708**](http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/news.php?id=2708)

Course 1 was on **Sundays 6th /13th /20th November 2016 at New Brighton CC** from 09.30am to 16.30pm

Course 2 was on **Sundays 5th/12th /19th February 2016 at Bootle CC** again from 09.30am  to 16.30pm

If an umpire did their Level 1 course and then stood in six L&DCC games, the L&DCC refunded their cost of training – which was currently £50 . This fee paid for the booking of the club plus the books and resources that came with the course – Tom Smiths, copies of the Laws and all sorts of other bits and pieces.

RR was sick of banging his head on the wall over this. Getting more umpires was now down to the clubs, the appeal for them was on the website, sent round by email and was on Twitter and Facebook. He would be controversial. “Why should MCUA be bothered over this lack of umpires? It was not down to MCUA but we did care *because we were proud to serve*.”

Contact anyone! Any member of M/C or MCUA stood ready to help. Use the phone, send an email, a tweet a txt, anything – but do start the ball rolling. We needed the culture to change in clubs, we knew who in our team or club would make a good umpire. They needed to be encouraged but initially it had to come from the grass roots and peer pressure. Talk to each other in your clubs. Thoughtful looks were exchanged in the room.

The Chair thanked RR for all that he had done and continued to do. This drew a round of applause.

**8.    Player Development Programme (PDP) 2016/2017**

The Chair noted that the PDP was due to run in 2017 much as it had in previous years. The closing date for entries was the 31st Oct 2016 , applications were needed as soon as possible as Steve Critchley was going away This was set out fully in the website posting. See [**http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/news.php?id=2715**](http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/news.php?id=2715)It was also possible to ring the Chairman John Williams.

**9. Any other business.**

1. *Skelmersdale*

Referring to Cricket Unleashed and the level of fines Peter McCann asked if we could look at the format of games, he felt they were they were too long. We should look at limited overs in 2nd XI league games.

The Chair was aware that PMcC had made these suggestions before. The Chair asked him if he was to be part of the Review Group referred to at length earlier, this was the forum we had set up to look into exactly this sort of suggestion. PMcC said he was not a member. The Chair felt that was a pity and he should put his suggestions in writing to that committee.

PMcCann went on to ask if we were running Development Teams in 2017. The Chair made clear we were not, clubs did not seem now to want them. We had tried hard to run them in 2016 after similar requests last year. No games at all had been played in 2016 by the clubs that had expressed an interest last year. One of those clubs had preferred to play as a new team in competitive games in the L&DCC Sunday 3rd XI Division 1 structure.

1. *The possible extra half hour in 1st XI games*

The Chair referred to what he described as a massive error at the last AGM. When the proposals for earlier starts in the 1st XI games had been voted down the proposal for adding up to an extra half hour if time was lost before or during a game should have been withdrawn. This would most likely be revisited at the AGM.

1. *LCB KO Final 2017*

Bobby Denning was pleased to make clear that this KO Final was back at Old Trafford in 2017- subject to the County Cricket Club fixtures. It had not proved possible to do this in recent years because of fixture clashes.

1. *LCB Coach Education Programme*

Shaun Anders was introduced to the meeting again.

SA had sent out coaching brochures to the clubs and he showed a copy to the meeting. He had a few copies with him if any club wanted one.

[**http://www.lancashirecricket.co.uk/lcb/index.php?option=com\_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=66&Itemid=334**](http://www.lancashirecricket.co.uk/lcb/index.php?option=com_k2&view=itemlist&layout=category&task=category&id=66&Itemid=334) on the new LCB website was well worth looking at.

The Coach Education Programme had strategic plans in place and as part of this he intended to get closer to the L&DCC as an ECB premier league with a situational awareness dialogue.

Programmes for the various Development Groups involved coaching courses being set up. There was a strategic need for coach education, for example the Oldham area was in the process of setting up a bespoke course for that area.

“iCoach” from the ECB [**http://icoachcricket.ecb.co.uk/**](http://icoachcricket.ecb.co.uk/) or via Twitter and ‘phone apps was an excellent resource and again was well worth a visit e.g. for Skills and Drills. Cricket Unleashed would also be on the LCB website.

Shaun Anders reminded again about copies of the coaching booklet being available

1. *Paul Edwards Liverpool Echo*

PE gave his thanks to all for their help this season in the Echo’s coverage of local cricket.

The paper’s coverage this season was better and had had a different shape, PE specifically thanked the very helpful captain’s for their assistance in the writing of many of the articles that had been published. Dave Prentice the Sports Editor was very supportive of cricket coverage and PE was delighted that this coverage was to continue during the winter when there was a story to be told. PE gave the example of the very recent obituaries on John Lonsdale and Ronnie Cockbain. Clubs would continue to get calls from PE, or they could continue to call him on **07962 115 171** with anything they felt could be the basis for a story.

The Echo Cup could be fed into the discussion by the Review Group. Finals Day for the Echo Cup would continue the format of 4 clubs playing two semis and a final on one day in 2017 and PE would try to schedule it on a Sunday in mid to late August so as to avoid clashes with L&DCC and LCB games.

If clubs wanted a word with PE he was happy to stay at the end of the meeting for that purpose.

Member clubs gave a round of applause.

**10. Notices**

1. *EoS 3rd XI meeting Tues 8th Nov 2016 Sefton Park CC 7.30pm*
2. *AGM Tues 10th Jan Bootle CC 7.30pm*

**11. Close of meeting**

1. *Re-Check roll call: Attendees*

The Hon Sec checked, there were no changes to the original roll call.

1. Clubs were wished a safe journey home, if they were quick they might miss the Liverpool FC game’s crowds!

*9.17pm*