

## Dorset League Fixture Secretary's Report for Meeting No 1 on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

As you are all aware, I don't usually have anything to report after the AGM, however, tonight I am afraid I do and what I have to say may not necessarily rest easy with some teams.

I have to admit that I have been close this season to asking why I am bothering to do the League Secretary job or why we need a League Secretary as a number of team contacts for one reason or another (which I will detail below) seem to think they can decide for themselves that they will concede games at will.

I have Verwood Potters who have cancelled 2 or 3 times against Lytchett Ash (Lytchett being the home team) because Verwood cannot raise a team on a Wednesday, as I understand it, they struggle for players on a Wednesday and also struggle for drivers. Verwood raised a team to play Lytchett Birch earlier in the season. Verwood told Lytchett they could have the points.

Heatherlands Hares cancelled against Maiden Newton (Maiden Newton being the home team) and told Maiden Newton they could have the points and shots. Reason for cancellation, Heatherlands have a lot of younger players who work and cannot get to Maiden Newton. I have asked Maiden Newton to try and provide a date and have emailed Heatherlands telling them this is unacceptable especially as the day and date has been known since last August.

Poole Park Swans v Crossways was cancelled from 22<sup>nd</sup> October as the person doing the dates for Crossways was unaware that most players would be away on a bowling holiday. This game was rescheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> March which got cancelled due to the first snow fall and was subsequently arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> March; again this was cancelled due to snow. Poole Park cannot provide any other dates as they cannot play weekdays and only have until the end of March before repairs to the club house need to be done in preparation for the outdoor season starting mid-April. My question is why was the first rescheduled date set for 4 ½ months after the original when neither team is involved in County so those dates could have been utilised. I know Crossways offered their hall and Poole Park can put the mats where ever they want and this was declined, which I can understand and to overcome the problem Poole Park have suggested to Crossways that perhaps the points can be split as 3-3, I haven't made a decision on this as yet and perhaps I can, in my absence, have some input from the floor now?

Broadstone pulled their team from Division 2 after 1 game, as I understand it this was due to internal politics within the club. I would ask that any problems a club may have does not spill over into the league, we are trying to be both competitive and friendly (I believe) and don't need internal club squabbles.

Kingfisher, in February had to withdraw from the League after playing 6 games. I have asked the other teams in Division 1 what action they wanted taken with regards games played and the majority have asked for the games Kingfisher have played to be removed so everyone has a level playing field. I haven't done this yet but will and the best triple and best four will not be affected by this removal as it's worked out on percentage of games won.

Wareham Frome have apparently changed their contact from Peter Orchard to Ken Leonard as Peter is 'indisposed', Ken wasn't down as 2<sup>nd</sup> contact and I have only found this out from the contact of another team. Subsequently the game against Gangsturs was cancelled as Wareham couldn't raise a team with less than 36 hours to go before the date of the game. Ken was trying to contact Peter to ask if the game should be conceded.

I have heard of 1 team (remaining nameless) who are not happy with the rule allowing non nominated players to play 7 times for another team, they won't however put pen to paper so to be honest, I don't want to hear any more from them.....

My point to all the above issues that I have had this year is simply this. You the players within the Dorset League write the League Rules, with the help of a sub-committee. I simply put together your suggestions to amendments in such a way that hopefully all I's are dotted and T's are crossed, these rules then come before full committee for ratification. IT IS NOT YOUR PLACE AS THE ONES WHO WRITE THE RULES TO BEND AND MANIPULATES THEM AS AND WHEN YOU SEE FIT.

Please can I ask that you are aware before you come to the dates meeting of what day of the week your opponents play on, that you can get enough people to drive your team, (I know a lot of players are older but in all honesty you only need 2 drivers and 2 cars if you all meet in 1 place). You can play these games with 5 players and it is in the ESMBA Rule book what the playing order is if you are players short.

Can I also ask that more than 1 person is responsible for sending results in, as I said in my annual report; I am waiting on results from January and February because 1 person sends all the results through and they have been unwell.

I am sure none of this is rocket science and if I can keep the leagues running whilst working away from home (I have had 6 weeks of working away Monday to Thursday) I don't understand how you can all make it so difficult.

I will leave you all to ponder on what I have highlighted and said above and close this report now suffice to say I am setting the closing date for entries for next season as 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and I'd like to have the dates meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

To cap things all off after typing this report I received the email as below (this is a straight copy with no amendments)

Hi Andrew

I very much regret that we are still having severe problems fielding a league team. Despite having over 40 members and a 'squad' of 12 league players I have only 3 probables and 2 possibles for next week's match against the Sturlings. It is obvious that we will not be able to fulfil this fixture or even attempt to reschedule either this or the missed fixture with Gangsturs. I am struggling to get teams together for our two remaining fixtures at home in April but as they are afternoon home matches we may be able to twist a couple of arms (left arms of course, not their bowling ones!). There is also time before then for some of our casualties to recover although we are now losing players to spring holidays and towards the end of the month those playing outdoors. This is a very sorry state of affairs and throws our future involvement in the county league in to some doubt. We just cannot find people who will travel to evening away games; indeed we can't even get them to home evening games and despite having three afternoon sessions we have had to cancel our weekly evening session now.

With sincere apologies

Peter Orchard

Wareham SMBC