

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NEYLAND
CRICKET CLUB HELD IN THE ATHLETIC CLUB ON THURSDAY
20TH DECEMBER 2007**

Present:

R Bellerby
J P Edwards
S Hannon
M C Jones
A Miller
G Milller
P Miller
B Phelan
M J Rees

Apologies:

H Durrant
A Hansen (Snr)
A Hansen (Jnr)
P Hannon

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 14th December 2006 were read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In presenting what was his fifth 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.

He advised those members present that the profit and loss account for the year ending 30th November 2006 showed an operating loss of £794.06 but explained that the acquisition of a mobile net was the principal reason for the excess of expenditure over income. In this regard the value of assets in terms of stock held by the Club had increased through the purchase of not only the nets but also the bowling machine.. The income derived from Sponsorship and Vice Presidents had increased but there had been a decrease in that derived from

subscriptions although the revenue from match fees was conversely higher. In addition there had been an increase, albeit not a hugely significant one in the monies raised through match day raffles and collections. The Coffers had also once again received a welcome boost from the growing numbers of attendees at Under 11 coaching nights by virtue of the nominal coaching charge which had been imposed. The decision not to hold a summer raffle had impacted on income streams whilst there had also been a slight fall in the proceeds of the bonus ball draw.

Expenditure during 2007 had been with the exception of teas on a pretty much like to like basis to the previous 12 months, although the Club had entered only one side in the Indoor League Competition rather than the two of the previous year thus leading to a reduction in affiliation fees. The purchase of cricket equipment (both Senior and Junior) was significantly down, in the main due to the fact that the figure for the previous year had included the funds spent on the purchase of the bowling machine.

Otherwise the main source of additional expenditure had been the decision to address concerns expressed at the quality of teas provided by the Club compared to other clubs in the County and the additional costs incurred as a result.

Although he had indicated that he was content with the Club's progress the Hon Treasurer stressed that there was no room for complacency and that it was evident that some individuals continued to take things for granted and did not do enough to support the Club's fund raising efforts. As a result it was imperative that all players and indeed members did their utmost to support the Club's various fund raising activities. In addition he commented that the Club continued to miss some tricks where fund raising is concerned and must strive to become more efficient

The Treasurer once again thanked all vice Presidents sponsors, including societies for their generous support during the year and to all those players who had paid their subscriptions. He also offered his thanks to those responsible for collecting match fees and subscriptions, particularly the Team Captains and their respective vice-Captains.

In closing he also thanked the Club's Auditor for her assistance and words of wisdom.

The President thanked Mr Bellerby for his efforts during the year in office and for submitting a well presented balance sheet. It was proposed 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 2007 season (see attached).

He indicated that he had concluded his report to the 2006 AGM by indicating that the incoming Committee would continue in their efforts to improve the Club's infrastructure and expressing the hope that this would be complemented on the playing field. With this in mind he felt that judged overall the 2007 season had been a somewhat disappointing one in that

performances and commitment both on and off the field did not match that of previous seasons.

Whereas in 2005 the 1st XI had flirted with relegation, in 2006 although their 7th place finish was only one place lower than the previous season the safety margin had been much smaller and it had only been by virtue of a victory over Pembroke late in the season that 1st division cricket had been preserved.

In what was weather wise had been a miserable season, oddly enough only one more fixture fell victim to the elements than in 2006 the 1st XI recorded a playing record of 5 wins, 3 draws and 8 losses in 16 completed or partially completed league fixtures. The number of wins was two greater than in 2006 however enthusiasm was tempered by the fact that four of those successes came against Burton and relegated Pembroke.

The opening league fixture against Cresselly had probably set the tone for the league season when having dismissed the visitors for a double figure score Neyland failed to close the game out. Thereafter form remained poor as three consecutive defeats including against St Ishmaels (35 all out) were to follow before a draw at Haverfordwest brought that run to a halt. A week later the last wicket pairing of Gary Lloyd and Phil Davies had enabled Neyland to secure a draw the following week at home to Whitland.

As a result it was soon apparent that success against fellow strugglers, Burton and Pembroke was to be essential to the side's survival in the division. Phil Sutton's heroics enabled the side to pull off a narrow victory at Pembroke whilst a fortnight later Jeremy Charles guided the team to victory over Burton.

Whilst those victories eased but by no means vanquished thoughts of relegation, the second half of the season had proved to be more successful. Although during that period league doubles were conceded to both Cresselly and St Ishmaels three further victories including a much needed success at Lawrenny and doubles recorded over Pembroke and Burton saw the 1st XI us pull clear from danger. There was even the added pleasure of denying Carew victory in a rain affected fixture which also contributed to Carew surrendering the league title to St Ishmaels.

As in previous seasons, one of the more pleasing aspect of the performances of the 1st XI during what was at times a difficult season was that there was no obvious decline in team spirit. Numerous players made significant contributions with both bat and ball with the most notable individual performance being Henry Durrant's century against Pembroke.

In addition the Secretary made special mention of Patrick Hannon for overcoming his injury problems and taking sufficient wickets to capture the bowling award, Jeremy Charles for the time and effort in travelling from Manchester on such a regular basis to turn out for the side and Gary Lloyd who during an extremely difficult and indeed traumatic time still managed to make some appearances as his presence always provided a welcome fillip.

The Cup competitions and in particular the Harrison-Allen Bowl had once again proved to be a source of some disappointment. Although accounting for Llanrhian and Lamphey respectively in the first two rounds eventual winners St Ishmaels had proved too strong in the quarter finals. Although Jeremy Charles' match winning innings against Whitland has led to progress in the Welsh Cup, the Club were subsequently forced to concede the tie at

Ammanford. The one beacon of light in an otherwise uninspiring season had been provided by the Duggie Morris Cup competition where after a first round bye, victory over Llangwm had set up a semi-final at home to Lawrenny. Phil Davies' boundary off the last ball of the game was probably the highlight of the season and although the final had seen the side lose narrowly to heavy favourites Haverfordwest they had lost little cast in defeat.

Turning to the 2nd XI, they had been unable to repeat the great escape of 2006 as a playing record of 2 wins, 5 draws and 7 losses in their 14 completed fixtures condemned them to relegation to Division 4. Unavailability and injuries were factors but in the final analysis, the side had been quite simply not good enough to survive in Division 3. The season had not been without its highlights, most notably Phil Sutton's century against Narberth 2nds and although it was not in a Club mention was made of Nicholas Koomen's century for the Pembrokeshire Over 50s against their Welsh counterparts.

That fixture was the brainchild of Mike Tennick who has decided to call it time on a long and distinguished career. A shrewd operator with the ball, a dogged if not flamboyant exponent of the batting arts and a knowledgeable and willing teacher the Secretary commented that Mike has been a tremendous ambassador for the Club both on and off the field.

The Secretary repeated his message of previous Annual General Meetings that it was essential that the 2nd XI should operate at the highest level possible and a prompt return to Division 3 should therefore be the target for next season.

Not surprisingly perhaps the Alec Colley Cup campaign had come to an early conclusion at the hands of Burton.

The Secretary congratulated the Ladies Section on capturing their fifth consecutive league title and for narrowly failing to secure another league and cup double. Particular mention was made of Julie Garlick's feat in also recording a century during the season.

After the tremendous successes of 2006 it had been a disappointment to fail to retain the indoor league crown however the side had once again been extremely competitive.

The Youth system had continued to function although it had proved necessary once again to combine with Johnston in the two senior age groups. In the Ormond Cup a combined side reached the semi-final by overcoming Camrose & Spittal, Haverfordwest and after a thrilling tie in the 1st meeting Narberth before succumbing to eventual winners Whitland. The Under 15 side had reached the play-offs, eventually securing third place overall whilst the fledgling Under 11 squad had shared the spoils in their age group with Burton.

The Secretary offered thanks to all those who had assisted the youth section in any capacity during the season and as usual gave a special word of thanks to Martin Jones and his cohorts for their efforts with the Under 11s. Speaking on a personal note he also expressed his gratitude to Martin for continuing in his role as Club Child Welfare Officer.

Off the field, he paid tribute to the work of Robert Bellerby, who quite apart from looking after the Club's finances so ably, also in what was an extremely dark and dank summer had nevertheless produced a series of excellent cricket wickets. It was again pleasing to note that during the season and indeed in both pre and post season a greater number of players and in particular the younger had assisted in ground preparation.

The Secretary also reiterated the Club's gratitude to all sponsors for their support in the season. He added that he felt sure that there were other businesses and indeed individuals who would be prepared to support the Club and only needed 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 commented that although much had been done in recent years in terms of the acquisition of equipment and upgrading of facilities, much remained to be done but that these ambitions would only be achieved if the Club had the financial wherewithal to do so.

The Secretary thanked also to Debbie and Martin of the Athletic Club for continuing to provide the social base, which is such an important part of the Club and for the other assistance and support, which they extended and which often took place behind the scenes.

He thanked his fellow Committee members, be they few in number for their support and forbearance during the season and also the respective Team Captains, Andrew and Mike for their efforts. He offered his congratulations also to all award winners at both Junior and Senior levels on their accomplishments in 2007 and wished them equal success in 2008.

He repeated that the Committee were very few in number and commented that it was disappointing that several of the new faces who had attended some meetings in 2006 and early 2007 appeared to have lost interest. The Committee were badly in need of an injection of fresh ideas and impetus and he indicated that the presence at meetings of more players or indeed any interested party would be more than welcome.

He commented that as a Club Neyland remained determined to improve both on and off the field. As part of that process the Club was in the throes of attempting to attain accreditation status with the ECB, which potentially at least would bring with in the prospect of increased funding towards the purchase of machinery and equipment. He thanked Andrew and in particular Paul Miller for the prodigious amount of time and effort which they had devoted to what is an extremely bureaucratic procedure. This, he added was just one of a series of fund raising projects designed to improve the Club's facilities and infrastructure which are in the pipeline however the full hands on support of all those interested in and committed to the development of the club was required if these goals were to be met.

In closing he expressed the hope that on the field the 2nd XI would bounce back from the disappointment of last season and that the 1st XI would be revitalised and shake off the malaise of the last two seasons and establish themselves as a force in the upper echelons of their division. Last season ST Ishmaels had provided the template, it was up to Neyland to follow their example and attain that next level.

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 seconded on the night by Gregg Miller and carried unanimously.

Election of Captains

1st XI - Andrew Miller was proposed by Sean Hannon and seconded by Brian Phelan

2nd XI – Andrew Hansen was proposed by Paul Miller and seconded by Maryn Rees

Both motions were carried unanimously.

Election of Committee

In addition to the Officers and Captains the following individuals were elected to serve on the committee:-

A Hanson, M C Jones, G Miller, P Miller, P Hannon & S Hannon.

Youth Organiser

Mr M C Jones agreed to continue in this role and the proposal that he should continue to do so was carried unanimously. In accepting the post however Mr Jones indicated that due to work commitments he would not be able to devote as much time to coaching duties as in previous seasons and would therefore require more assistance.

The future of the ongoing relationship in terms of Youth Cricket with Johnston Cricket Club was also discussed in depth. It was not immediately clear whether joint teams would be fielded in 2008 or whether Neyland would seek to go it alone however it was agreed that whatever the case may be the Club should seek to field teams in all three age groups.

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.

Subscriptions and Affiliation fees

It was proposed by the Hon Treasurer that whilst membership fees should remain the same subscription fees (including match fees) should be increased in 2008 to reflect the increased costs of teas and the purchase of cricket balls. He suggested that the revised figures should be:

Seniors

Subscriptions - £10.00 per annum

Match Fees - £3.00 per game

Juniors

Subscriptions - £5.00

Match Fees - £1.50

Ladies and Gentlemen: Subscriptions - £10.00

In response however it was proposed by Paul Miller and seconded by Andrew Miller that the proposal be amended so that the subscriptions for senior players should instead be £15.00 or £10.00 if paid before the end of May. After a vote the amendment was carried.

Affiliation fees

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.

Election of Life Members

At their November Committee meeting the outgoing Committee had made a recommendation to the effect that Messrs. J P Edwards, R James & A L Smith should be elected Life Members of the Club. This was formally proposed on the night by Brian Phelan and seconded by Robert Bellerby. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Club Development Plan

The development plan, which had been prepared as part of the accreditation process required that certain amendments be made to the Club Constitution. These amendments (highlighted in green on the attached extract from the Constitution) were proposed by Paul Miller and seconded by Martyn Rees and were carried unanimously.

It was noted that by virtue of the amendments the Club Development Officer effectively became an Officer of the Club.

Any other business

1 Discussion took place in relation to the purchase of official Club shirts for the coming season. Various options were available but in particular negotiations were ongoing with the Kukri dealership. The potential cost would be approximately £20 per shirt.

2 Discussion took place regarding the proposed net development and the grant aid potentially available to fund the project.

3 Discussion took place in relation to the funding potentially available in the event that the Club's efforts to secure accreditation were to be successful and the outstanding steps which needed to be taken to become accredited.

The meeting was finally declared closed at 10.00pm after a vote of thanks to the President for the expeditious manner in which he had conducted the proceedings.