

South Metropolitan Cricket Association

Minutes of Special Executive Meeting held at Leeming on
Wednesday 5th October 2016

Meeting commenced at 6:00pm



PRESENT: Graham Santich, John Griffin, Scott Knight, Paul Speering, Ian Hale, Graeme Ashley, Gary Hartman (Minutes).

APOLOGIES: Ray Howe.

The special meeting has been called to discuss a number of grading issues.

The Executive noted with regret the sudden death of Kelmscott Captain Coach Phil Cheeseman.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Gradings issues are always complex and it is very difficult to please all clubs.

At the General Meeting in May

Cockburn Item 2 - Review of SMCA Grading for both Two Day and One Day Competitions: Cockburn spoke about obtaining a more consistent grading process. It was generally agreed that this was a preferred option but often very hard to achieve given the various needs of the different clubs.

The Fixtures and Gradings will endeavour to grade so that the difference in teams in each grade is as even as possible.

I personally don't agree with this process, Clubs have different strengths and weaknesses and although our previous system was by no means perfect it did allow for flexibility and the experience of the Fixtures and Gradings Committee to balance the grades. However, I did the Gradings this season using the directions above and these guidelines.

1. Teams as even in their club structure as possible.
2. Ease of fixturing allowing best use of available grounds.
3. Allow for where the clubs next lowest team is.
4. ODA made up of teams who have their first and second team in the one-day grades as well as volunteers. ODD to be a reverse of ODA as much as possible.

Having graded the clubs as best I could using these directions and guidelines the list was forwarded to fellow members of the Fixtures and Gradings Committee and generally agreed upon.

Kardinya Lakes moved from First Grade to Third Grade. This has caused some disharmony not only with some clubs but also the Executive.

Thornlie agreed to move to First Grade. Cockburn to Second Grade.

The new 65 over two-day grade have caused Fifth and Sixth Grade to be 6 team grades. This, as always with 6 team grades, has caused repercussions in the lower grades in relation to fixturing.

The original one-day grades were changed slightly to suit fixturing issues.

I believe ODA and ODD work well, the rest are done as best as possible within the guidelines but they could be better.

Some clubs have asked why they have been graded lower and some higher. All, bar one, have accepted their place and that one club is now refusing to play in one of their allocated grade. We need to enforce the by-laws.

This is the issue, there are by-laws and we need to enforce them. If we don't we get the precedent card thrown at us and possibly rightly so. If the by-laws are wrong then they should be changed.

Having said this the tragic circumstances with Kelmscott possibly allow for some compassion and I recommend we use By-Law 51E and allow them to forfeit their first two matches to allow time.

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding Kardinya Lakes dropping from First to Third Grade. Ian Hale advised that only 3 former First Graders will be playing in Kardinya Lakes top side.

There was discussion regarding Kelmscott's request to be moved from Second Grade.

It was moved Scott Knight and seconded Ian Hale ***that due to tragic circumstances Kelmscott be allowed to forfeit their Second Grade team for the first two fixtures with no financial penalty or loss of points to their lower grades sides.***

CARRIED

Subsequent to the first two rounds Kelmscott are required to play in the Second Grade and any team they may wish to withdraw must be their lowest grade.

Safety Bay has been approved membership to the SMCA on the proviso that they have a minimum of two teams. Although they have nominated two one-day sides

they have now indicated a shortage in numbers and have requested they be allowed to play with just one team. The Executive maintains they must have a minimum of two teams to remain in the Association.

Further to this, when allowed membership to the Association, Champion Lakes had promised rapid development to more than their initial one team. This has not been the case and the Executive now feels that a review of the clubs membership to the SMCA should be reviewed during the coming season.

Some clubs had queried their placement within the grades and all but one has appeared to accept the decision of the Fixtures and Gradings Committee. Leeming Spartan had nominated 8 teams with 4 of these in the one-day competition and has been placed in ODB, ODC, ODE and ODG.

Leeming Spartan has now indicated that they wish to withdraw a team and insist that team be ODB. The Fixtures and Gradings Committee believe that under the By-Laws Leeming Spartans lowest grade must be the one withdrawn.

After discussion it was moved Paul Speering and seconded Scott Knight ***that the Executive support the Fixtures and Gradings Committee and that the By-Laws must be enforced and any team wanting to withdraw a side must withdraw their lowest graded team.*** **CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING:

Executive Meeting – 14th November – 6:00pm.

MEETING CLOSED:

As there being no further business the meeting closed at 6:40pm.