

# South Metropolitan Cricket Association

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 17 August 2020

Held at Atwell Reserve. Meeting Commenced at 7pm.



**Paul Speering declared the meeting open at 7pm and welcomed all attendees.**

### **PRESENT:**

**Executive:** Paul Speering (Chair), Mario Baeli, Norm Harris, Clifford Joseph, Mark Ianello, Ian Del Rossi, Graham Santich, John Griffin (minutes).

**Clubs:** As per attendance list. (all Clubs present)

**APOLOGIES:** Ian Hale, Gary Hartman

**MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETING:** The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 5 August 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Moved: Paul Speering Seconded: Graham Santich CARRIED**

**MATTERS ARISING: Nil**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Paul Speering:**

Paul informed the meeting that his report is as published in the Annual Report that had been distributed. Season 2019/20 was a unique season due to COVID.

### **TREASURERS REPORT- Mario Baeli:**

Mario presented the 2019/20 Financial Statement. The SMCA recorded a net loss of \$18,673.77. This was due to increased costs for the Cricket West Competition, Umpire development costs and an increased uptake in clubs acquiring ipads for scoring. Even though the Windup was cancelled at very short notice (following direction by Cricket Australia) the caterer had to be paid. The Windup function costs are not fully covered by the ticket levies placed on the clubs. The food for the Windup was donated to a number of charities.

Mario then presented the Budget for 2020/21 Budget. Forecast Income is \$93,800 while expenditure is forecast to be \$98,840 which results in net loss of \$5,040. Club affiliation fees, team nomination fees will not be increased due to the impact of COVID. Distributions from Cricket West are expected to be \$17,000.

**Moved by Mark Ianello that the SMCA Financial Statement for 2019/20 and the budget for 2020/21 as presented be accepted.**

**Seconded by Ian Del Rosso CARRIED**

### **UMPIRE'S ADVISOR- Norm Harris :**

Norm provided a brief overview on the umpires. Umpire field training during the season had been a success and will continue. A number of prospective umpires for the coming season have made approaches.

## **CRICKET WEST- John Griffin :**

**1. Belt Up Cricket West Cup** – has been significantly altered this season due to COVID. One team from each Association (as decided by the Association) will contest semi-finals on Sunday 10 Jan 21 with the winners playing each other in the Final on Sunday 17 Jan 21. There are no Colts or Veterans this season.

**2. Helmets:** Cricket Australia strongly recommends that Community Associations take all practical steps to adopt the ICC Directive and mandate that all junior and senior players wear British Standard 7928:2013 compliant Helmets when Batting, Wicket-Keeping up to the stumps and fielding close to the batter.

**3. Good Sports Accreditation:** – is included in the affiliation schedule for Cricket West and Associations. The target this season is 100% of clubs. Accreditation is becoming part of funding distributions from CA through to the WACA and then through to Cricket West. The SMCA has 19 out of 24 clubs currently accredited, which is 79.166% - the target last season was 80%.

**4. Player Insurance** – the online player insurance module that was to be introduced this season has been deferred by Cricket Australia.

**5. Certificates of Currency** – The Insurance Module is now available for 2020/21. Clubs need to complete the module to obtain their Certificate of Currency . The Association pays the insurance **so do not pay.**

**6. COVID** - Cricket Australia through the WACA and through Cricketwest will provide an update on the COVID protocols we will be required to apply for the season. These protocols will be distributed towards the end of August at this stage and may change especially given the situation in Victoria - some of the protocols will include no spitting on the ball and umpires are not to hold players caps, vests, sunglasses etc.

Paul Speering then declared all positions as listed vacant and called for nominations.

John Griffin then opened the election. The following were nominated and elected.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

**Patron:** Brian Waterer was nominated by Mario Baeli and seconded by Phoenix CC as Patron.

**President:** Paul Speering was nominated by Mark Iannello for the Presidents position. Seconded by Clifford Joseph. There were no other nominations for President

Paul Speering elected as President.

**Senior Vice President:** Michael Beer was nominated by Maddington for the Senior Vice Presidents position. Seconded by Clifford Joseph. There were no other nominations for Senior Vice President

Michael Beer was elected as Senior Vice President.

**Junior Vice President:** Clifford Joseph was as nominated Paul Speering for the Junior Vice Presidents position. Seconded by Mark Iannello There were no other nominations for Junior Vice President

Clifford Joseph was elected as Junior Vice President.

**Executive Committee:** The following were nominated and elected unanimously to the Executive Committee:  
Ian Del Rosso – nominated by John Griffin, seconded by Paul Speering  
Mark Ianello – nominated by John Griffin, seconded by Paul Speering  
Graham Santich – nominated by John Griffin, seconded by Paul Speering  
Peter Anderson – nominated by Maddington, seconded by Phoenix

**Auditor:** A suitable Auditor needs to be found as the previous Auditor has not been contactable. Executive Committee to approve Auditor once sourced.

Paul Speering then resumed as Chair of the Meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1. Paul Speering President SMCA**

- Paul apprised the meeting that there were some minor anomalies (ie terminology, descriptions etc) in the Constitution and the Bylaws and a subcommittee is formed to review and make any reasonable changes to the By-Laws and Constitution in order to ensure consistency of language, format or terminology across the two key documents
- Because 48(1)(c) uses the term 'shall', all of those subcommittees mentioned **have** to be formed and appointed. I believe that we can essentially just remove 48(1)(c) as it is covered in 48(1)(a) – *"appoint one or more subcommittees."*
- That Clause 48(1)(c) is deleted due to redundancy
- That Clauses 27(1) & (2) are deleted due to redundancy
- That the term 'Executive Member' is defined as an office holder of the Association, either elected or appointed
- That the composition and term 'Senior Executive' is defined in the Constitution and Bylaws

**ACTION :** All changes made will be then communicated to the clubs, and agreed either at an AGM or a Special General Meeting as required by Clause 72 of the Constitution.

- This will not be a rushed process.

**CARRIED**

### **2. Maddington CC**

1. **Afternoon teas during 2020 season.** Alec Lacey requested that due to COVID and associated hygiene clubs should not provide communal afternoon tea as per the Bylaws. Discussion on this and the COVID implications then occurred. Given this it was AGREED that shared drinks would not be permitted and players (an umpires) will be allowed to leave the field at drink breaks.

Graham Santich proposed that ‘clubs do not need to provide afternoon tea for the 20210/21 season”.

Seconded by Maddington.

**CARRIED**

Note. The bylaws will not be amended as it is hoped that this will be one off situation. Instructions to Committees and Team Captains will convey this information.

2. **Promotion Regulation.** Alec Lacey informed that Maddington were not happy with the current promotion and relegation criterion as they were 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and no avenue promotion under the current system. Energetic discussion then occurred, with a number of clubs providing points of view. The current criterion though not ideal has been a fair system, which has been promulgated to the clubs prior to the start of each season. Clubs in the past few seasons who have requested relegation to lower grades have complicated the situation.

Mario Baeli suggested that 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade be mirrored, as with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 4<sup>th</sup> grade would then comprise of the remaining clubs who are not in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with any vacancies being filled by clubs with abundant two-day teams (ie Cockburn). Promotion would occur from 4<sup>th</sup> grade to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Relegation would occur from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

This suggestion was generally accepted by the Meeting and to be a consideration for grading.

It was proposed by Phoenix that:

The Executive Committee to review the promotion and relegation system with an emphasis on mirrored grades and that requests to drop to lower grades will not be accepted.

Seconded by Mario Baeli

**CARRIED**

**Action: The Executive Committee to review the promotion and grading criterion with an emphasis on mirrored grades.**

### **3. Riverton-Rostrata CC -**

Umpire payments being cashless. Ideally we would prefer the association to pay umpires and then the clubs to make a payment to the association. Or if umpires are to be paid on game day then umpires being supplied a square reader or POS type system that players can tap and go their bankcards.

Most players don't bring cash to games and it makes it difficult to have the money for umpires, especially away games where we do not have access to our canteen registrar.

The Secretary informed the meeting that umpire payments will be paid by EFT by the Association Treasurer once the match has commenced and umpire appointments are confirmed. Clubs will then be invoiced each week and required to pay within 7 days. The Bylaws have been amended to reflect this.

### **4. Piara Waters CC**

For the 2020/21 Season in all 2 day competitions –

- For 14 of the regular season Saturdays, play the standard 7 x two dayers in all of the two day comps (everyone plays each other once; keeps it reasonably fair other than home and away fixturing that isn't critical and is also out of balance under the current 18 day model anyway). This will provide an equal playing field for all clubs in terms of head to head and protects the integrity of the SMCA promotion/relegation system in place.
- For the other 4 available regular season fixtured Saturdays, split each two day only grade in to 2 divisions (like the model used in the F15 comp to split Clubs into divisions). Each of the 4 teams in each of the divisions play each other once in a T20 fixture (3 matches over 3 Saturdays) with genuine T20 rules including fielding restrictions as per the Cricket West rules. The top 2 sides from each division, or the top side only from each division go through to a double header semi final / grand final weekend, or a single grand final only on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday (one club; doesn't need to be a top placed side, it's simply a club hosting the event; to host the event with 2 grounds available for example or two neighbouring clubs hosting semi-finals worst case to allow minimal travel to a GF fixture). This may present a slightly longer day than normal but it's a one off event that should be made as big as possible. \*Recommend the semi final and grand final model on the basis that teams can't complain that the best 2 sides were potentially in the same qualifying division and one knocked the other out.

Note: Obviously the other 4 or 6 teams not qualifying end up with a week off but given this is a one off event it should be fine to suggest those Clubs have a week off to either do other club based events, have some family time, or support one of these GF events over that weekend.

- In 2<sup>nd</sup> to the bottom 2 day comp (presumably 7<sup>th</sup> grade) the grand finalist play for a T20 premiership. In 1<sup>st</sup> grade the grand finalist play for a T20 premiership and the available spot in the Cricket West cup. \*Note: This competition has no points or results recorded towards the overall 2 day ladders. \*\*Also note the below suggestion of the CricketWest Cup representative not coming from the winner of this comp.
- The fixturing would need tweaking to ensure this competition is completed prior to the Cricket West carnival so this needs to also be considered. \*Feedback has also be received to suggest last season's 1<sup>st</sup> grade minor premiers be selected as the CricketWest rep Club as a reward for the way last season ended up and therefore the T20 comp doesn't need to be completed prior to the CricketWest Cup under this proposal.
- Going forward for 2021/22 onwards, the proposal would be that this then be moved to the one day only grades instead (or at least the lower one day only grades) and cater for the imbalance in playing days they always have (approx. 18/19 days; only 14 days required to play each other twice). A separate period in the fixturing, similar to how the one day only comp is applied in the two day comps could then be created.

Energetic discussion occurred on the season format and the likely impact of COVID. After some suggestion and input from various attendees it was AGREED that there would be an emphasis for completion of the two-day competition finals. The format would be seven (7) x two-day matches, a semi final weekend and a grand final weekend. Depending on the availability of the remaining Saturdays in the season, T20 matches to be played.

It was proposed by Cockburn that the priority for the Two-day Competition would be seven (7) two-day matches with finals. Seconded by PWCC .

**CARRIED**

**Action :** The Fixtures and Grading Sub-Committee would re- configure the proposed playing dates to include a number of scenarios to cater for COVID, the AFL grand final and any unforeseen disruptions.

**General Business**

**1. Secretary** - Team and Ground nominations are to be submitted by 1 Oct 2020 (subject to COVID) through the SMCA website via club logins. Please include any ground unavailability dates in your submissions

**2. Secretary** – Clubs are requested to action received clearances within seven (7) days per the bylaws other wise the clearance will be automatic. Clubs can refuse clearances received for specific reasons – ie owe money, intellectual property, club equipment.

**3. Secretary** – a request had been received to consider limiting overs to eight balls in the one day grades due to the excessive number of wides and no-balls now being bowled which result in very late match finishes. While this proposal has merit it was not generally supported.

**4. Graham Santich** – Apprised the meeting on the development of women's cricket and its continued growth. Season 2020/21 would again be played under the Perth Scorchers and played on Sunday afternoons commencing on Sunday 18 Oct 2020. SMCA clubs are encouraged to form women's teams and it is hoped that SMCA can run its women's competition in future seasons

**5. Jacob Landsmeer**- Informed that meeting the new balls types are now available for bowling machines. Jacob can provide the link to the suppliers.

**6. Kenwick** – inquired about the ball type to be used in matches.

The Secretary advised that the Kookaburra Tuf Pitch is to be used for all SMCA two-day and one-day matches as per the bylaws. The ball trial held last season was not successful. Kookaburra has increased their sponsorship for their next few seasons.

**7. Piara Waters** – inquired about e-scoring.

The Secretary advised that while it will not be compulsory this season for the higher grades it is strongly encouraged for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Clubs who have been reimbursed monies for ipad purchases should be e scoring. The \$700 reimbursement is still available to the clubs who have not been reimbursed for an ipad purchase. Laptops can be used, as there is a now a scoring application that links into Mycricket.

**8. Roleystone- Karragullen** – Apprised the meeting about the Bouncing Back Program that is available to clubs to assist in Mental Health through Richmond Well being. The Program is aimed at players and anyone else in the club.

**9. Maddington** – advised the meeting that DEFIBS for clubrooms can be sourced through St Johns for the small cost of \$250.

**10. EFCC** – inquired about player names and numbers on playing shirts.

The Secretary advised that club playing shirts are to be predominately white on the front of the shirt (red ball) and that numbers etc on the back of the shirt are acceptable. Clubs should submit designs to the Secretary for consideration by the Executive Committee

**11. Piara Waters** –Informed the meeting that there were instances last season where players wore spiked footwear which can cause damage to the astro-turf pitch coverings.

**Action:** Clubs to be informed that spiked footwear is not to be worn.

**CLOSURE:** Paul Speering thanked all for attending and declared the Meeting closed at 8.42 pm

**NEXT MEETING: Monday 21 September 2020 – 6.00 pm Executive Meeting at Kardinya**  
**President's Report 2020/21**

Nothing I can do or say will add anything to what has already been said or done by others regarding the perilous health and economic situation we are all in. If we look back to March this year, we had no real idea of what we were facing and how that would impact us. Through good management and good fortune, here in Western Australia, we have so far avoided the utter catastrophe and chaos that has afflicted many other places around the world, and in fact, several states of our great country. Don't kid yourself though, what has happened, and is currently still happening, in Victoria could very easily happen to us. It is possible that the virus is present in WA, and so we must be vigilant. If you have the slightest concern or have developed some of the symptoms of the virus, go and get yourself tested. Trust me, it's not the most pleasant thing you 'll do this year, but at the very least it can provide you with some peace of mind.

If you cast your mind back to before our world was tipped upside down, season 2019/2020 had seen some of the most amazing cricket ever in our Association. We had spectacular individual and team efforts, we had final ladder positions decided in the last hour of play, we had players living out their childhood dreams, and games coming down to the last ball, the last wicket, the last run across all our of grades. Then there were the things that sometimes go unnoticed, such as a player's first run, or their first wicket, or even the first time that they run on to a cricket field for a competitive match. I still remember my first game, and my first run ... a French cut down to the boundary on a wet Saturday afternoon at Alan Edwards!

Season 2019/2020 was also a first in many ways. We had our first 1<sup>st</sup> Grade game under lights, with SJ Blues hosting Phoenix in a two-day match at the freshly upgraded Briggs Park facility. A big congratulations must go to the SJ Blues and Phoenix Cricket Clubs for making it happen; it was a giant undertaking and its success will light the way (pardon the pun) for other clubs to follow. We also tweaked the fixture to allow for a stand-alone 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Mid-Season One-Day Grand Final. By any measure it could be considered a massive success, with a huge crowd in attendance, a live stream on Facebook, and ball-by-ball commentary courtesy of SportFM. Both of these events gave a significant boost to the bank accounts of the host clubs and should provide a pretty decent incentive for all of our clubs to strive for.

Before that, the SMCA conducted a ball trial to see if an alternative manufacturer could provide a similar quality ball at a cheaper price. It is well understood that match balls are a club's biggest expense, and if a saving of even a few dollars could be made on each ball, then the opportunity had to be explored. Unfortunately, we were only able to secure a supply from one alternative manufacturer, and even their highest priced ball was no better than what we already use. So, we stay with the status quo, but our clubs can be confident that the match balls we use are much higher quality, although not always perfect, than those that are available from other providers.

It is fair to say that the season ended in a way that no one could have predicted, and no one wanted. The Committee that I lead was put into an unenviable position, and decisions had to be made quickly and had to take into account information that was being provided from every angle. Along with managing the Association, we all had our own health, our own families, our own jobs, and our own sanity to consider. It was a time of massive upheaval, and emotions were running high across the board. However, I must address some of the obscene and quite frankly, outlandish, behaviour and comment that was directed towards members of

the Committee and those who work voluntarily to allow you to play cricket. Nothing that is said online is anonymous anymore, and it remains long after it may have been deleted. No decision that the Committee as a whole, or individual members of the Committee, make is beyond scrutiny, but, some of the stuff was just ridiculous. I would like to take this opportunity to remind individuals and clubs of their responsibilities under our Code of Conduct, and if you haven't recently read through it, please do.

With that nastiness out of the way, its time to look forward. Fortunately, in WA, it looks like we will be able to have a 2020/2021 season with only a few minor inconveniences. Firstly, our season will be starting later than normal, and our provisional starting date is October 17. We will factor a bye in for whenever the AFL GF is, and our season will end with Grand Finals on the weekend of March 20 and 21. The Committee has decided that there will be no Sunday games this season, aside from the end of season finals. There will be new protocols when it comes to match day, such as how to handle the ball, how we conduct drinks and tea breaks, and requirements on host clubs in terms of hygiene facilities. Those will be ironed out by the powers to be over the next few weeks and communicated to the clubs. Of course, these plans could be revised, or even scrapped, if WA experiences a second wave.

My first year as SMCA President was, for the most part, highly enjoyable. When Graham Santich stepped down prior to the AGM last year, I was invited to accept the nomination to take his place. It was not a position I coveted or actively pursued, and it took me three weeks to finally accept it. I would be lying if I said I haven't made mistakes as I've learned how to be a President, but I am proud of the Committee and what has been achieved this season. Whatever may get thrown at us over the next few months, the Committee will continue to act in the best interests of the Association and its member clubs for the betterment of all.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish everybody involved in the SMCA a good season ahead.

Cheers,  
Paul Speering  
SMCA President