

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NEYLAND CRICKET CLUB HELD IN THE ATHLETIC CLUB ON THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER 2008 AT 7.45 PM.

Present:

R Bellerby, J P Edwards, H Durrant, A Hansen (Jnr), A Hansen (Snr), P Hannon, S Hannon, S John, M C Jones, A Miller, G Miller, I Milsom, P Murray, B Phelan, A L Smith, G Virgo & M J Rees

Apologies:

A Jones
P Miller

At the commencement of the meeting the President asked for all those present to observe a minute silence as a mark of respect for those members of the Club who had passed away during the previous 12 months.

Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 20th December 2007 were read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

A L Smith thanked the Club for electing him a Life Member. He indicated that he felt honoured to the nth degree and expressed the wish that the Club should enjoy further success in the years to come.

Treasurers Report

In presenting what was his sixth balance sheet (copy attached) the Hon Treasurer expressed his gratitude to the Club's Auditor, Mrs Yvonne Jones for her kind assistance and offered thanks to all Sponsors & Vice Presidents for their financial support during the past season. He also thanked the Club Franchisees for their contribution which was not always evident on the balance sheet.

* Elements of this report have been removed, however full minutes are available to all members on request to the secretary *

The President thanked Mr Bellerby for his efforts during the year in office and for submitting a well presented balance sheet. It was proposed by Brian Phelan and seconded by Andrew Smith that the balance sheet should be accepted. This proposal was carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report

The Hon Secretary gave a report on the activities of the Club both on and off the field during the 2008 season (see attached).

He indicated that he had concluded his report to the 2007 AGM by expressing the wish that the 2nd XI would bounce back from the disappointment of relegation and that the 1st XI would shake off the malaise of the last two seasons and re-establish themselves in the upper reaches of the 1st Division.

He said that he was pleased to report that insofar as the latter of those ambitions was concerned the 1st XI had enjoyed a more consistent season which had culminated in a fourth place finish in the final league standings. Once again the Pembrokeshire weather played havoc with the fixture lists with four league fixtures being lost to the elements in their entirety and two others brought to a premature conclusion. As a result the playing record was one of 5 wins, 7 draws and only 2 losses in 14 completed or partially completed league fixtures. Whilst the number of wins matched that of the previous season, perhaps the most encouraging feature of the season was that the side did not suffer defeat at the hands of the three sides who finished above them in the final table, indeed had they managed to win rather than lose either of the fixtures at Lawrenny and Llangwm they may have been able to claim the runners-up spot in the final league table.

Unlike in 2008 the side enjoyed a good start to the campaign by defeating Burton in the opening league fixture whilst a week later only the stubborn resistance of the last two Whitland batsmen prevented the side from claiming a second victory rather than a winning draw. The most noteworthy feature of that game was of course the magnificent innings of Paul Murray who accounted for 122 of Neyland's total of 178. Subsequently only the intervention of the weather saw the side escape defeat at the hands of Haverfordwest but winning ways were resumed a week later with an emphatic victory at Narberth. The loss to the weather of the scheduled fixture against Llangwm was followed by a heavy defeat at Lawrenny but unlike in previous seasons it was not on this occasion the prelude to a series of poor displays as in subsequent weeks the side defeated the then reigning champions St. Ishmaels and also claimed an honourable losing draw in a high scoring encounter with Cresselly. The next fixture at Carew fell victim to the weather with only 35 overs of the Carew innings bowled but the team opened the second half of the league season by completing a league double over Burton, a game which saw Paul Murray record a second century of the season (102). The loss to the weather of the second fixture against Whitland was followed by a losing draw at Haverfordwest and a winning draw at home to Narberth and any lingering hopes of mounting a title challenge disappeared with defeat at Llangwn before the next two fixtures at home to Lawrenny and at St Ishmaels fell victim to the monsoons of early August. The penultimate fixture of the season saw a losing draw at Cresselly but the side did at least finish on a high note with a welcome albeit rare success over Carew.

In addition to the his two centuries Paul Murray also recorded a half century against Cresselly, a feat emulated during the season by Scott John (75 v Narberth and 51 v Llanwm). Andrew Miller (54 at Narberth, 55 v St. Ishmaels and 79 in the reverse fixture against Narberth) and Jeremy Charles (62 v Cresselly). There were several other notable contributions with the bat during the course of the season from Ashley Sutton, Nicholas Koomen and Jay Dunsford.

The Secretary observed that to a certain extent a lack of penetration in the bowling attack remained something of an Achilles heel although the wet conditions did not play to the team's strengths in the slow bowling department whilst the injuries suffered by Lee Summons also hampered efforts. On the plus side however Patrick Hannon was the epitome of parsimony in leading the attack and there were some noteworthy performances along the way including those by Phil Davies in the abandoned fixture against Haverfordwest (4 for 28) and at Narberth (4 for 40), Jeremy Charles at home to Burton (5 for 7) and at Llangwm (4 for 36). The latter contributed towards Jeremy capturing the bowling award at Phil's expense. The Secretary again paid tribute to Jeremy for the considerable time and effort which he committed to travelling from Manchester on such a regular basis to turn out for the side.

In response to a suggestion that Gary Lloyd may have decided to hang up his boots, the Secretary observed that whilst he hoped fervently that that is not the case it was only right that he paid tribute to Gary for his outstanding service to the club. Quite apart from his considerable prowess on the field as a wily and innovative bowler, an outstanding fielder and part time opening bat Gary has been a great example to younger players at the club. Being of a good humoured disposition Gary has always played the game with a smile on his face and has been a constant source of encouragement to those around him.

Moving to the Cup competitions the Secretary commented that it was once again a case of what might have been. After overcoming a potentially tricky first round fixture at Llangwm thanks to a good all round bowling and fielding display and Scott John's 43, a late flurry of runs from Lee Summons and Gregg Miller's more measured 37 proved enough to withstand the determined challenge of Herbrandston in the second round. Thereafter however Neyland once again exited at the quarter finals stage, this time at the hands of losing finalists Narberth despite Gregg Miller's 4 for 22. After last season's heroics in the Duggie Morris Cup Competition hopes were high of a repeat visit to the final particularly as a good victory over Lawrenny in the 1st round was followed by a victory over the Club's perennial nemesis Carew in the quarter finals where Gregg Miller's 51 proved to be the difference between the two sides. Sadly however in the semi-final St. Ishmaels completed a comfortable victory. Finally after accounting for Gorseinon in the 1st round proper of the Welsh Cup (Scott John – 51), the Club suffered an embarrassing trouncing at the hands of Gowerton in the second round with the only crumb of comfort being Andrew Miller's 60.

Sadly the 2nd XI, had been unable to live up to his hopes for them for the season although a rally in the second half of the campaign did see them eventually record a fourth place finish with a playing record of 5 wins, 3 draws and 5 losses in their 13 completed or partially completed fixtures. Unavailability particularly during the opening weeks of the season was a factor and losing three of their opening four league fixtures, the other was abandoned with game delicately poised left the side with a mountain to climb if they were to get themselves into contention for promotion. Victory over third placed Haverfordwest and a winning draw at runners-up Crymych illustrated what the side was capable of when at full strength however defeat in the reverse fixture against Narberth 2nds effectively ended their season. As with the 1st XI there were several useful contributions with both bat and ball during the season with Nicholas Koomen (81 v Haverfordwest 3rds), Phil Sutton (78no v Pembroke) and Ashley Sutton (59no v Llangwm 2nds) all claiming half-centuries. On the bowling front Ian Milsom, Gareth Virgo and John Tennick all recorded four wicket hauls whilst Jay Dunsford claimed 5 for 37 at Crymych. Pride of place however went to Jack Richards and his 6 for 23 against Johnston 2nds.

The Secretary once again repeated his comments of previous AGMs that it is essential that the 2nd XI should operate at the highest level possible and a return to Division 3 should once again be a target for next season.

Disappointingly the Alec Colley Cup campaign once again came to an early conclusion as despite a good fight back in the field during which Andrew Jones captured 4 wickets Whitland 2nds recorded a comfortable success.

The Ladies were denied their sixth consecutive league title in some what controversial circumstances, losing the title in the Committee Room of the Pembroke County Club rather than on the playing field as Hook Ladies were awarded the title after the two sides had finished level in the standings.

Although not able to repeat the heroics of 2006 Neyland had enjoyed a relatively successful indoor league campaign and the Secretary indicated that he expected that the Club would be keen to mount a strong challenge in the 2009 competition.

The Youth system had continued to flourish particularly in the younger age groups. This was reflected in the significant number of players who had gained County recognition with special mention for Scott Jones on being chosen to represent Wales.

On the competition front, after bowing out of the Ormond Cup proper at an early stage, a Neyland/Johnston combined side did reach the semi-final of the Plate competition. Unfortunately however due to other commitments a weakened side succumbed to Saundersfoot.

A combination of exam commitments and in particular the inclement weather had wreaked havoc with the junior fixture list although the Under 11s had played the majority of their fixtures and had been somewhat unlucky to finish runners-up to Kilgetty in their Section.

The Secretary expressed his thanks to all those who assisted the youth section in any capacity during the season and as usual a special word of thanks to Martin Jones and his cohorts for their efforts. Speaking on a personal note he also offered his gratitude to Martin for continuing in his role as Club Child Welfare Officer.

Turning to matters off the field, the Secretary paid tribute to the work of Robert Bellerby, who quite apart from looking after the Club's finances so ably, also in what had been yet again an extremely miserable summer had nevertheless produced a series of excellent cricket wickets.

The Secretary reiterated his thanks to all our sponsors for their support in the season and commented that there were other businesses and indeed individuals who would be prepared to support the Club but had to be asked and he urged all members and playing members to spread the word in this regard and in addition to support the Club's fund raising efforts in the months ahead.

He repeated his thanks of previous meetings to Debbie and Martin of the Athletic Club for continuing to provide the social base, which remains such an important part of the Club and for the other assistance and support, which they extend.

He also thanked my fellow Committee members for their support and forbearance during the season and to the respective Team Captains, the two Andrews for their efforts. He offered his congratulations to all award winners at both Junior and Senior levels on their accomplishments in 2008 in the hope that they would each enjoy equal if not more success in 2009.

As to the future the Secretary emphasised that the Club were steadfast in their determination to improve the Club infrastructure. Accreditation status with the ECB had brought with it the opportunity to access increased funding towards the purchase of machinery and equipment. And it had been through this route that the Club had been able to secure funding towards the purchase of the new roller. Ambitious plans were also in place for the construction of a net facility which would be a significant improvement on the somewhat primitive structure currently in place whilst in addition, plans were in place for the construction of a new score box and potentially an electronic scoreboard for the Athletic Ground. Fundraising for this project was underway and it was hoped that the project be completed in full by 2012, in line with the current strategic development plan.

Other developments in recent months had included the staging of a Women Welsh Cup Competition and club members undertaking coaching sessions in local schools. Activities of this nature were designed to enhance the Club's status and standing in the local community.

That the Club has come so far in such a short space of time was he stressed largely due to the prodigious amount of time and effort devoted to the accreditation process and subsequently to seeking funding by Andrew and in particular Paul Miller.

In closing his address the Secretary expressed the wish that on the field the 2nd XI would claim promotion and that the 1st XI would perhaps claim some silverware. The 1st XI had been one victory away from possibly claiming the runners-up position in 2008 whilst with a better start to the season the 2nd XI would have been in the promotion mix. Given the circumstances he was optimistic that the progress which the Club was making off the field would with the requisite discipline and hard work be emulated on it in 2009.

The President thanked the Secretary for his efforts during the year in office and for preparing such a comprehensive report.. It was proposed by Scott John and seconded by Brian Phelan that the report should be accepted. This proposal was carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

J P Edwards - President
Club Secretary – M J Rees
Club Treasurer – R Bellerby

A notice of motion pursuant to the Club's constitution regarding the nomination of Officers had been made by the outgoing committee at their November Committee meeting and recommended that the above named Officers be elected to their posts en bloc. This was formally proposed on the night Brian Phelan and seconded by Sean Hannon and carried unanimously.

Election of Captains

1st XI - Andrew Miller was proposed by Brian Pelan and seconded by Gareth Virgo
2nd XI – Andrew Hansen was proposed by Brian Pelan and seconded by Gareth Virgo
Both motions were carried unanimously.

Youth Cricket Organiser

Mr M C Jones agreed to continue in this role and the proposal that he should continue to do so was carried unanimously.

Appointment of Club Development Officer

It was proposed by M J Rees and seconded by M C Jones that Paul Miller should continue in this role. This proposal was carried unanimously.

Appointment of Child Welfare Officer

Mr M C Jones agreed to continue in this role and the proposal that he should continue to do so was carried unanimously.

Election of Committee

In addition to the Officers, Captains, Club Youth Organiser/Child Protection Officer & Club Development Officer the following individuals were elected to serve on the committee:-

P Hannon, S Hannon, S John, G Miller, I Milsom, B Phelan, A L Smith & G Virgo.

Subscription fees

The question of subscriptions and match fees provoked considerable debate during which several propositions and counter propositions were discussed without being formally tabled. In the event consensus was reached on the following:

Seniors

Subscriptions - £20.00 per annum (£15.00 if paid before the end of May)

Match Fees - £3.00 per league match.

Under 17s

Subscriptions - £5.00

Match Fees - £1.50

Ladies - £10.00

Affiliations

It was properly proposed and seconded that the Club should continue to affiliate to the following bodies:-

1. Pembroke County Cricket Club.
2. Pembroke County 200 Club

3. Pembrokeshire Sports Council.
4. Indoor League
5. Welsh Cricket Association.

This was carried unanimously.

Appointment of an Auditor

Mrs Yvonne Jones was proposed by R Bellerby and seconded by M J Rees. This was carried unanimously.

Any other business

1 It was reported that following a recent meeting of the Pembrokeshire Association of Cricket Umpires, a proposal was likely to be submitted to the County AGM to the effect that Umpires should be paid prior to league and cup fixtures.

2 Discussion took place regarding the proposed acquisition of portable covers and the grant aid potentially available to fund the same.

3 It was reported that at their AGM the Athletic Club had agreed to fund both the tree cutting required in order for the proposed net development to proceed and the acquisition of grass tyres for the tractor.

The meeting was finally declared closed at 9.01pm after a vote of thanks to the President for the expeditious manner in which he had conducted the proceedings.