

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SOUTH WEST BASEBALL LEAGUE

16th February 2013

Manor House Hotel Cullompton

Meeting started at 13.25pm

Those present : Neale Raleigh , Tony Watson (Exeter Spitfires) Laurence Smith , Louise Smith (Torbay Barons)

Dan Looney , Mike Nash (Bristol Bats) Dave Avery, Les Anderson (Plymouth Mariners)

Angie Wilson & Tug Wilson

Apologies: Frazer Thomas & Tom Stephenson (Torbay Barons) & Lee Anderson & Damien Goodall (Plymouth Mariners)

ELECTION OF OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONER

D.L Asked it was to be a partnership league

L.S Said there is a need for a focal person and someone to make a final decision

M.W Added that the league needs a figure head and someone to have a casting vote if there should be a stale mate, also the league needs a main contact to collate and distribute and information and queries.

Everyone present agreed to this decision

CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONER

N.R nominated Tug Wilson

Seconded by L.S

This was voted on unanimously and Tug Wilson accepted the position

SECRETARY

D.L Asked whether the league would require a secretary as queried how often the league proposed to get together during the season.

The general feeling from all concerned was that the league would get together 2/3 times a season and that someone would need to take minutes etc.

SECRETARY

D.L nominated Angie Wilson

Seconded by L.A

This was voted on unanimously and Angie Wilson accepted the position

FIXTURES SECRETARY

D.A nominated Laurence Smith

Seconded by D.L

This was voted on unanimously and Laurence Smith accepted the position

TREASURER

The general feeling was does the league need a bank account / treasurer? The decision on this was for it to be discussed at length during the meeting.

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INSURANCE

Public Liability Insurance is set at £118 per club with a further £18 per team or £1 per player.

All the relevant information regarding the PLA and Personal Insurance can be found on the BBF website

FIELDS

Exeter informed the league that their diamond will be at St Lukes School with the permission from Carillion to have a back-drop and batting circle, but am unsure of a pitching mound as of yet

There was a discussion on a portable mound but this was not an ideal solution, but everyone agreed that each club would inform the league if there is a mound at their diamonds before the start of the season.

Bristol will be playing at the same diamond as last season and will endeavour to have toilets/changing rooms for players use. There is a small possibility that they would not have lines marked between from home to 1st and home to 3rd, this will be at the umpire's discretion to call fair/fowl.

Torbay is still in talks with their M.P Adrian Sanders and Torbay Council in regard to a location, but as it stands they will be playing at Clennon Valley. Torbay is to have further meetings before the season starts.

T.W has offered to accompany Torbay at any meetings to offer any assistance.

All of the other clubs are offering Torbay to use their fields if necessary.

Plymouth will remain at the same venue with the same facilities as Plymouth has entered into another 9 year lease with Plymouth City Council.

M.W stressed that as part of the BBF requirements for fields all venues should provide toilet/changing room facilities and would ask that all clubs try to adhere to this the best they can.

In regard to boundary line/home run fence , a point was raised that some clubs would not be able to have a fence so T.W suggested any form of marking ie: coloured cones/ rope or even branches in the ground would suffice as long as there is a visual marker.

D.L asked whether other clubs have an L-Screen and the outcome was that both Bristol and Plymouth do, Torbay & Exeter will endeavour to acquire one.

The league agreed that the home team will provide 3 match balls for the games, it was decided that the league will be flexible on the make but have suggested the Rawlings ROLB1.

There were concerns over the league having to use all wood bats as none of the clubs can afford to purchase all new bats, so it was decided that the league would be recognised as a multi-bat league, providing all the bats used are on the approved BBF bats list

All players under the age of 18 years of age must play with aluminium bats.

L.S suggested that when the league affiliates to the BBF or take part in any tournaments/championships run by the BBF the wooden bats must be used.

D.L mentioned that Baum have very good quality composite bats that teams may want to invest in.

GAMES

D.A suggested an 11.00am pitch off

N.R responded that it was too early as it is his only day of rest

L.S suggested that each playing team could decide between themselves

M.W a decision has to be made today

D.L said that BBF rulings state that each team should have 45 minutes on the field before each game, which mean one and half hours before would pitch off

N.R said his diamond will only be available an hour beforehand

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed on a 12 noon pitch off

D.A said that umpires have to be at the diamond at least half an hour before the game to do their checks.

The league played 12 games last season!

L.S. Torbay would like to have 16 this season

N.R. would prefer 12 games plus a mini tournament

D.L suggested 12 games to be scheduled for every other weekend making it 2 games a month

D.A enquired about rain-days

These would be automatically built in on the alternative weekends

The league decided that there would be 12 games this season played the same weekend.

A suggestion of an All Star Tournament was played, it was decided that this would be an Inter Club Tournament releasing any pressure on players and making it open to all registered team players, with the emphasis it being a sociable event.

LEAGUE START DATE

14TH April 2013

D.A a proof fixtures schedule should be provided and once agreed it will not be changed

In the event of any cancellation of games the team must notified the opposing team no less than 48 hours prior to the game. It was agreed that any contact between the clubs should be done only by the 2 nominated contacts.

All games will be 9 innings, if a team should be leading by 10 runs at the end of the 7th inning the game will be declared.

PLAYER ROSTERS

A photo I.D roster should be made available to all clubs, all players should be rostered with a photo I.D on their club websites, and if teams wish to print them for their own references they can do so.

DISPENSATIONS

All players under 18years of age must provide parental consent to do play-up.

Pitch count for under 18's is 14 to 16 yrs is 95 pitches and 17 to 18 yrs is 105

BORROWED PLAYERS

A vote was taken to abide by last year's SWBL rules and the outcome was 5 for and 3 against, this vote after much discussion was abolished unanimously and agreed to abide by the BBF rules, with the acceptance that all pitchers regardless of age will be treated as over 21 year olds ie : if they pitch 14 innings or more for another team they cannot pitch in the SWBL.

Any players borrowed from within the league must play in the outfield with a penalty of 1 run per player with a maximum of 2 borrowed players.

UMPIRES

Each club should provide a home plate umpire, an umpires course will be arranged in due course and will be free of charge to any SWBL members and run by Tug Wilson, date to be confirmed.

L.S. Will Lintern has provided a list of qualified umpires that can be used as a last resort.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

N.R. are we just looking at this season or are we actively going to promote baseball in other areas, he suggested that all clubs pay £150 into a league account to help set other clubs up

D.L. Bristol do not have any funds available to do this but will continue to promote baseball via their club and other outlets that they already use

M.N. said they use the media to promote their club and the league at every opportunity

D.A & L.A both said Plymouth could not provide funds either and would continue to promote baseball as they have in previous years.

All clubs said they would provide help in other ways to assist new clubs.

L.S. SWBL needs a logo and M.W suggested the outline of the southwest peninsula, pin pointing the 4 areas, which seemed favourable

L.A. at least 1 first aider should be in attendance at each game, clubs will endeavour to provide them.

Bank Account

N.R. suggested that there is no need for a league bank account; any monies could be kept safe in someone's house!

The rest of the group stressed that if an account was to be set up then this has to be done via a bank account as required by law, if the league were to apply for grants etc or receive any monetary sponsorship then account has to be in place.

It was agreed that Plymouth would open a SWBL account with Barclays with Dave Avery being the treasure with Les Anderson and Angie Wilson being the signatories.

Team Awards/Trophy

D.L. is there a need for league trophies, his players do not play for trophies

M.W. stated that it gives the players a focus and something to play for

A.W. suggested that if teams wanted replica trophies of the winners one then each club could buy their own

Playoffs

If at the end of the season there are 2 teams with the same results at the top of the league then there will be a playoff. For players to be eligible to play in the play-off they must have played in at least 4 league matches.

Points Awarded

N.R. suggested win/draw/loss points should be the same as all other British sports

L.S. said there will be a possibility of losing the identity of the game

Everyone agreed to keep the system as it is.

MLB Rule change

It was agreed to abide by the new ruling:

A fake throw-down to 3rd but thrown to 1st is now a BALK.

BBF Affiliation

It was agreed by all clubs concerned that we will have a meeting with the BBF during this season and will then decide on the SWBL's future set-up

Meeting closed 16.30pm