

## **Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Cricket Officials**

### **Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be able to give my annual report covering the past year which has been a very busy one for the Branch.

I suppose the most significant piece of news was at the end of the year, when we were told that the three major Saturday leagues in the County had agreed in principle to amalgamate and form one new league, the Leicestershire and Rutland Cricket league, commencing in the 2014 season.

January then became a very busy month with your vice chairman, Alan Pearce, secretary Chris Lawman and myself meeting with the ECB's new Regional Business Development Manager, Scott Borman and the County Cricket Development Manager, Ged McDougall. This was a very informative meeting although we were unable to extract any further funding from the Cricket Board. Scott assured us that if we ever felt we were being under-funded he was the contact.

With the news of the formation of the new league I called a meeting of the three leagues' appointments personnel along with the panel's chairmen when we produced a policy on how we saw the three leagues appointments being made in the initial years. Bob Sizer was appointed to assist me in these discussions. Two further meetings were held where we started to put the 'meat onto the bones', as well as a meeting with the new League's Working Party.

This was followed up in March when we ran three Road Shows at Loughborough, Hinckley and Leicester where we presented the policy to the members and sought their views. These meetings were extremely well attended. From these meetings a committee was formed to manage umpiring matters within the new league. The committee to comprise of: the County Performance Officer as its chairman with an ACO committee member appointed as its vice chairman along with the three leagues appointments officers and their panel chairmen.

All this culminating in a final meeting, tagged on the end of an EGM that was called to formally adopt the constitution, when a Power Point Presentation was given to over fifty members showing how the umpiring in the new league would work. Here I would like to thank all officers who supported and contributed to the presentations in particular to Bob Sizer for his delivery of the Power Point Presentations.

L&R ACO have been granted a seat on the committee of the new league. L&R ACO have decreed that the County Performance Office as chairman of the umpires committee should be the ACO's representative to the League.

During the year I have attended the L&R Cricket Board quarterly meetings when I have put forward any necessary views relating to L&R ACO matters. Attended the Midland Counties Chairman's meetings at Kings Heath in March and again at Uppingham in October [it was Leicestershire's turn to host]. Also the East Midlands Regional Forum at Derby only a fortnight ago. This meeting was also attended by Chris Lawman, Bob Sizer, Simon Clark and Colin Samuels.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October I attended an ECB Discovery Workshop at Grace Road when the presentation covered an insight and a deeper understanding of cricket players in their likes and dislikes of the game from the national survey that had been undertaken by ECB.

Several officers accompanied me to the Midlands Regional Forum at Nottingham last November. I say officers when in fact I had to recruit four members to take officer's places as none were available to attend. I thank them, Alan Pearce, Chris Johnson, Simon Clark and Ray Rowley, for helping us out and in particular for their reports at a debriefing on Membership Services, Education, National and Regional Appointments as well as Scorers matters.

This year's Midlands Regional Forum is on 2<sup>nd</sup> November where we will be well represented, when the following will be attending workshops: Dan Pedley and Chris Johnson - Education, Keith Towers - Appointments and 'Whose the Umpire', Simon Clark – Scorers, Colin Samuels - Membership Services and Bob Sizer accompanying me to the Performance workshop.

Branch wise - the committee has met on quite a few occasions when there has been business to discuss and matters to disseminate from regional meetings. Training courses were again run but you will get the full details from the education staff. A very successful dinner was held in March when Neil Bainton, the first class umpire, was the guest speaker.

With L&R ACO taking responsibility for overseeing the umpires and the appointments in the new league it does require a few changes to the constitution which are dealt with in the paper attached to the AGM notice.

Following a suggestion from Colin Samuels the committee has agreed to the setting up of the L&R ACO having its own website. After consultations with the Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Board [to give them their proper title – Leicestershire & Rutland Cricket Limited] we have agreed with them to have our site hosted along with theirs but we will have full control of it. Colin Samuels as offered to undertake the webmaster duties. Of course his appointment will have to be ratified at the AGM.

I would like to thank all officers and committee for their untiring work that they do for the benefit of the Branch, we would not function if it wasn't for their dedication in performing their duties. Dick Whateley-Knight who did say at last year's AGM he felt it was time to retire after 33 years in office as treasurer has had second thoughts and if elected is prepared to continue for a thirty fourth term of office.

Chris Lawman on the other hand has decided to retire as secretary after some six years in office. I would like to put on record mine, and I am sure the members, gratitude for his untiring and unstinting work as secretary. I know I shall miss him. Although I knew him through business before he became secretary, I feel that we have become friends with the close working relationship that we developed over the years. A friendship that is much appreciated.

Gordon Hubbard  
29/10/2013