

A special meeting between representatives of the North of Scotland Cricket Association (NoSCA) and Forres St Lawrence Cricket Club (FSLCC) was held in Nairn Community Centre on Thursday 30th August 2018 to seek a resolution to the events surrounding the Cricket Scotland Men's 10k Challenge Cup match between Leith FAB and FSLCC played in Edinburgh on Sunday 20th May 2018.

Those present at the meeting were:-

Mike Roberts – FSLCC Chair
Carolyn Farr – FSLCC Secretary & Scorer
Nigel Gerrard – FSLCC Treasurer
Pal Dhami – FSLCC Captain
Gus Farr – FSLCC Player
Jerry Bishop – NoSCA President
Mike Fox – NoSCA Disciplinary Committee Member

During the meeting representatives of FSLCC answered a number of questions previously advised to them by NoSCA. In answering these questions Carolyn Farr and Nigel Gerrard accepted 'full responsibility' for the events leading to:

- Two former players (father and son, Neil & Tommy McGrath, now of Galloway CC) appearing for FSLCC despite being clearly ineligible under competition rules 8 (a) and 8 (c), and
- false surnames (MacPherson) being used for these players on the team sheet given to the ESCOA appointed officials before the game, and
- the same false names being used in the scorebook of both teams, and
- the same false names being used on the subsequent match return submitted to the competition organisers (Cricket Scotland).

Also, in the opinion of the NoSCA representatives, Forres CC failed to satisfactorily explain why the eligibility infringements and the use of false names had not been reported to the competition organisers after each subsequent victory in the competition, despite admitting to 'some uncertainty' about the eligibility of the two players on the day and the competition rules being clearly available for download via the competition website.

Playing players under false names is simply 'not cricket' in any form of the game and MCC Law 1.4 is clear that '*The captains are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the Spirit of the Game as well as within the Laws.*'

Accordingly, the NoSCA Committee found that team captain, **Pal Dhami**, failed in his duty to ensure that play was conducted within 'The Spirit of Cricket' as required by the MCC Laws. Mr Dhami accepted a Cricket Scotland Code of Conduct Level 3.4 (a) charge to this effect, with the penalty being a ban from participation in all cricket for the next **SIX** FSLCC 1st XI competitive matches taking affect from midnight on Friday 31st August 2018.

However, in view of this being a first offence, **TWO** matches of the ban are suspended for one year, although this 2 week suspension will be immediately revoked and additional penalties for the new offence may be applied if Mr Dhami is found guilty of any further disciplinary offence in any form of cricket before 31st August 2019.