Social Networking

It is pleasing to see that some Cricket Clubs and Club members have created "Facebook" or "Twitter" sites to promote the activities of their clubs and provide information for their players.

Sadly, however, Social Networking sites and other Internet based social media of this nature are also open to inappropriate usage. Already this season the League has received two complaints regarding obscene and offensive comments posted by players about other players and officials in our League. These cases will now be the subject of disciplinary hearings and may be referred to the police for possible Libel action.

For some years we have included a statement regarding abuse of Social Media in the Club Accreditation documents which can be found on the League website. Clubs agree to these when they join the League and confirm their agreement when accreditation is completed periodically. We are re-enforcing this by asking Clubs to take responsibility for ensuring that their members do not engage in activities which may be seen as harassing, discriminatory, menacing, threatening, obscene, defamatory, or in any way objectionable or offensive towards other Clubs, Players, Umpires or League officials. Breaches will be dealt with by the Discipline sub-committee and, if proven, points deductions and/or player suspensions will result and the incident may be reported to the police.

Players should realise that although "facebook" sites may have restricted membership, they are not private or secure. It is a simple process for a so called "friend" to take a copy of a facebook page and distribute it as widely as they choose. A restricted site is therefore no defence.

We ask for your co-operation to remove this unpleasant trend from our game.

(For the purposes of this Social Media includes all media (written or electronic), Club newsletters, match programmes, club or private websites, email, messaging, social networking (Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, LinkedIn etc), chat, blog, video sharing (UTube) and other discussion groups)