MINUTES OF THE ASTON MANOR CRICKET CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 2024

PRESENT: H PANESAR (CHAIRMAN)

A.CHANDER, W DAD, T HABIB, S HAIDER, P PANESAR, P PATEL, ABBEY PRICHARD, ANDREA PRICHARD, MARTIN PRICHARD, V THAKUR

APOLOGIES: A. JAVID

SUCCESSES AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Playing Kit for the whole club, senior and youth and coaches – need to ensure that everyone wears them for training and games.

Need to ensure commitment to net practice.

All Stars to integrate with Baby Batters – need to set start date early.

Need to try to develop the social side.

Emphasise litter collection - encourage players and youngsters to use the bins provided.

Ideally all playing members, coaches or key volunteers to have a DBS.

Encourage players to talk about their concerns.

PLAYER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

T a number of players have been signed and looking to sign at least two more. All players will be expected to attend net practice and this will be the core issue this season, as all players will be expected to attend, should they not they will find themselves not selected to play. This is the key issue.

Shoz I mentioned that some players had left the club or will be leaving (from the 2nds) but there have been a good number of new players who have expressed a wish to join us, or who had already attended net sessions.

Vinay was pleased to report that we have managed to keep most of the 3rd XI squad from last season and stated that he would be speaking to all his players to explain the importance of practice.

Our pros will be Ateeq and Asad. T pointed out that he wanted to inform all players that they would be treated equally and they would be selected for teams purely on performance and practice levels. Andrea explained that all players would be placed in all three squads on the Play Cricket site.

COACHING STAFF UPDATES

Arun reported a very positive first session with 25 attendees. Coaches were assigned different groups with Arun leading the warm up session after this Pank and Sashi took the younger group 7-8, with Arun, Shozi Abdullah and Mo taking the older groups. Fielding and technical basics and points will be covered in these sessions. Hardeep expressed concerns trim down the number of coaches

Abbey reported a good first session with eight 4-8 year olds. Callum helped with the first session but would not be present for the next few weeks and she asked if Sashi could help.

Although parents for the younger age group would be allowed in the hall, it must be stressed that no parent be allowed in the sports hall for the older age group (12-2pm).

ADULT TEAM STRATEGIES

The importance of players accepting all policies put in place was stressed. All players would have Aston Manor Training kit and game kit and would be expected to wear it to training and games. All players would be expected to attend net practice and failure to do so would affect the selection process. Each player will be asked to sign a contract including a code of conduct. Added to this all players would be handed the Selection Policy. Selection would take place on Thursdays with players asked to make their availability via SPOND. Performances of players will be important when it comes to selection with the natural progression up and down. Ideally we are looking for promotion for 2’s and 3’s and getting to playoff place for the 1’s.

With this in place we will be looking to ensure there are 8-10 youth (16-18 yr olds) so that we can have a 4th XI next season.

Shozi mentioned that it is important that we are aware of work commitments for some of the players as some of them work nights or long hours.

FACILITY MANAGEMENT

Martin reported that the mowers would be sharpened as usual and that he was in the process of sorting out the service and sharpening of the Toro.

The net extension is going to be moved but some help would be needed to take the frame apart. The netting has been removed. Martin also mentioned that perhaps with some adjustment the frame could be utilised (at least for the time being) as a portable net, we still have the wheels and netting and with a bit of welding this might be possible.

We are applying for a grant to replace the artificial.

KIT UPDATE

We have done a deal with A7 for three years – they will be our official sponsor for kit and players will be encouraged to use them for their equipment needs.

There will be training and playing kit for all players. The youth will also have a training shirt. It is important that all players arrive for training and for games in the same kit.

UPDATE ON EQUIPMENT

Arun reported that ideally he would like a pop-up net which would be used for the youth and seniors alike. Arun and the coaches to do an inventory and give it to Shozi. Some wicketkeeping pads and gloves had been purchased for the youth section which was now missing. This will then give us some idea of what is needed.

It was reported that after an extensive search the warm up balls were missing.

FIXTURES FOR 2024

The League Fixtures were not, as yet available – these will be expected shortly.

The Over 40’s would be returning this season (either Tuesday or Wednesday).

Andrea asked for days for the Youth teams U11 Grizzlies (8 a side) are fixed as Mondays and cannot be moved. Sunday mornings were suggested for U15’s and U17’s. The coaches would be holding a meeting to discuss coaching items and the day for U13’s would be agreed then.

Andrea reported that an email had been received from Ishaq Khan from Sandwell Hospital asking if we could accommodate their team one evening a week. It was decided to say that we could help them out either on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening at a hire cost of £140 per game and they would be asked to confirm their booking with us as soon as possible\

Sunday’s Aston Manor pitch would be shared by AJ Autos and Aston CC. When scheduling week night games it was noted that Aston Hall could be used, however the only issue would be the opening of the changing rooms (hire charge of £80).

The link with the BCU etc needs to be encouraged as this generates money for the club.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

SPOND will be used for availability, fee paying etc., with the backup of Whats App to get key messages across.

FINANCE

Hardep reported that at present there will be a shortfall in the region of 8K for this season. 3 bids have gone out for funding. We are introducing ball sponsorship – advertising boards are available at £250 but we all need to try to raise more income.

We may be able to get a grant for the artificial pitch and a bursary may be available for level 1 coaching, but this does not help with the day to day running of the club.

POLICIES

Safehands has now been updated with the insurance etc. Clubmark has to have updates completed by April. All members of the committee had had the chance to look through the various policies which need to be accepted and everyone agreed these and they would now be posted on the notice board in the clubhouse.

Abbey agreed to take on the First Aid aspect and would look into purchasing a book where accidents etc could be recorded.

Pank will be included on the next Safehands course as he is our named Safeguarding officer.

FUNDRAISING

We need to actively encourage more fundraising within the club. Crowdfunding was mentioned and Hardep and Preet to look into this.

MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

It was reported that the website was under maintenance and would be up and running within the next couple of weeks.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Arun reported that as he would be travelling with the 1st XI to do warm up session before the game he would also do the scoring for the away games. Andrea to look into available scorers courses.

Preet and Arsalaan had both now attended the Umpires course and would join our team of club umpires (each of them sharing the 2nd XI games).

Shozi reported that there would be a commemorative bench purchased in memory of Bob Evans who died recently. It was also suggested to the family that a testimonial game take place with funds raised donated to charity, this was with the family who will come back to us.

There being no further business Hardep closed the meeting thanking all members for their attendance.