**Draft minutes from NoSCA meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at Nairn Cricket Pavilion.**

Present: T MacAbhuinn - Chair, (TM), L MacAbhuinn (LM), K Neill (KN), G Chappell (GC), J Lodge (JL), K Fraser (KF), R Belli (RB), J Lean (JLN), A Green (AG), S Lackie (SL), M Fox (MF)

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Apologies** |  |
|  | Received from Allan Duncan, Pete Short, Paul Curtis, Charlie Luxton & Jerry Bishop. |  |
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| **2.** | **Minutes of last meeting, 5th March 2019.** |  |
|  | The circulated draft minutes were adopted. |  |
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| **3.** | **Matters Arising** |  |
| 3.a  b.    c.  d.  e.  f. | **Gordonstoun** - TM has received an email from Ryan Denyer and he is happy the situation has been sorted. He shall book lunches for the MCC match through his system and no cost will be pursued from Nosca.  **Cricketstats System** - JLN has been in contact with Peter Kingsbury from the system and has been giving all necessary information. JLN shall be bulk uploading all the matches for Seniors and Reserve competitions and should have this completed by next week.  KF shall write a letter to all clubs requesting they upload any new players onto the system before they participate in any match to make it easier for the home team to complete the necessary match details.  MF queried whether players could be registered on the day and how this may have any impact. A discussion was held and MF was reminded that this had been discussed previously and it was rejected due the potential problems it may cause. New players must be registered 24 hours before playing in any match.  **Patrons**  - KF informed the meeting that he had spoken to both Gerry Cross and Duncan Davidson, both accepting an invite from Nosca to become patrons. Both were honoured to have been asked. TM to write to all patrons and include a copy of the handbook for this season.  **ECB Response & Insurers** - GC asked whether any further response had been forthcoming from the ECB regarding discussions held at the previous meeting over Shannon Thorp. TM informed that she has heard nothing more but shall contact the ECB again to get something in writing. GC was reminded that as decided at March's meeting, the current position is that Shannon Thorp is eligible to play in Reserve Cup Competitions, this shall remain the case unless any compelling objection is received from the ECB, in which Nosca would have to revisit the issue and discuss again.  **Cup & T20 Sponsorship** - GC let the meeting know that following on from last month's meeting, Macleod & Maccallum from Inverness have agreed to become the new sponsors of all Nosca Cup Competitions. This was welcome news.  **Umpiring Workshop** - The workshop being held at Nairn on the 19th April has had a slow uptake. Clubs requested to make members aware again and to follow the links on the Nosca website to register. The course is free and is An Introduction to Umpiring, it may be beneficial to all Captains and shall last around 2 hours. It needs a few more to register for it to be feasible. | JLN  KF  TM  TM |
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| **4.** | **Playing Conditions** |  |
| 4.a | **Senior/Reserve League -**  The meeting held a long discussion on all proposals. LM begun by talking the meeting through the suggested edits (Nosca) & proposals that had been tabled in his name.  **Suggested Playing Condition Edits;**  **SENIOR**  8) Add 2019 addendum (so MCC Laws of cricket 2017, 2019 revision). **Accepted**  10) Add “A copy of the team sheet must be left with the home team for ease of entry into the cricketstats system”. **Accepted**, (In cases when there are appointed umpires, Captains are requested to complete 2 team sheets, one for the umpires and one for the home team).  12) Remove – years grace period is now over. **Accepted.** This was queried as in previous correspondence, Jerry Bishop had questioned if the Grace Period was not extending to 2020 or beyond, and JLN said he was under the impression was would only to apply in professional cricket this year. GC shed some clarity and said the information he had was for it to be adopted this year.  14.a) Remove, as we are reverting to the laws as amended 2019. **Accepted**  31,32,33) Remove, as split league no longer in effect. **Accepted**.  A lengthy discussion was then held focusing on the format for the coming season. The conversation centred around a previous vote held, adopting no matches to be replayed this season if lost to weather and how this potentially affects the League Winners criteria. KF questioned how we can stick to the 60% of scheduled matches needing to be played criteria, when we have no system in place now to ensure 60% of matches shall indeed have been played. Without the guarantee of playing at least 50% of matches (By playing each club at least once or a result being obtained) it is potentially leaving the Executive Committee open to problems further down the line. KF went on to say that he appreciated it may be an unlikely scenario, but felt that it had to be discussed and some agreement arrived at before the season commences to be fair to all clubs.  GC confirmed to the meeting that at present the umpire list is not as healthy as had been anticipated and he believed that clubs should play each other once a season.  Jerry Bishops proposal was revisited and it was highlighted that a more optimistic picture of umpiring in Nosca had been used as support for proposing his proposal. It was also mentioned that the proposal for no replays would apply in both Senior and Reserve leagues, although the Reserve League has no Umpire appointments at all from Escoa.  AG questioned if matches lost to weather could be fixed by allocating 10pts to both clubs involved. This is not possible because it would invalidate the percentage system that the league utilises. KN spoke of points being awarded like this in other leagues but was unsure of the exact formats.  MF acknowledged that Nosca does have a long season, although he went on to say that this is caused by the many competitions we have and also the geographical nature of the league.  JLN highlighted that two years ago he believed Fort William conceded their last two fixtures to qualify as having played the 60% of matches for the season. This was given as an example that adverse weather can have an effect on teams within the league.  SL spoke of teams potentially having to play through September as an argument for no replays. RB & KF both reminded the meeting that in exceptional circumstances, Sunday's can be utilised for rescheduled matches if needed to be, and although not desirable, Senior matches take precedence over Reserve matches.  SL asked if there had been a cut off point for matches being played in previous years, which there has not been. LM & GC proposed the idea that potentially the format could revert back to 2017 where each club had to play each other at least once a season. In addition, a cut off point of September 30th 2019 could be inserted, at which point any remaining matches outstanding shall be declared null & void.  TM asked if we should have something drafted and votes from clubs be accepted by email. It was decided that a decision should be made on the night and as seven clubs were represented it was sufficiently proportionate.  SL asked if this should be an ongoing discussion throughout the season to get something more firm in place for the start of next season and revisit the proposal.  The issue of individual awards was raised and how they would be affected.  KF referred to last month's minutes which had been accepted earlier. The relevant section said "KF questioned how this would affect the existing criteria around percentage of matches needed to be played and individual awards at the end of season. It was agreed to move the proposal to a vote and the motion was carried subject to new criteria being adopted and endorsed". He asked the meeting if any new criteria had been able to be adopted and endorsed, and if not, was it possible to return to the status quo on failure of this. It was agreed that this could be the fall back position by those in attendance.  TM proposed that we revert back to the 2017 format with teams having to play each other at least once a season. It was agreed to leave the 60% threshold as it was and GC proposed attaching the cut off point for matches to be played by the 30th September 2019 before they become null and void. **The motion was carried.**  **RESERVE**  14) If we adopt the “free hit” rule for all competitions, I'd like to suggest an exemption for U16s in reserve cricket. **Rejected.**  **Proposals.**  Proposal  Introduction of “free hits” following a no ball in all NoSCA senior and reserve competitions (league, cup and t20), with an exemption for junior (U16) bowlers in reserve competitions. (Reserve 14; Previously **Rejected, '**with an exception for junior (U16) bowlers in reserve competitions' was removed from this proposal before voting).  Reasoning: “Free hits” are a standard part of limited overs cricket played up and down the country, and should be part of our league format as they are part of the various cup formats.  Reserve cricket should have an exemption for junior bowlers however, as constant hammering from wayward balls would be detrimental to development in U16s (this exemption should extend to cup and t20 formats for the same reason). (The last paragraph of this proposal was removed before voting) **Proposal Carried.**  Proposal  Reference senior playing conditions section 14 “In the absence of at least 1 appointed...etc”  This PC to be either removed entirely or amended to say:  14) The awarding of penalty runs under laws 41 and 42 are available to all umpires, including suspensions etc. However, any penalty run awards, bowler suspensions or player suspensions etc MUST be reported to the NoSCA secretary for referral to the disciplinary committee. If the disciplinary committee decides those sanctions were misused, they will have the power to both impose bans and in extreme circumstances alter the match result and award the points to the opposing team.  Reasoning: Our current conditions allow for bowler suspension due to beamers etc, but specifically disallow penalty run awards, meaning the fielding team can be penalised under law 41 and 42, but not the batting team.  The current conditions also assume teams will try to cheat if given the power to do so – if we want our teams to follow the “spirit of cricket”, the umpires and league need to also adhere to it (section 7 of the spirit document states “Captains and Umpires set the tone for the conduct of a cricket match” - do we really want to set a tone of “we are expecting teams to cheat if given the opportunity”?). **Proposal Rejected.**  Proposal  Reference Senior PC section 51 and Reserve PC section 50  This PC to be removed entirely  Reasoning: It seems an absurd position to have a fixed point leg side for calling wides, but leave the off side to the umpires judgement. This creates confusion on field, and leaves umpires in a difficult position when questioned by players as to why a ball bowled on the same off side line to different batsmen should be wide in one case, and not another (explaining that the call is contingent on the reach of the batsman, length of the ball etc tends leave players confused when the leg side is so sharply delineated). Obviously off side marker lines would also do this job, but have been strongly resisted previously (and any umpires I've spoken to much prefer reverting to the standard laws anyway).  **Senior Cup & T20 - Status Quo Remains**  **Reserve Cup & T20 - Status Quo Remains**  Proposal  Proposal 1  Reference Reserve PCs section 48 “Reserve cup”  48) Batters not on the LPL will retire on reaching (or passing) 35 runs... etc  To be amended to:  48) Batters not on the LPL will retire on reaching (or passing) 50 runs... etc  Reasoning: The milestone of half and full centuries is an important part of cricket, and limiting players (especially juniors) from being able to achieve these milestones is detrimental both to the enjoyment of the game, and the development of our young players. The 35 run limit is also only 15 runs from the LPL limit, meaning playing 3 LPL batters is a much more attractive option than intended by the LPL.  **Proposal Rejected.**  Proposal 2  Add:  Juniors (those below the age of 16 on the 1st september of the preceding year) will be exempt from these restrictions, and do not have to retire.  Reasoning: As above, the milestones are an important part of cricket, and allowing juniors the ability to reach them will be good for development of junior batters. This will also be a strong incentive for teams to play juniors, aiding participation levels.  **Proposal Carried.**  Proposal  Reference Reserve PCs section 47 “Reserve cup”.  47) No more than FIVE overs to be bowled by any one bowler.... etc  To be amended to:  47) No more than SIX overs to be bowled by any one bowler.... etc  Reasoning: All other NoSCA senior and reserve competitions work on a team make up of 5 bowlers (ie bowling 4 overs in t20, or 8/9 in league), and there seems no sensible reason to change it for 1 format.  **Proposal Carried.**  Proposal  Reference Reserve PCs 25.d and 25.e “Limited participation”.  25.d) When batting, all players on the LPL must “retire out” on reaching (or passing) 20 runs.  25.e) NO player on the LPL may bowl in NoSCA Reserve competition matches.  **To be amended to say:**  25.d) When batting, all players on the LPL due to batting performance must “retire out” on reaching (or passing) 20 runs. No player on the LPL due to bowling performance may bowl in reserve competition matches.  (To provide further clarity on this, Individuals on the LPL for bowling cant bowl but can bat unrestricted. Individuals on the list for batting may bowl but must retire out on reaching or passing 20 runs)  25.e) Players on the LPL due to both bowling and batting performance in senior competition must follow both restrictions - ie, cannot bowl, and must retire out on reaching (or passing) 20 runs.  Reasoning: The current situation does not allow players to use Reserve competition to strengthen their weaker discipline, or regain lost confidence (something which came a very close second to junior development in the LPL workshop held when the current LPL rules were formulated). The current situation seems to be stopping rather than limiting participation – this proposal would open up participation, while still treating batters and bowlers equally.  **Proposal Carried.**  Proposal  The meeting discussed a proposal from Jerry Bishop concerning this seasons LPL List. He proposed changing the existing criteria from 150 runs and 15 wickets to the top 15 batters and 13 bowlers. He believes that this is a fairer and more balanced reflection. If the status quo was to remain, only 3 of the 26 listed names would be on it solely for bowling efforts.  KF questioned if it was even appropriate to vote on this proposal now. The playing conditions for this seasons LPL has already changed due to earlier votes tonight and Jerry had made this proposal based on now outdated criteria and reasoning. Without him being here, he felt it should be postponed. The meeting wished to vote upon the proposal however. **Status Quo to Remain.** |  |
| **5** | **MCC and Representative Games** |  |
| a. | **Fixtures 2019** - GC confirmed that Umpires have been appointed for the annual Nosca XI vs MCC match at Gordonstoun.    TM to contact Paul Gray from the Aberdeen Grades to gauge scope for a representative match versus them. At time of the last correspondence with Paul, he was still awaiting the final draft of fixtures for the season. |  |
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| **6.** | **Handbook & Advertisements 2019** |  |
|  | GC talked the meeting through the draft Handbook that had been produced. He asked the meeting if they were happy to retain the Spirit of Cricket section in the book. It was agreed that this should be retained. SL indicated that he was willing to purchase the remaining advertising space within the book. It was agreed that importance to tie up all loose ends needed to be prioritised to allow Jerry to complete the book and arrange printing. |  |
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| **7.** | **Junior Cricket & Female/Disability Reports** |  |
|  | **Copy's attached.**  A brief discussion was held over funding. KN explained to the meeting that there is no funding available at present for potentially 10 Disability and Softball Cricket sessions in the Moray area. A response from the council was not very clear. KM said she did not expect to be paid for any sessions although she was not prepared to be out of pocket for travel, potentially around £150. She enquired if any funding would be available from Nosca. It was highlighted that with Highland council providing funding which was ring fenced for the Highland area, Nosca would effectively be funding on behalf of the council potentially. The request was turned down. |  |
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| **8.** | **Cricket Scotland Update** |  |
|  | **Copy attached.**  KN made the meeting aware the individuals who are CPO's had to complete the required paperwork through the CS site now. They would not accept clearances granted from other organisations. |  |
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| **9.** | **AOCB** |  |
|  | GC indicated that he had received all match ball orders for this season and would be placing the order in the morning. He also suggested to the meeting that for this season Nosca purchase a new pink ball for cup competitions. Readers, the current red ball supplier can also offer a pink ball which is £3.80 cheaper than last year's balls. It was agreed to trial the new ball this season.  RB advised the meeting that Skye & Lochalsh had been in touch and were disappointed that their season shall be scheduled to finish potentially in June. Although this is unfortunate, there is not much Nosca can do about it. The fixtures are really tight this year and it is just the way that it resulted in.  KF told the meeting he had been in correspondence with Carolyn Farr. Carolyn had provided some feedback on the Cricketstats System and he said he would pass it to the meeting. Carolyn did not think it was as good as the last system & believes it has not delivered on what it had promised. A few agreed that they preferred the old system compared to what we have at present.  KF also asked another question that Carolyn had asked himself. It had been noted that Forres play Ross County twice this season before they have met Nairn or Elgin once. KF also mentioned to the meeting that Buckie play Huntly twice before they play Ross County or Nairn and queried if there was a reason for this. JLN advised that the situation has arose simply due to ground unavailability issues and when he produced the fixtures he moved whole weekend s around instead of individual matches. This approach seemed to work for the majority of issues and was adopted. MF also stated that in his experience, at times there can be a real difficulty producing the fixtures due to knock on effects from ground unavailability.  GC advised that Terry Curran and himself had been approached to umpire Nairn's Charity match versus Scotland over 40's, which they had both accepted.  AG highlighted that although the match was taken place on the 21st April, it had no knock on affect on any Nosca matches.  GC referred to correspondence from Fort William and the issue around them potentially having to utilise The Abbey at Fort Augustus for some matches. He questioned if the use of spring loaded stumps was permitted in the Senior league. MF spoke of a previous issue where a situation had arose, but there could be no recorded evidence sourced around the issue and therefore it had been deemed to be acceptable. RB said there was no issue with them after having played at Fort Augustus last year, and did not believe it to be an issue if indeed, Fort William do need to play they're. |  |
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| **10.** | **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
|  | **Tuesday 14th May 6.45pm at Nairn Cricket Pavilion** |  |
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