

WCL Administrator's Report on the 2017 season

The proportion of abandoned matches fell back to around 8% thanks to some warmer weather and this includes matches not started as well as those abandoned.

Our **Division One Champions** were, Redditch Entaco C.C., who will return to the Premier League after a gap of thirteen seasons. Last year's Champions Worcester Nomads, were relegated from B&DPCL and will be returning to WCL in 2018.

Redditch, captained by Player of the Season, Russell Southwick, finished 43 points ahead of Bewdley who were runners up. We wish them all success in 2018 in the B&DPCL.

The **Division Two Champions** were Chaddesley Corbett, who ended 39 points ahead of Evesham and both these sides will be in division one in 2018 in place of Droitwich and Eastnor.

In Division Three, Himbleton and Kempsey will take the places of Harborne and Lye after a hard fought campaign and finally there was just 7 points between them.

Division Four Champions were Hanley Castle and Upton by one point from Bromsgrove 3rds and they will take the places of Astwood Bank 3rds and Himley 3rds.

Division Five was won by Stourbridge 3rds after a tight tussle with Barnt Green 3rds and Stourbridge and Romsley will compete in Division four in place of OEs 3rds and Worcester 3rds.

Second Eleven Champions were Redditch (by 2 points), Droitwich (by 8), Rushwick, Himbleton and Pershore 4ths and congratulations are due to all these clubs for their strength in depth. The 1st XI K.O. Cup was won by Chaddesley Corbett who beat Lye (both teams from Division two) and Bewdley 2nds defeated Himley 4ths to retain the 2nd XI K.O for a third time. The Divisions 3-7 KO Cup, "Carter Cup" final was won by Netherton who beat Avoncroft. Saturday Cup winners were Cookley 3rds and Hagley 3rds were awarded the Plate trophy.

The one team section Champions were Cutnall Green. Bartestree and Lugwardine won division seven south and Highley triumphed in the north. There were just two sides who failed to win a match in 2017, Barnards Green 3rds and Pedmore 3rds and I hope their fortunes will improve in the linear structure proposed in future.

The recent questionnaire has not shown much appetite for radical changes, however, the Cricket Committee is likely to recommend that matches in the new Divisions 6-9 become 40 overs a side together with a few minor clarifications. Start times are also likely to return to 2016 standards.

Committee meetings and the league's diary were efficiently discharged and we once again held a Captains' meeting, Resource distribution meeting plus end of season Delegates' and Umpires' meetings.

Our Annual Dinner, with guest speaker John Barclay, ex skipper of Sussex CCC was well attended at The Stourport Manor Hotel. At the Dinner, the divisional fair play awards, based on Umpires marks, were awarded to Burghill, Tillington and Weobley and Old Vigornians. The Umpire of the year award went to David Pearson, and Groundsman of the year was Eddie Giles of Stourport.

Overall, it was another enjoyable season, my thanks to all who helped to make it so and we can look forward to next year with much enthusiasm for our league. In 2018, we will welcome back sides from Worcester Nomads, Rushwick, Evesham, Enville and Old Halesonians but say farewell to Barnt Green, Old Hill and Oldswinford 4th elevens, Bartestree 3rds and Ombersley Taverners (merging with Hallow).

We wish the clubs leaving our league every good fortune.

I hope you and your families will all have a good festive and close season and thanks for all your assistance to me over the past 13 seasons.

Good Luck Stuart!

Chris Marsh