



# Cricket Wellington

| Minutes of Meeting<br>6.00pm on Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2010<br>Wellington School of Cricket   |  | Players Committee Meeting |        |
|--|--|---------------------------|--------|
| Meeting called by  | C Butler   | Meeting Start             | 6.00pm |
| Note Taker   | I Smith  | Meeting Finished          | 8:00pm |
| Attendees  | M Bell(Hutt District); M Houghton(Taita); S Fairley ( North City); B Turner (North City); M Atkin( Karori); S Baker ( Karori); F Hansen ( Eastbourne); M Pulley ( Johnsonville); D Grant ( Collegians); B Jenkins ( Naenae Old Boys); R Morgan ( Onslow); E Watkin ( Umpires); A Stuart (CW); C Butler ( CW) I Smith ( CW) |                           |        |
| Apologies  | G Larsen ( CW); P Clinton ( CW); G Howell ( Onslow); A Williams ( Naenae Old Boys); D Gillespie (Taita).   |                           |        |
| <b>AGENDA</b>  |  |                           |        |
| <b>2. Grounds.</b>   |  |                           |        |
| <p>C. Butler gave a resume with Kilbirnie 1 having been renovated and playing well. Cricket Wellington is liaising with WCC regarding renovations for Nairnville 1 and Anderson Park next season. There was a new database this season providing more accurate information on grounds through captains and umpires reports. Cricket Wellington plan to meet with the councils over winter to discuss outcomes from the database.</p> <p>B. Jenkins felt that all grounds needed grooming on Saturday morning. This never happened at Naenae until the last week of the season. Also Councils must do what we want. R. Morgan felt that Saturday is too late to do essential work. Everything must be ready by Friday pm.</p> <p>M. Bell asked if grounds had a Warrant of Fitness to ensure that grounds had adequate rolling. C. Butler informed the group that their was a agreement between HCC and the contractors outlining the specs for each ground, Cricket Wellington have requested the specs of WCC but are still waiting on them.</p> <p>There was discussion on whether we should look at playing on the 4 best wickets until Christmas so that they got priority attention. The majority of captains felt all premier grass wickets should be up to spec throughout the season.</p> <p>A. Stuart asked if there is a criteria for the number of wickets a groundsman has to prepare. C. Butler felt this varied depending on the size of the ground and the location of grounds.</p> |  |                           |        |
| <b>3. Twenty 20 Review.</b>  |  |                           |        |
| <p>Despite playing only 3 games of the scheduled 7, everyone felt Twenty20 was a vital part of the competition.</p> <p>S. Fairley suggested all Twenty20 games take place at the start of the season on artificials. C. Butler commented that Cricket Wellington would like to see games line up with the domestic Twenty20 competition to prepare players for the HRV Cup and provide opportunities for players to push their claims.</p>   |  |                           |        |

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R. Morgan suggested 10am start if there are 2 games on a day providing more time for teams to travel between venues if necessary.

It was agreed that one off Sunday games should start at 11 am to allow players to have the rest of the day.

It was felt that there should be a good look at the state of the artificial wickets as some were not up to standard premier and senior grade cricket. Councils should ensure that stumps can fit into holes.

#### **4. First Innings Points Review.**

C. Butler gave an overview of the first season of first innings points stating that Cricket Wellington were encouraged to see more hundreds scored, and teams batting past the 70 over mark producing scores of 300 plus.

The majority of clubs were happy with the first innings concept although North City felt it created too much dead cricket in some games, and pointed out that the average club cricketer isn't interested in spending a full day in the field.

The points system for two day cricket was discussed at length with overwhelming support to remove bonus points. Captains felt removing bonus points would:

- Take pressure off trying to start games when conditions are not ideal in an attempt to chase points through the accumulation of bonus points.
- Eliminate some of the dead cricket that is played on the second day if first innings is determined and the outright is not realistic by stopping teams playing on just to obtain bonus points.
- Provide a more even competition – it was felt that the margin of points that could be obtained was too high given two teams could be involved in a good game of cricket and obtain first innings or a no result on first innings (6 points or 1 point plus bonus points), and another game can be played on a poor wicket, or be one sided with the winning team picking up potentially 20 points (10 for the outright plus bonus points). Captains felt removing bonus points would create a more clean cut competition.

It was also suggested that bonus points for winning by 7 wickets or more or 100 runs should be removed.

Cricket Wellington will look into bonus points and come back to captains with some recommendations.

Captains were keen to see the two day points structure (barring bonus points) remain for another season with scope to review it in the off-season 2011.

It was agreed that the one day bonus point works well and should remain in the competition.

There was a call from captains for a change to the playing conditions to allow games to conclude at tea on the second day if there is no prospect of achieving an outright result.

#### **5. Umpires Report.**

E. Watkin reported that there were 5 umpires fewer than last season, but went from an average of 14.3 to 14.8 umpires per week. There were 4 Saturday Hazlett games that had no umpires. There are currently approx 10 people doing training.

Captains reports went down to 82% this season. There was a request for the report on umpires to go on line next season making life easier for captains and tying in with the pitch and ground online report that currently exists. Cricket Wellington will look into this.

No reports are required for Twenty 20 games but if there is something wrong, captains should contact E. Watkin.

There was discussion around the ability of players to question umpires decisions. A suggestion was put forward that captains be allowed to ask the question of the umpire during the course of the day as a means of feedback, and may assist with the behaviour of players. The Umpires Association will discuss

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this with Cricket Wellington during the off season.

## **6. Player Behaviour.**

There was a general discussion on player behaviour as there were 17 citings during the season. The following points were made:

- The process needs to be streamlined as there were a few occasions where citings dragged on for a couple of weeks allowing players who were cited to continue playing until a hearing was held
- Guilty parties were not necessary being suspended. There was a feeling amongst the group that players/parties found guilty must face a suspension
- The group felt harsher penalties were needed for repeat offenders – suggestion was made for the introduction of a system where players accumulated points if found guilty and harsher penalties were handed down as the players points increased.

E. Watkin informed the group that some associations have a card system in place where players who are misbehaving are sent from the field for a period of the game. Captains were not fond of this idea.

Cricket Wellington plan to discuss player behaviour further at the club Chairman's meeting and come up with some possible solutions in the off season to counter the problems experienced this season.

## **7. Covers.**

C. Butler asked captains for feedback on covers and the best way to manage them.

M. Houghton felt covers should be put down on a Thursday night, this would require the groundsman to remove them in the morning. B. Jenkins felt it was unrealistic to expect a groundsman to remove covers by himself.

Everyone agreed that each club should have good covers and hessian. It was agreed that clubs need to inspect their covers prior to the season to ensure they are up to standard.

M. Bell suggested that future covers purchased should be bigger than single strip covers for Pearce Cup wickets.

## **8. Finals.**

C. Butler asked the group for feedback around Finals stating they had been in action for 5 seasons and were they serving a purpose.

There was general approval that there should be no Finals, but if they stayed then they should be showcase games and either played at the Basin Reserve or the top club ground. If not it would take away the showpiece factor.

There was no one in favour of retaining the Hazlett Final, but some suggested a promotion/relegation game. If the season was to be extended then there would be problems with training etc due to the end of daylight saving.

The group pointed out that having a three day final to determine the grade winner was unusual considering the grade was spread across three formats.

C. Butler made the comment that Gavin Larsen was keen on a premier three day Final as he felt it tested player's ability to perform under the rigors of Finals cricket.

## **9. Season calendar 2010-2011.**

It was agreed that the season should start at labour weekend with Twenty20 games.

Easter Good Friday falls on 22 April next year so there could be the possibility of playing some games in early-mid April. The possibility of using 4 grounds in April was discussed but this could mean that clubs would have to play on neutral grounds. C. Butler informed the group that playing into April would

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mean a clash with winter codes. Captains were against the idea of playing into April if it clashed with winter codes, North City pointed out that they would lose 11 players to senior football. B. Jenkins stated that playing into April would clash with the National Club Championships resulting in one club having to field an under strength team for one weekend.

There was some angst from the group around the amount of Sunday play that took place last season. Captains generally agreed if they want the season to start at Labour weekend and not run into April then Sunday play was inevitable to fit the three formats into the season. Cricket Wellington would draft a season calendar and have it out to clubs for feedback shortly.

S. Baker asked if there was any progress with approaching winter codes and discussing the possibility of moving seasons. C. Butler stated an approach had not been made to the winter codes but did outline that this had been raised with WCC who stated the timing of their major renovation could impact a change.

A. Stuart asked what blocks were not affected by winter sport and why Autumn renovations were not taking place on them. C. Butler outlined that Autumn renovations were taking place on four grounds in the Hutt (Barton, Fraser 1 and 2, Bryan Heath), he would raise this with WCC at their next meeting.

S. Baker asked for fixture rotation next season.

#### **10. General Business .**

S. Fairley inquired why there was a Twenty 20 trophy, a one-day trophy but nothing solely for 2 day play.

The meeting closed at 8 pm