

Updates from the Pitch – 21 August 2017

Week 16 completed – **the final two weeks upon us with earlier start times at 12pm**. Hello and whilst recent weather has not been too cricket friendly I feel privileged to have seen some great cricket played since our 2017 journey commenced on the 6th May 2017 for this season. With the playing calendar rapidly approaching the season closure, no doubt the tables will be closely monitored to see how the 45 member clubs have fared and what shapes up for the 2018 fixtures.

Whilst I have some tough news to share that **Ickenham CC** will be migrating in 2018 out of Middlesex Championship League cricket into the Thames Valley League for understandably club logistic reasons, we wish them a continued successful season in 2018 and the future. Whilst I only had the pleasure of close communications with Ickenham CC since Jan 2017, can only say it's been pretty much a role model club to have worked with. Sincerely hope they remain in contact with Peter Bandreth (Chairman of Cricket Sub committee & Club Welfare Officer at Ickenham CC) continuing to assist on Disciplinary matters where possible. Of course we look forward to seeing many of their members at the 29th Sept League Dinner so a great occasion to jointly share their experiences over the past few years.

Unfortunately I have also learnt this weekend that **Birbeck College** have confirmed to Sue they are unable to honour any of their remainder fixtures and will not be continuing in 2018 as a Club. Sue has communicated this to the concerned clubs in Div 2.

At the recent committee meeting, I was bought up to speed on the Disciplinary and Appeals that have occurred this year. Whilst they appear to have been less instances, a worrying aspect is the majority of these issues centre on

Player Indiscipline / Lack of Respect for the Umpires officiating the game / Lack of Sportmanship

MEMBER CLUBS – **This may not apply to all**, But avoidable for the future. Those Guilty do take note as for the sake of a few the League reputation is needlessly tarnished and I have no desire to follow other Leagues behaviour. Whilst being a tolerant Committee head and Umpire (during matches), it is distressing to have observed various instances where these needless issues could have been avoided. 2018 will be the 46th year of the MCL and strongly hope each and every member club views its conduct seriously. Keep the passion and dedication to do well on the field whilst batting, bowling or fielding – I say no more and will be taking a few minutes to address this at the next league Council meeting as well as at the January 2018 AGM as we want to really improve on this. On a related note Sue has highlighted the Child Welfare Officer summary (by Clubs) with me and this will feature on the League Council Meeting as IMPROVEMENTS are needed, however this is only in your hands and an area that can not be simply improved !

Right, school teacher bit done – so what's ahead that being driven by your committee ? A few exciting developments as listed below

Development and Launch of an online reporting for Match Reports/ List of Players and gradings for 2018 – In development by Anil K

Potential for the **MCL to adopt a change in Playing Conditions** for weeks 1-5 and weeks 15-18 inclusive (see attached summary document which will need to be voted and discussed as applicable at the 20th Sept League Council Meeting – Sue will send the agenda and paperwork)

League Ball Contract being reviewed – being led by Dhuru and Kumar with completion and agreement by early Nov 2017 for 2018.

Thank you to the various Umpires who officiated this season and we hope to see a few join us at the League Dinner ; **Yes this area needs to become better** - however resources is the culprit and both myself and Ray need your Club/s to promote the potential members to get their Umpiring Qualifications so we are maintaining new Umpires to assist for 2018. On a related note, many of you will be aware, **Law Changes are underway that will be effective 01 October 2017** and recommend you (and the Club Captain/ players) start becoming familiar with these – link is <https://www.lords.org/news/2017/april/summary-of-new-laws-of-cricket-released/> Ray and Sue will be communicating the dates where more can be learnt of this and how it affects our League Cricket, so do keep abreast of this. As a reminder my focus areas remain

- *Regular Saturday cricket & opportunities for more clubs, clearer guidelines for promotion / relegations.*
- *Easier to follow playing conditions – constitution and embrace the 'Spirit of cricket'*
- *Development of Colts, Support Officials (Umpires, Scorers, Committee roles) as well as Facilities*
- *Promote the feel of the Championship (by Clubs and sister leagues and improve the communications flow*

Congratulations again to Northwick Park CC who won the Middlesex Championship Cup Final on the 15th July with **Burhani CC** giving a good show on the day. With just over a month to go for the much looked forward to League Dinner, you will have received the Dinner Invitation letter from Sue and your co-operation re related communication is very appreciated so we all enjoy the evening itself and events run smoothly. Once again, a reminder that I look forward to the club photos (message on league Tables) and new committee members are welcomed – we need fresh input and building future resources – **don't be stagnant - potential changes will not simply happen magically !**

Best wishes and wishing one and all a continued good remainder of the season. On behalf of the committee (All who have certainly worked hard across the League playing calendar), thank you and we look forward to enjoying the 29th Sept evening in your Good company represented by the respective Club attendees and Trophy winners.

Vijay Vaishampayan Chairman - Middlesex Championship League