

The Business Assistance (NW) Liverpool and District Cricket Competition

Constitution - 2009

1. Name

The name of the Competition will be the 'Liverpool and District Cricket Competition - an ECB Premier League' qualified by the name of a sponsor, if applicable (hereinafter referred to as 'L&DCC').

2. Objects

- (a) To arrange cricket matches between member clubs.
- (b) To encourage the playing of the game in a proper cricket spirit. The Spirit of Cricket will apply.
- (c) To foster and develop the playing of cricket at all levels - from juniors through colts to senior players - to enable all to achieve their maximum potential and enjoyment leading to the greatest success for the representative teams and the individuals selected.

3. Membership

- (a) A 'member' club is defined as any full or associate member club.
- (b) Full membership is to be limited to 36 clubs from 2010 onwards which will compete on all scheduled dates of the official fixture list and will enter a team in both 1st and 2nd XI competitions. 1st and 2nd XIs will be treated en bloc. Each full member club should enter at least one team in a 3rd XI competition.
- (c)
 - (i) Promoted clubs of 1st XIs from Feeder Leagues shall be deemed to have acceded to Full Membership on the 1st January in the year immediately following their promotion.
 - (ii) Relegated clubs of 1st XIs from the First Division shall be deemed to have ceased from Full Membership on the 31st December in the year of their relegation.
 - (iii) Promoted clubs of 2nd XIs, not having a 1st XI membership shall be deemed to be Associate Members on the 1st January in the year immediately following their promotion at which point they become subject to the Constitution and all Rules and Regulations.
 - (iv) Relegated clubs of 2nd XIs not having a 1st or 3rd XI(s) as members of the Competition shall be deemed to have ceased from Associate Membership on the 31st December in the year of their relegation from the 2nd XI First Division.
- (d) Associate membership will be granted to clubs elected solely to compete in a 2nd or 3rd XI competition.
- (e) ECB Feeder League status is granted to the First and Second Divisions of the Merseyside and Southport Cricket Alliance (hereinafter referred to as 'the M&SCA') [see Appendices 1, 2 and Playing Regulation 1(b) (iii) and (iv)].
- (f)
 - (i) Resignation from membership for the following season must be received in writing by the Honorary Secretary not later than 31st March. In the event of such a vacancy occurring, a Special General Meeting will be called at the earliest convenient date.
 - (ii) No member club will negotiate with any other league for membership thereof without first obtaining the written permission of the Management Committee.
- (g) New applicants for membership must apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary in accordance with the criteria laid down by the local Cricket Board and/or the League Cricket Conference and will be elected to membership only by member clubs voting at a general meeting.
- (h) Each full member club is responsible for the payment of an annual subscription which is

automatically due by the 1st May, plus a fee to cover the cost of at least one full or two half page advertisements in the annual handbook, which said amounts will be agreed at the preceding Annual General Meeting of the Competition. Non payment by 1st July will incur an immediate penalty of £50.00 for each month or part thereof, that the subscription remains outstanding.

- (i) All member clubs are required to provide adequate facilities and grass playing surfaces to the satisfaction of the Management Committee and in accordance with the 'Grounds Criteria' as described elsewhere in this handbook. In addition, clubs should ensure that they have access to good quality practice facilities.
- (j) If, after reasonable notice from the Management Committee, a member club fails to abide by this Constitution, consideration will be given to its expulsion from the Competition. A member club can only be expelled following a decision by paper ballot at a General Meeting.
- (k) Each member club will nominate an Appeals Representative to serve on any Appeals Committee formed by the Management Committee as described in the Disciplinary Procedures of the Competition. In addition a club official will be nominated to receive Disciplinary Reports from the Merseyside Cricket Umpires Association (hereinafter referred to as 'the MCUA') Disciplinary Co-ordinator.
- (l)
 - (i) Each member club will be expected to support the Annual Awards Dinner and five places (two for associate member clubs) will be reserved. Any member club not wishing to take up its full allocation of places must advise the appropriate member of the Management Committee responsible for the dinner but in any event will be liable for the full payment for three places (two for associate member clubs) and half payment for any places not used.
 - (ii) If a club fails to notify the Annual Dinner organiser of its intention not to take up some or all of its allocation of more than 5 tickets less than 48 hours before the Dinner, then that club shall be liable for all costs incurred by and liable to the Competition in respect of the seats not taken.
- (m)
 - (i) Member clubs and players must make adequate provision for the appropriate safe keeping of a trophy or an award whilst it is in their possession and the club/player is responsible for the safe return, duly polished and in good condition, to the Honorary Secretary or other appointed Competition Official upon request.
 - (ii) In the event of loss or damage, the club/player will be financially responsible for replacement or repair.
 - (iii) The holder must ensure that the replacement trophy/award is of equivalent quality to that which has been lost or damaged and that it is suitably engraved and submit an invoice for re-imburement to the Honorary Treasurer in respect of such engraving.

4. Officers

- (a)
 - (i) The Officers are the President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Cricket Chairman, Club and Ground Chairman and Publicity Chairman who will be elected at an Annual General Meeting.
 - (ii) The President will normally be eligible for re-election after a three year period.
 - (iii) The Chairman will normally be eligible for re-election after a two year period.
 - (iv) All other Officers will be elected for a period of one year.
 - (v) A person will not hold more than one office concurrently.
- (b) All references to an 'Honorary' Officer in the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Competition will apply to the appropriate officer of the Competition.
- (c) The Management Committee may propose at the Annual General Meeting, the name(s) of people who have rendered meritorious service to the Competition for appointment as Life Vice Presidents or Vice Presidents. Vice Presidents may be elected to membership of the Management Committee but otherwise have no automatic rights to membership thereof.

5. Management

- (a) The overall management of the Competition will be the responsibility of a Management Committee comprising all the elected Officers.
- (b) The Management Committee will provide four members on the Feeder League Coordinating Board which will include the Chairman, Cricket Chairman, Grounds Chairman plus one additional member appointed by the Management Committee. This Board will include four representatives from the M&SCA and will be chaired by the L&DCC Chairman, who will have the casting vote.
- (c) The quorum of the Management Committee will be four.
- (d) In addition, the following committees will have responsibility for the management of specific areas and will report thereon to the Management Committee:
 - (i) a Club and Grounds Committee. (see Club and Ground Committee and Club and Ground Criteria.)
 - (ii) a Publicity and Sponsorship Liaison Committee. The Chairman will have the powers of co-option and will seek nominations from the member clubs. It will deal with developing links with all interested media partners, the web site, the appointment of a webmaster, managing the sponsorship contract and the player of the month awards. In addition, the committee will be responsible for engraving, presentation, insurance and security of all trophies, awards etc., for matches under the auspices of the L&DCC.
 - (iii) a Cricket Committee, chaired by the Cricket Chairman, will meet as necessary but at a minimum of quarterly intervals after due and reasonable notice has been given; maintain contact among the whole committee between meetings by regular exchange of emails and or telephone calls or by any other convenient means; have the powers of co-option but will include as ex-officio members, the Management Committee as necessary, the Honorary Fixtures and Results Secretary, the Webmaster, the Registration Officer, the 3rd XI Fixtures and Results Secretary and a representative of the MCUA plus a representative from each of five full member clubs; have the five full member clubs chosen annually and largely alphabetically. The five clubs will change annually and be formally notified to the Competition at the appropriate AGM. The Committee will deal with cricketing matters, including youth cricket and the registration of players. It may also set up subcommittees to deal with such matters as the selection of the representative teams and 2nd and 3rd XI cricket and will report via the Cricket Chairman to the Management Committee at regular intervals and at least every month.
 - (iv) a Disciplinary Committee, whose Chairman will deal with all matters referred to him by the Management Committee in accordance with the Disciplinary Guidelines issued by the L&DCC, and as agreed by the member clubs. ECB guidelines will also be taken into account.
- (e) The subcommittees' detailed terms of reference and procedures will be agreed by the Management Committee.

6. Finance

- (a) The Competition's financial year will commence on the 1st October.
- (b) The Annual Accounts will be audited by an Honorary Auditor appointed at the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) Cheques drawn on the Competition's bank account will be signed by the Honorary Treasurer and countersigned as required by the Chairman, Honorary Secretary or other officer of the Competition.
- (d) Should any monies remain outstanding as at the date of the first league fixture in April in any year, no match points will be gained by the offending club in all team league fixtures until such a debt is paid to the Honorary Treasurer and/or to the satisfaction of the Management Committee.

7. Annual General Meeting

- (a) The meeting will be held in the month of January each year and nominations of officers must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary by 31st October of the preceding year.
- (b) All nominations for membership of the Management Committee will be made in writing, before 31st October of the previous year, on the official form provided for this purpose and will be proposed by the Management Committee or the Cricket Chairman and/or Secretary of one full member club and seconded by the Cricket Chairman and/or Secretary of a different full member club. Proposals by the Management Committee do not need to be formally seconded. The proposal will indicate the nominee's willingness to serve. The categories requiring formal notification in addition to the Management Committee are:
 - the Chairman of the Disciplinary sub Committee.
 - the Honorary Fixtures and Results Secretary.
 - the Honorary 3rd XI Fixtures and Results Secretaries.
- (c) The Honorary Secretary will provide all member clubs with at least 28 days notice in writing and forward a copy of:
 - (i) The Financial Statement
 - (ii) Nominations for the Management Committee
 - (iii) A detailed Agenda
 - (iv) The proposed amendments (if applicable) to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations and the names of membership applicants together with their proposers and seconders.
- (d) The quorum of an AGM is the nearest whole figure to two thirds of the full member clubs at the time of the meeting.
- (e)
 - (i) Attendance at the meeting will not be restricted. The Press will be welcome, if invited by the Management Committee.
 - (ii) Each full member club will only be allowed one vote. Proxy votes will not be allowed. Voting will be by show of hands except where a proposal for a paper ballot has been approved or where elections to the Management Committee are concerned.
 - (iii) All constitutional matters decided by voting will require a two thirds majority of full member clubs except for the election of members of the Management Committee where a simple majority is required.
 - (iv) All other matters will be decided by a two thirds majority of those full member clubs present and voting (excluding abstentions).
 - (v) The Chairman will have the casting vote.
 - (vi) Associate member clubs will not be allowed a vote unless the meeting has previously agreed, except in the case of a proposal relating to the 2nd or 3rd XI competition when each member club with a team in the 2nd or 3rd XI competition will be allowed one vote in matters relating specifically to their respective division.
- (f) The ordinary business of the AGM will consist of:
 - (i) Presentation of the Annual Report;
 - (ii) Consideration of the Financial Statement;
 - (iii) Election of Officers and Committee Members for the ensuing year;
 - (iv) Determination of the subscription for the ensuing year;

- (v) Any other business of which due notice has been given;
- (vi) Appointment of Honorary Auditor;
- (vii) Appointment of Honorary Solicitor.
- (g) Should no nominations for any particular office or membership of the Management Committee have been received by the Honorary Secretary prior to 31st October of the preceding year, nominations may be proposed and seconded at the AGM and voted upon in accordance with (e) above.
- (h) All general propositions and changes to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations will be proposed and seconded on the official form as indicated in (b) above and forwarded to the Honorary Secretary by 31st October of the preceding year.
- (i) Amendments to propositions may be proposed, seconded and voted upon at the AGM. If accepted, the amended proposition will be put to the vote and, if further accepted, incorporated in the Competition's Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

8. Special General Meetings

- (a) A Special General Meeting (SGM) will be convened by the Honorary Secretary as and when required by the Management Committee or at the request of nine full member clubs from whom requests for such a meeting in writing are required by the Honorary Secretary.
- (b) At least 21 days notice of such a meeting will be provided to members and the notice will state the specific purpose of the meeting including any proposed changes to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations.
- (c) The quorum, attendance and voting rights for an SGM will be the same as for an AGM.
- (d) A 'pre-season' SGM will be held on a Tuesday in April before the start of the season.
- (e) An 'end of season' SGM will be held on a Tuesday in October as required.
- (f) A 3rd XI 'end of season' SGM will be held in November as required.

9. Fixtures

- (a)
 - (i) After full consultation with the 3rd XI Fixtures and Results Secretary and the Fixtures and Results Secretary of the Feeder League(s), the Honorary Fixtures and Results Secretary will present draft fixtures to the Cricket Chairman for ultimate approval by the Management Committee by the 31st of December.
 - (ii) The fixtures for the ensuing season will then be forwarded to each member club by the Honorary Fixtures and Results Secretary.
 - (iii) All 1st and 2nd XI matches should be played on the member club's main ground.
 - (iv) No alteration will be made either to dates or venues on the Official Fixture List without the prior approval of the Management Committee on the form provided and submitted to the appropriate Honorary Fixtures and Results Secretary on the form provided (on the website).
 - (v) This includes the postponement of a fixture, the playing of 1st and 2nd XI matches on other than a member club's main ground.
 - (vi) The practice of arranging benefit matches, fêtes etc. on Saturdays should be avoided.
 - (vii) In the event that a league fixture is re-arranged for a Sunday, the requirements of the 1st XI Knockout Trophy Rule 4(c) will apply.
- (b) Upon request, clubs will be entitled to play their traditional local rivals on Spring and August Bank Holiday Mondays both at 1st and 2nd XI, so long as they are in the same division.

10. Constitution, Rules and Regulations

The Constitution, Rules and Regulations can only be amended, added to or deleted at an Annual or Special General Meeting.

11. Complaints

- (a) All complaints will be forwarded, in writing, to the Honorary Secretary.
- (b) Any member club, member of the Management Committee or member of the MCUA making a complaint against any other member club, or player or member thereof, will forward a copy of the complaint to the member club or clubs concerned.
- (c) A copy of the complaint will be forwarded immediately upon receipt by the Honorary Secretary to the secretary of the member club or clubs concerned requesting written comments which will be returned within 14 days. Complaints will be investigated and dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Procedures.
- (d) Complaints relating to the management of the Competition or any other matter of a general nature will, in the first instance, be dealt with by the Management Committee.

12. Fines and Penalties

- (a) In addition to any fines included above, eg 3(i), the following fines will be levied:
 - (i) Any club failing to attend the AGM or a Special General Meeting in any calendar year will be fined £25.00 on the first occasion, and £50.00 on any subsequent occasion.
 - (ii) Fines will be incurred by clubs which fail to comply with the Playing Regulations 6, 8(a)(ii), (ix) and (xii), 8(b)(i), 9(a), 10(d)(ii), 11(b)(i) and 11(c).
- (b) Point penalties will be incurred by clubs which fail to comply with Clause 6(d) above and with the Playing Regulations 4(a)(vii) and 6.
- (c) Any fines or other outstanding monies not paid to the Honorary Treasurer by the 31st December (i.e. 3 months from the end of the Financial Year) will be doubled.

13. ECB Safe Hands Policy (October 2003)

- (a) The Competition is firmly and enthusiastically committed to ensuring that cricket within the Competition, provides a safe, friendly and enjoyable experience for children and vulnerable adults. To this end, the Competition requires that member clubs implement fully the ECB Safe Hands Policy (October 2003) in respect of the welfare of young people in cricket. The Child Welfare Officer from each club shall be defined and recorded in the Competition's handbook.
- (b) Each member club is required to appoint a Child Welfare Officer to qualify for both Full and Associate membership of the Competition.
- (c)
 - (i) Each full member club must have achieved Clubmark to retain L&DCC status.
 - (ii) From 31st December 2009, each Associate Member club will be required to have achieved Clubmark to retain L&DCC status.
 - (iii) A member club not registered for Clubmark by the specified date, if appropriate, will cease to be or cannot become a member of the L&DCC subject to Clause 3(i).

Appendix 1

League structure for 2009 of the L&DCC - an ECB Premier League

1st XI		2nd XI	
Premier Division (14)	First Division (14)	Premier Division (14)	First Division (14)
Bootle	Ainsdale	Bootle	Ainsdale
Colwyn Bay	Burscough	Fleetwood Hesketh	Burscough
Fleetwood Hesketh	Highfield	Formby	Colwyn Bay
Formby	Leigh	Leigh	Highfield
Hightown	Liverpool	Liverpool	Maghull
Lytham	Maghull	Lytham	Newton le Willows
New Brighton	Orrell Red Triangle	New Brighton	Norley Hall
Newton le Willows	Rainford	Northern	Orrell Red Triangle
Northern	Rainhill	Northop Hall	Parkfield Liscard
Northop Hall	St Helens	Ormskirk	Prestatyn
Ormskirk	St Helens Recs	Sefton Park	St Helens
Prestatyn	Sefton Park	Southport and Birkdale	Skelmersdale
Southport and Birkdale	Skelmersdale	Wallasey	Southport Trinity
Wallasey	Wigan	Wigan	Wavertree

Appendix 2

League structure for 2009 of the Merseyside and Southport Cricket Alliance

1st XI Division (14)	2nd XI Division (14)
Alder	Alder
Birkenhead St Mary's	Birkenhead St Mary's
Caldy	Caldy
Haydock	Hightown
Huyton	Huyton
Maritime	Maritime
Moorfield	Moorfield
Norley Hall	Old Xaverians
Parkfield Liscard	Port Sunlight
Prescot and Odyssey	Prescot and Odyssey
Southport Trinity	Rainhill
Sutton (St Helens)	Rainford
Wavertree	St Helens Recs
Whitefield (Roby)	Whitefield (Roby)