

THE WESTERN DISTRICT JUNIOR CRICKET UNION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNION

held at

TITWOOD on 25th OCTOBER 2010 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Keith Young – Chairman
Richard Rutnagur – Vice Chairman
Jim Young – Secretary
Colin Dawson – Treasurer
George Watson – Committee Member
Dougie Johnstone – Committee Member
John Blair – Committee Member
Iain Stewart – CS West Development Officer

CLUBS PRESENT:

Glasgow Accies represented by Colin Dawson (Committee member)
Prestwick represented by George Watson (Committee member)
Hillhead represented by Ian Holland
Clydesdale represented by Tim Hart, Gordon Barbour and Mike Stanger
Poloc represented by Keith Young (Committee member)
Ferguslie represented by Sam Scott and Richard Rutnagur (Committee member)
Kelburne represented by Martin Pollock
East Kilbride represented by Alan Dickie, and Matthew Kellett
Greenock represented by Gordon McQuat
West of Scotland represented by Jim Young (Committee member)
Uddingston represented by Chris Eyles
Ayr represented by Dougie Johnstone (Committee member) and Adam Gilbert
Renfrew represented by Paul Goodman, David Mudie and David Barr
Inverclyde represented by John Blair (Committee member)
Kilmarnock represented by Jonathan Raine
Weirs represented by Nathan Barnett
GHK represented by Andrew Mackay
Irvine represented by Scott Wilson
Cricket Scotland represented by Iain Stewart
WCA represented by Keith Young and Tim Hart

CLUBS NOT REPRESENTED

Motherwell, Weirs, Helensburgh, Active Life, Dumfries, Vale of Leven, Cumbernauld, Ardrossan, St Michaels, Queen's Park, Victoria and Drumpellier.

APOLOGIES:

Active Life, Drumpellier, Helensburgh, Richard Young and Andy Teiger (Committee members), Allan Haggio, Adam Rixon and Steve Paige (Cricket Scotland).

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the AGM held on 28th October 2009 which had been circulated to all members in advance of the AGM were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION:

Mr Keith Young welcomed conveners to the WDJCU AGM and explained that the various AGM reports had this year been circulated in advance and would therefore simply be tabled at the meeting rather than read out verbatim. There would however be an opportunity for questions and discussion on any matters arising from said reports.

Mr Young tabled his report as follows:

My third year as Chairman of the "junior union" has been one that's seen a number of innovations, including member clubs receiving office bearers' and other reports on the season in advance of the AGM. Whilst the success of some of the changes made for 2010 can be argued, getting my Chairman's Report in advance and therefore not having to listen to me reading it – *verbatim* – has got to be a plus! More seriously it's hoped that attendees getting the reports before the AGM is a useful thing, allowing more time – if required – for discussion of issues and exchanges of views. Thanks, therefore, to those who have prepared and submitted their reports in plenty of time for distribution in advance of our meeting.

Any review of any year arguably has to start with comment on the Indoor Super 8s tournament – again held between Christmas and New Year, this event continues to be both hugely popular and well run. Thanks to Tim Hart for organising the 2009 event, and for volunteering to do the same again this year. And it's good to hear of another indoor competition being run: a west inter-schools sixes event having been announced in mid-October by Cricket Scotland.

And mention of schools cricket begs comment on Andy Teiger's stepping down as the driving force behind the Glasgow Schools Cricket Association whose tournaments he's so successfully organised for more years than likely he'd thank me for mentioning. Andy's handed over his baton to Tony Coyle, and we wish Tony well in his new role. Strong and active connections between schools and clubs are a vital part of the development of the game here in the west, and as one part of that equation it's important, as clubs, we do our part.

Rolling forward to the outdoor season, I won't spend any real time in my report on the leagues, save to add my congratulations to the respective winners. Jim Young's Secretary's report, and Colin Dawson's B League report, will adequately deal with the leagues' comings-and-goings, and ups-and-downs. One comment worth noting in the passing is, however, that I was pleased to hear about fewer instances of poor on-, or indeed off-, the-field behaviour. Good news. Long may this continue.

As regards cup competitions, congratulations are due to Clydesdale Under 18s for their success in the Clydesdale Bank-sponsored Frank Smith Trophy. Clydesdale defeated West of Scotland in what turned into a tense and closely-fought final that, as the last over started, could've gone either way. In other cup competitions, west representatives at the Finals Days of the national Under 13, 15 and 18 competitions all came up short on the day, none coming home with the silverware. Congratulations nevertheless to Prestwick, Clydesdale and Poloc for their respective wins in the regional qualifying competitions. Talk of "Finals Day" brings me to one of the proposals for 2011, namely the Frank Smith Trophy's semi-finals and final all being played on the same day. This year – through chance rather than design – one of the semi-finals and the final were played on the same day and this produced a good matchday atmosphere. Extending this to a full "Finals Day" should further enhance the "experience" for competing clubs and players and I'd recommend this change in structure to the trophy.

Talk of change brings me to a couple of other changes made in 2010. One quite clearly did *not* work, namely the splitting of the Under 18 league competition into two divisions. The late withdrawals of Active Life Club and Weirs resulted in the Under 18 First Division being badly compromised. Thanks are due to the remaining clubs in that division for completing the fixture card that was left, but it's clear that – yet again – clubs must think carefully before committing to participating in any league programme. The issue also raised the question of whether imposing a penalty on defaulting clubs is appropriate. Your Committee's views on this will be aired at the AGM, as well as a proposal being made that makes indicating league participation at an age-group a more serious decision on behalf of clubs.

The new west junior cricket website was another new development in 2010. As its Webmaster maybe I'm conflicted from being objective in assessing its success or otherwise. It has, however, objectively succeeded in a number of areas. It published league results and tables promptly, was an easy means of publicising news from around the junior game here in the west district, and provided a simple and generic means of reporting match results. Others views on the site are welcome, and I will be happy to listen to these at the AGM. The AGM will also be an opportunity for clubs' representatives to update the information on their clubs that's on the website. Please have a look at this to check the accuracy of what is said there about your club.

The West District Under 12s were again a district representative side that played a number of fixtures in the year. Tim Hart's report on its season is one of the reports being circulated before the AGM, and so all that's really left for me is to thank Tim and Drew Pryde for their work in managing, coaching and

administering this squad. It is planned to continue to run an Under 12 team in 2011.

At representative level three other age-group representative events took place. The Under 13 Inter-Area Tournament, the Under 15 Inter-Area "Camp", and the Under 17 Inter-Area Competition. The first of these – successfully organised by Tournament Director Tim Hart – was another example of where change had been implemented in advance of the 2010 season. These changes saw matches played on a calendar monthly basis, spread across the season. This assisted with potential weather problems, and allowed for greater flexibility in match scheduling and player participation. I think it likely also resulted in matches being better attended by supporters and being played at "better" grounds, most being played on Sundays or local holidays. Thanks to all who worked with Tim in the new structure, and it will be interesting to hear feedback at the AGM on others' views of the revamped tournament. Congratulations, too, to Ayrshire who were tournament winners.

The Under 15 "Inter-Area" Camp was also an innovation in 2010. This saw just over 40 Under 15 players – nominated by clubs and Area Development Groups – participate in a three-day, two-site "camp". Included in the activities undertaken were different match scenarios as well as coaching. With a number of local club's overseas Professionals and players working at the "camp", and Cricket Scotland's development officers involved, it is hoped the "camp" was also a useful tool in the player ID process for participation in the new Under 15 Regional Development Centre that will operate over the coming winter. The input of "new faces" as coaches was, in my view, helpful, as was the gathered video analysis and coach comments. As with the altered Under 13 Inter-Area Tournament, it will be interesting to hear feedback at the AGM on others' views of the revamped Under 15 Inter-Area event.

The Under 17 Inter-Area competition was a bit of a "slow-burner" I think – I will leave detailed comment on it to John Blair and Tim Hart who were much more actively involved in its running, but I think careful thought has to be given to its merits, not least given the amount of cricket that – here in the west at least – our players of this age are playing. What's clear is that, at any age-group over Under 15, very little cricket is played by clubs in the other districts. This is, I believe, what drives Cricket Scotland to organising such things as the Under 18 Scottish Cup and Under 17 Inter-Area competition. Perhaps much needed in other districts, but really not here in the west.

Above Area Group level, the Western Cricket Academy operated three squads in 2009-10; at Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 age-groups. A very full programme of winter coaching and summer matches was undertaken, as well as two tours. A detailed report on the Academy is one of those being tabled at the AGM and so, again, I won't attempt to steal its

author's thunder. I will, however, make a few observations in the passing. Firstly, and as I've said in previous years' reports, I do have a concern over the sheer amount of cricket our older young players are being asked to play. This is fine in good weather, and when players are "in form". However when bad weather results in lots of club matches being rescheduled and/or losses of form by players results in them not being able to practise because they're always playing, problems can – and do – arise. Secondly it's clear that still more and better communication between the Academy and clubs can be achieved. I believe there was improvement in this area in season 2010, but more can still be done. As we look to 2010-11 the changes in the structure of the regional academies means that fewer players will be involved – around eighteen – and these will be older, the "intake" being in the Under 16 to Under 18 age-groups. Along with the new Under 15 Regional Development Centre – replacing the former "junior" academy that was at Under 14 age-group – good communication must be a key objective of all those involved in running such locally-based Cricket Scotland-initiatives.

At national level the west again contributed a healthy number of players to Scotland age-group sides. I hope I will not miss any in my list, prepared by looking through the online scorecards on Cricket Scotland's website. This exercise threw up the following west-based players who featured for Scotland sides in 2010:

Scotland Under 15

Seb' Stewart (Ayr), Haris Chaudhry, Lyle Hill, (both Clydesdale), Stuart Darroch, Michael English (both Ferguslie), Gavin Main (Uddingston), and Andrew Umeed (West of Scotland)

Scotland Under 17

Calum McLaughlin (Ayr), Sam Page (Clydesdale), Fraser Conn (Galloway), Alex Baum (Greenock), Danial Chaudhry, Craig Young (both Poloc), Gavin Main (Uddingston), Andrew Umeed (West of Scotland)

Scotland Under 18

Scott McElnea, Neil Smith (both Ayr), Sam Page (Clydesdale), Thomas McBride (Dumfries), Anjan Luthra (West of Scotland)

Congratulations to each of the players listed, and apologies if I've missed one,.....or even more than one!

In bringing this report to a conclusion I think a word or two on money is apt. Firstly, thanks to the union's two principle sponsors: The Trophy Centre and Clydesdale Bank. Their partnership funding is vital. Thanks, too, to Richard Rutnagur who continues to act as principal liason between the union and The Trophy Centre. Both sponsors' continued participation with the union cannot, however, be assumed going forward, particularly as the economic backdrop continues to be tough.

As Colin Dawson's Treasurer's report sets out the union continues to hold reasonable reserves, albeit some tied up for restricted purposes. However, as the accounts also show, the union operated at a deficit in 2009-10. This was not a case of mis-management but, rather, a deliberate decision to demonstrate that doing things "properly", not charging participants for rep' initiatives within the union's direct control, and supporting other local cricket initiatives costs. No charge was made for participation at the Under 15 Inter-Area "Camp", the union paid clubs for hosting events and matches to try and ensure the best playing facilities, it financially supported the Under 12 district side's match programme, and contributed to the two academy tours. The result? A deficit. For discussion at the AGM will be the issue of what things the union should be contributing to financially and which it should not, and the thorny issue of participating player contribution to activities'/events' costs.

In closing, a word of thanks to all the Junior Convenors without whose efforts little if any junior cricket would happen, and to my Committee colleagues for their various contributions to the smooth running of the WDJCU in the last twelve months.

Thank you.

MB STANGER TROPHY

Following the Chairman's introduction, Mike Stanger presented the MB Stanger Trophy, awarded annually to the junior player who has contributed most to his/her club on and off the field. The award for 2010 was made jointly to Patrick Barbour of Clydesdale CC and Scott McElnea of Ayr CC.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr Dawson tabled the Junior Union accounts for the year to 30th September 2009. This year the accounts and notes had been circulated to members in advance and Mr Dawson tabled his report as follows:

WDJCU expenditure exceeded income by £1,180 during the year under review as compared with a surplus of £25 in 2009.

Whilst income showed a small increase due to increased participation in the winter indoor 8-a-side tournaments certain items of additional expenditure were incurred during the year which may or may not recur in future. The main items were as follows:-

- a) **Under 12 WDJCU trip to Cumbria** – cost of bus hire of £350
- b) **Under 13 Area Championships** – payment of certain pitch hires and catering costs totalling just over £380. These costs were presumably absorbed by the various Area Development Groups in 2009
- c) **Under 14 Western Cricket Academy** – grant towards tour costs in Ireland increased to £600 compared with £500 in 2009
- d) **Under 15 WDJCU Summer Camp** – costs of coaching, umpires and catering totalling £895

- e] **New Western Junior Cricket website** – annual maintenance fee of £164 whilst there was a saving of
- f] **Promotion expenses** - £485 being team clothing bought for U12's in 2009 not repeated in 2010 plus
- g] **Indoor tournament team entry fees** - the increase of £315

Your committee will require to discuss the future area of accountability for the **Area Championship costs**. There is also an annual negotiation/battle with Hutchesons War Memorial Trust regarding the hourly letting rate for the **winter indoor tournament**. Yet again for 2010-11 they are trying to increase this from £16 to £26 and this will significantly increase the WDJCU outgoings if they won't budge.

Your committee gratefully acknowledges the continued **sponsorship support** from The Trophy Centre and from the Clydesdale Bank without which the Union's finances would dissolve very quickly.

As far as the Balance Sheet is concerned the following points are pertinent:-

- a] **Overseas Tour Reserve [£7,229]** – this is ring fenced for future overseas tours but at present no such plans exist
- b] **General Match Reserve [£1,300]** – this was a grant received from the WDCU in 2007 to cover match costs of incoming overseas touring teams but no such teams have appeared in Scotland since then
- c] **Capital Account [£9,477]** – these decreased from £10,657 by the deficit of £1,180 and represent available funds for ongoing activities.

In response to questions, Mr Dawson commented that the Junior Union had for the first time picked up the costs of the Inter Area Group competition and camp and had also contributed grants to a very ambitious programme of junior cricket. Putting on competitions cost money, hence the deficit in the accounts.

The accounts were then duly proposed, seconded and passed unanimously. Mr Dawson was thanked for his report.

LEAGUE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr Young tabled his report as follows:

With better weather at the start of the season, the Junior Leagues made an encouraging start, though July and August made life a lot more difficult. If I can throw a few statistics around, of 299 scheduled fixtures, only 35 were ultimately lost to weather conditions. 264 results were recorded, albeit 25 of those were concessions, substantially more than last year. Most concessions occurred in the Under 11 League, but that's perhaps not surprising, given that there were 120 possible fixtures at that level. 96 matches were played and 12 conceded. At Under13 level, out of 45 fixtures, 41 were played and there was only 1 concession. In the Under 15 league, of 66 possible

fixtures, 57 matches were played and 3 conceded. The Under 18 Premier Division played 40 out of 56 fixtures with a further 6 matches conceded. The First Division was rendered pretty much a farce from the start by the late withdrawal of two clubs, Weirs and Active Life. This effectively left four clubs with little or no league cricket in 2010 for which I apologise. We must ensure that this can't happen again and the answer, I think, is to revert to a single division for 2011. For the record, of 12 possible fixtures in Division One, only 5 were played with a further 3 conceded.

The Under 11 League was very keenly contested, with a strong Greenock team ultimately taking the title narrowly ahead of runners up West of Scotland, with Clydesdale and Ferguslie close behind.

Ayr won the Under 13 League with an impressive 8 wins out of 9 matches. Clydesdale were runners up with Greenock and Drumpellier not far behind.

The under 15 league was comfortably won by Clydesdale, who won 10 of their 11 matches, with only runners up West of Scotland offering any challenge.

For the second year in a row Poloc Under 18s posted a 100% winning record, but this time they made sure they played enough games to win the Premier Division title. Indeed they cruised through the season, and ended up winning the league by a massive 8 points, with Ayr a distant second.

In what was left of the First Division, Ferguslie won all five of their matches and won the division by a whopping 8 points.

Of 14 planned Sunday Kwik Cricket festivals, a couple had to be rearranged but 12 ultimately took place, with only Prestwick and Drumpellier losing out to the weather. I don't have any hard evidence to hand as I don't have records of attendance readily available, but it certainly seemed noticeable to me most Sundays that fewer clubs were turning up. I hope this isn't a trend as these festivals are a great introduction to the game for all our tiny tot members.

The new website and the online result reporting service have proved very successful. It not only makes life easier for me, it means you can all keep up to date and see how your teams are doing much more readily. Please keep these results piling in next year.

And talking of next year, I will repeat my usual plea to you all to think long and hard about which competitions and age groups your Club will enter in 2011. Have you the playing strength to compete throughout the season? Have you got enough helpers? Can you get your teams to away matches? Remember, it is unfair on other clubs if you enter a competition and then cannot fulfil your obligations.

Finally, thanks to all Junior Convenors, Team Managers, Coaches, Committee Members, Parents and Volunteers for all their efforts and support throughout the year.

Mr Dawson tabled the B League Report as follows:

I have mixed feelings about the success or not of the B League competitions this year. In the U15 League Helensburgh played no matches at all nor did Queen Bees in the U13 League [Ayrshire/M77] or Inverclyde, Kelburne and Motherwell in the U13 League [N. Lanarkshire/M8] sections with Uddingston only completing one fixture. Whilst not affecting the first two of these Leagues greatly the M8 section of the U13 League suffered badly leaving only four clubs competing.

On a more positive note the clubs that did participate all honoured the majority of their remaining fixtures. I attach **amended B League results** showing revised %'age completion of fixtures having removed the non-participating teams from the calculations. There is no change to any other results.

Congratulations to the following League winners:-

U15 B – East Kilbride;	Runners up - Poloc
U13 M77 - Clydesdale;	Runners up - Poloc
U13 M8 -GHK [based on %'age completion]	Runners up - Renfrew

CUP COMPETITIONS REPORT:

Congratulations were offered to Clydesdale on winning the Frank Smith Trophy, beating West of Scotland in the final at Shawholm, and to Prestwick U13s, Clydesdale U15s and Poloc U18s, all of whom reached finals day of their respective National Cup competitions.

Tim Hart tabled his report as follows: December 2009 saw the Annual WJCU Indoor Super Eights Competitions continue at both U15 and U19 age levels. Both age groups saw 11 teams compete in the Hutchesons' Sports Hall.

At U15 level Glasgow Accies, Clydesdale and Ferguslie contested the final group and, led by Stuart Darroch and Michael English, Ferguslie completed a good win.

At U19 level it was Poloc, Clydesdale and Prestwick that battled it out for the Shield. Clydesdale won, for a 6th year in a row with Patrick Barbour (the entire tournament) and Johnny MacKay (4-for in the Final) being the star performers.

The U19 Final also saw two further tournament innovations. The scorecard was completed via laptop (using the PitchPad Pavilion software) and Mike Stanger recorded the entire match between Clydesdale and Prestwick before editing it and uploading it onto the Cricket Scotland website – for all the world to see!

Congratulations to the winners Ferguslie and Clydesdale and thanks to John McGregor (as always) for the supply of the

umpires, to all the teams that participated, to Brunton Miller for their on-going sponsorship of the Junior Union and to John Blair for his help with the running of the Tournaments.

DISTRICT AND AREA COMPETITIONS:

Tim Hart tabled his report as follows: 2010 saw the return of the West District U12 team, after a 3-year break. The previously (undefeated at U12!) management team of Keith Young and Tim Hart was altered slightly with Drew Pryde replacing Keith as Head Coach. However, the level of enthusiasm that the players had for the re-constituted side was as great as ever. There was an indoor trial which resulted in a squad of 16 being selected for the summer fixture programme. In addition to the 4 fixtures which were played, 2 outdoor training sessions were run during the summer – with one game unfortunately falling victim to a rare wet midsummer day. The first game for the new squad saw a dramatic tie against Clydesdale U13s at Titwood as Christopher McBride (Dumfries CC) rallied his troops well in a dramatic last 3 overs.

Thereafter, a very strong Tayside & Fife U12 team proved too strong for their west-based counterparts at a sunny Meiklerigg before a supposed 40 overs-per-side match against Cumbria U11 turned into two T20s (both won by the Cumbrian hosts). However there was a late-season return-friendly against Tayside & Fife – a game which saw a quite superb rearguard effort from Owain Taylor (Clydesdale CC), Ross Duckett (Clydesdale CC), Cameron Horn (Hillhead CC) and Adam Gordon (Ayr CC) as the U12s battled up to 126. That battling effort was transferred into the bowling and fielding as the U12s, led by 2 stunning grabs at backward point from Jake Johnstone (Ayr CC) and aggressive fast-bowling from Humza Sabri (Drumpellier CC) 4/5 and Adil Ghaffar (Hillhead CC) 2/7 completed a very impressive win.

Overall, thanks must go to Drew Pyde for all his efforts during the season (until family commitments curtailed his involvement from August onwards) and congratulations must go to all 17 players (with Clydesdale CC's Ross Bain being added to the squad mid-season) for a season of hard work. Finally, special thanks to all the parents for their support during 2010.

2011 will hopefully bring a more extensive fixture list and provide the district's youngest age group side with another year of competitive-but-developmental fixtures.

The format of the U13 Inter-Area Tournament was changed for 2010. The week/fortnight of games approach was ditched in favour of a more spread out approach.

The 6 Areas were given monthly fixtures but were left to arrange a suitable date by mutual agreement. The result was that the weather had less of a part to play in affecting the number of games played and the fixtures were staggered. Another change saw the home teams asked to appoint their own umpires – with some using their own contacts and others going through John McGregor, who again must be thanked for his input into the provision of umpires.

Overall 12 of the 15 games took place. There were some high-scoring games, some 50s and some games where bowlers dominated. Overall, Ayrshire played the most consistent cricket and were deservedly crowned as champions.

FINAL STANDINGS (Bracket denote games played):

Ayrshire 45 points. (5/5)

Clyde Sharks 35 points. (4/5)

South Glasgow 30 points. (4/5)

North Glasgow 22 points. (5/5)

Lanarkshire 19 points. (3/5)

Dumfries & Galloway 9 points. (3/5)

Thanks to all Area Groups and especially their team managers, to the umpires that stood, to all the "home" Areas for providing generally excellent teas and to the players involved for playing good cricket and in an excellent spirit.

John Blair tabled his report as follows: Last season it was agreed to introduce an under 17 area competition. Unfortunately this did not get best of responses, due to certain areas being unable to agree on dates to beat deadlines. Only two games were played in area, Dumfries/Galloway defeated Lanarkshire and Glasgow in turn defeated D/G. Glasgow then moved on to Regional play off beating Pentland in process. Congratulations go to Glasgow. At a recent meeting in Perth it was decided not to repeat this age group competition for season 2011.

WESTERN REGIONAL ACADEMY:

The WRA report was tabled as follows: The players' programme did not just consist of three hours cricket on alternate Sundays. The players stayed on for pilates, making sessions four hours long and then, periodically, experts in specialist fields came in to deliver seminars on areas of the game, and lifestyle, that the players need to take seriously to make the step-up to the "next level" of cricket. Below are some player articles that describe, from their view-point what they got from the support programme, which was more in-depth than what the Eastern Cricket Academy or either of the two Caledonian academies delivered.

"The art of captaincy" - by Ross Patterson

Prestwick CC's Ross Patterson, one the senior WCA squad players writes: "Along with a few others, I was one of the lucky Academy lads invited to attend a captaincy seminar last Sunday, delivered by none other than Gordon Drummond, current Scotland Captain in first-class matches (and so far undefeated). This seminar was an excellent hour of anyone's time and gave us a good insight into what qualities are required to captain a side at a high level, qualities that can easily be used to our advantage at any level of the game. Gordon covered many aspects of captaincy, including:

- knowing your team 'inside out' i.e. what makes them 'tick';
- how to make decisions on and off the field; and
- how to handle confrontation with players (as well as their demands) and managerial staff alike.

But most importantly, I came away with a clear message that setting an example for the rest of your team to follow "on" and "off" the field is the key!"

"Umpiring" - by Gavin Main

Uddingston CC's Gavin Main, one the junior WCA squad players writes: "At a recent Academy session we went from our psychology session to attend the new SCOA (Scottish Cricket Officials Association) *'Introduction to Umpiring'* course. We fired up the projector and Sandy Scotland, our course tutor, started the course introduction and gave us an insight into the art of umpiring. First to come were the basics, what's out and what's not out. This then got a bit more complicated as we looked at catches on the boundary edge and the different variety of boundary ropes. Then we moved on to deciding on wides and no-balls. This took more describing as it brought the creases into play and watching of the feet. Sandy taught us well and we even managed to feel sympathetic towards the umpires' difficult role. We're all grateful to Sandy for giving up his time to teach us the art of umpiring. And now, with our certificates, we can actually umpire in senior games instead of standing at square leg the whole day!"

"Mental skills" - by Elliot Speirs

Ayr CC's Elliot Speirs, one the senior WCA squad players writes: "We have recently been fortunate enough to receive mental skills sessions from ex Scotland internationalist and current Carlton CC coach Stevie Gilmour. The sessions covered: the characteristics of mentally tough cricketers; developing mental toughness; evaluating performance, and assessing strengths and weakness; finding what areas of performance needed worked on; and the goal-setting process S.M.A.R.T. We also looked at routines we could implement. And all to improve our general performance by giving us a mental edge over our opponents."

Nutrition with Marianne Hayward of the Scottish Institute of Sport - by Druv Satpute

Glasgow Accies CC's Druv Satpute, the junior WCA squad captain writes: "For the first time, the under-14 squad received two sessions from the squad's nutritionist; one session at the start of the winter season and one nearing spring. However before she met with us she met our parent two weeks before to 'plant the seed' of what nutrition standards are required for cricketers aspiring to play at the top level of the modern game. At first she stressed that whatever the situation on the field, if we - as a team - have been eating and preparing correctly for the match, we will always have a better chance of coming through as winners. She then clarified which foods are in which category, and what amounts of each category of food makes a balanced diet. It came as a bit of a shock to some, but

by the second meeting it was clear to see we had improved as a squad by looking at what we have been eating. Finally, she showed us what are the rights and wrongs of pre-match preparation by making us fill in a table of what we would and should do on the day of a big match. Hydration is vital and again would give us the edge in a "last over" situation. We intend to carry her views and advice right on into the season and I'm sure everyone there would agree it was a valuable experience to have her with us."

Player diaries continue in 2009-10

All Academy players had a player diary. Players must write up the key advice they'd been given by coaches at sessions, including commenting how they felt things went. There had to be an entry for every session over the winter. One of the main aims of the diary was to insure players didn't end up with "too many voices" in their heads, Cricket Scotland encouraging a dialogue between club coaches and its coaches. The days of club coaches wingeing about not having anyone at the governing body to go to, to hear their gripes has hopefully, over the last few years, been eradicated with more open channels of communication. Ideally there should be one voice and the diary allows players to work on things at club and area training sessions that have been identified by Academy coaches.

Performance group, winter 2009-10 - coached by Tony Judd and Iain Stewart

This group included players aged over 16 who were "in or around" Scotland Under 17 or Under 18 squads over the winter of 2009-10. They had a lot of sessions at the National Cricket Academy at Mary Erskine Sports Centre and the west based performance squad offered a monthly coaching session from October to November where players could work on their game without having to trek through to Edinburgh. Video analysis played a big part in these sessions and a big thank you to Tony Judd is due for his time and experience at these sessions.

Senior Academy report from John Blair, Team Manager

Throughout 2010 Iain Stewart set out an excellent and very comprehensive programme, both winter and summer, for the Western Academy. During Winter sessions, over and above net practice Iain introduced special sessions for pilates with Maria from Fantini Pilates, strength and conditioning training, mental skills training, an umpires course and nutrition seminars, all well received by those taking part (more detail from player articles). Iain Kennedy and Bruce Patterson provided specialist batting coaching, Paul Hoffmann and Iain Stewart provided specialist seam bowling coaching, and Andy Tennant and Richard Young provided some spin specific bowling sessions with Dougie Lockhart and Jamie Burton taking care of the wicketkeepers.

For Summer, Iain arranged nineteen Senior Academy fixtures, introducing three two-day games including trips to Gateshead

and Ireland. There was also a very enjoyable game against Norway with former test player John Emburey as coach. At this game a white ball was used and, of course, coloured clothing. Niall MacLeod clubbed 77 in a victory which saw us presented with a trophy by the Norwegians.

90% of these games were played before the main success; winning the Inter-Regional Academy trophy at New Williamfield in August, winning all games.

I am sure the team bonding gained in previous games contributed largely to this success and extended the undefeated run of the senior academy versus the traditional foes from the East.

The Irish tour, despite one below par performance, one abject one and one where we somehow snatched defeat from the jaws of victory versus Leinster Under 17 at Ed Joyce's home ground at Merrion CC, saw the lads really come together and Iain and his namesake Chris Stewart (no relation) the Dumfriesshire Community Coach, really get across their standards to the lads with the national "tourney" still to come at this point. Despite us having weakened teams most Sundays (for good reasons mainly, such as Scotland call-ups) I hope we still play in division one of Western Union next season. Many have said it had less impact this year as many players who in 2009 were not at this level were now playing Western Union Division 1, or even SNCL, cricket, but it does help form a "team" environment with the lads playing together ahead of the national tournament where I know we all want to see the west victorious, though this changes temporarily on Sundays when one's clubs plays the Academy!

To summarise, I believe that season 2010 had many more plusses than minuses. It is a great pity that Iain, due to pressure of work with his development job, has found it necessary to relinquish his post as Head Coach. His successor will have a difficult job to fill his shoes. What stands up most impressively is the number of academy players who progressed into national squads after the criticism of 2008 when we had very few players involved, and only Willie Rowan in the Scotland Under 19s, it was great to see a resurgence in west-based players being involved in the Under 15 and Under 18 ICC Europe Championship winnings sides in Holland and Ireland.

Junior Academy report from Lead Coaches Josh Johnston and Jamie Burton

The Under 14 "junior" squad had, and has, some real potential. The group definitely suffered from no district/academy Under 12 winter technical-based training programme. All had played Inter-Area Under 13 cricket which was helpful in providing them experience of contributing in games of longer than 20 overs-a-side, but not enough had, under their belt, a winter or two of structured intense technical coaching to add to their undoubted natural abilities. The Tayside & Fife arm of the Caledonian Academies and the East District continued Under 12 representative training and a playing programme and it's a

positive that we have re-introduced it in the west, with Drew Pryde heading up the coaching.

The tour season had three phases, early season matches, the Jersey tour (tour diary below) and the Junior Academy Festival, which was again at Fettes College, Edinburgh, where the 2009 outfit only just lost the title to a guest XI of the Northern Ireland Cricket Academy Under 14s on run rate of 0.08.

Early season games and training

After a training session at Ayr in April which was in the morning before the senior and performance squad session we embarked on the fixture programme. Before getting into the fixture programme proper a 16 over-a-side match played on a small Titwood pitch was played on a murky mid-April Friday evening versus the Clydesdale Under 15s.

The first match full match of the season was against Strathallan School who had sneaked a victory against the strong 2009 Junior Academy XI but this year saw themselves hit for over 200 with Andrew Umeed (102) and Nitesh Majhu (70) in cracking form and with Strathallan's two key players out early they struggled to make 30 in reply.

A draw against the Scottish XL Club at Titwood gathered further momentum the next day though this was halted in May with Loretto, the Musselburgh-based boarding school coached by ex-Warwickshire and England A player Mike Powell, defeating the junior academy by 123 runs. This match, and the game against Charles Swann's Merchiston Castle Under 15s where we lost by 70 runs, highlighted issues that would plague the team all season; namely the fact although the bowling was strong, the fielding decent, the batting unit was fragile. Despite constant work on rectifying issues, the stroke players put too little a value on their wicket and the batsmen with less scoring options often found themselves having to fight a rearguard action to make things respectable.

The WCA like the other regional academies is driven by a player development approach. The change of Mitchell Rao from a medium pace out-swing bowler into an off-spinner with great control was instigated by the Head Coach but supported by us as Lead Coaches of the Under 14s. A couple of joint West District Under 12/junior academy sessions, one in June and one in early August at New Anniesland, ensured communication between coaches in the pathway was open throughout the season. Mitchell's Player of the Tournament award at Fettes was down to him bowling well of course, but he impressed other coaches and spectators as he was obviously thinking and figuring out the batsman as his spell progressed, *and* was proactive in changing his own field when necessary. Dhruv Satpute was a fine Captain of this squad having had the experience of the national festival at Fettes the year before and having gone on tour with us to Ireland the previous year as well. This genuine all-rounder is so proud of representing the west and word has it that he was close to winning the *senior* Inter-Academy tournament Player of the Tournament had he not hurt his back in the warm-up before the final game against "Caley" at Stirling.

The quickest bowler at Fettes was by far our own Niall Alexander of Dumfries CC and it's not just those at Nunholm who are scratching their heads as to why he was not blooded at Scotland Under 15 level this year, in even one fixture. A family holiday to Australia prevented him from coming with us to Jersey but there was no-one that quick there either! Niall is also a useful batsman, and although he never quite hit his strides with us, he made an important 20 for the senior academy in their victory over Titwood in the league in June. Dean Kennedy was a valued deputy for Dhruv and his thoughts on the game belie his age. Other players contributed throughout and we must praise the leg-spin of ten year old Chris McBride of Dumfries CC, and the rock solid defensive batting of Dougie Willoughby of Helensburgh, who made the Jersey tour but had to miss the Fettes tournament when we really could have done with him steadying the ship at the top of the order.

The national festival saw those named above push their cases for Scotland Under 15 selection in 2011, as well as seeing some bright performances from 'keeper Neil Flack (Greenock CC) and Ilan Selby (Clydesdale CC).

Day 1 at Fettes saw the match versus the Under 15 Area Select XI abandoned with the academy 69 for 5 though many felt the game was called off too soon as the weather turned out beautiful later that evening. The game on Fettes 2 was on an uncovered wicket which made it easy for Area select coach Fraser Burnett to get his skipper to elect to bowl. A special mention must go to Glasgow Academy pupil Clemmie Mitchell who was nominated by the academy to the Area select XI who returned miserly figures of 5-2-6-1 before the heavens opened.

Day 2 saw a dark day occur for the junior Academy which no one saw coming. A late night was had after an Eastern Cricket Academy youngster had inadvertently set off the fire alarm in the toilets on the floor that accommodated him and his teammates. Skipper Satpute was only fit enough to play as an opening batsman but left armer Kennedy, paceman Alexander and spinners Rao and McBride bowled impressively. At one point it looked like the east boys would be dismissed for around 120 but the tail wagged as the academy fielders returned to early season ways and dropped a couple of regulation catches. Chasing 171 in 45 overs the academy youngsters managed only the miserable response of 40 all out in reply.

Day 3 and final day of competition against the much-fancied Caledonian Academies XI. The "caley" boys posted 165 for 9 in their allotted 45 overs with Mitch' Rao keeping them in check with support from Chris McBride's leg-spin. In wet conditions, had a couple of half-chances stuck the academy could have chased a lower score but the ground fielding was very good yet again. Ultimately the academy ended up on 121 all out and Mohammed Azeem, who looked in fantastic touch, can count himself unlucky being dismissed by a "jaffa" from Cameron.

Jersey tour, July 2010

This tour was planned by academy chief Iain Stewart in partnership with Pete Gough who is captain of the Jersey national team and one of the JCB's Development Officers. We found him to be very helpful in getting social activities for the lads in the non-playing and training times, so thanks Pete! This tour was lead by Josh Johnston, Jamie Burton and Mrs Susan McBride (parent) and was the same week as the Under 17 Irish tour so the whole academy was very much "on tour"!

Day 1 *Ross Armour (Poloc CC) and Ilan Selby (Clydesdale CC)*

The day started with a 9am meet at Edinburgh airport. We all got our small training tops (which were all at least three sizes too small) from Jamie Burton and Josh Johnston. We spent an hour and a half on a propeller plane that took us to our destination – Jersey. We were met by 20 degree sunshine and the bus which took us to our hotel. We offloaded our luggage and the boys had the opportunity to have a walk around the area. We even talked to a man who used to live in Glasgow and he told us all about the island. By this time our rooms were ready for check-in so the team got settled into their twin rooms before we took a walk along the beach. It was decided we would have a light training session on the sand in the evening and although it took the team time to adjust to the ground conditions we quickly became used to it through a series of fielding drills. The challenging session was followed by a relaxing game of beach cricket. In the evening we had an enjoyable meal before the group split into two for those who wanted to have a walk on the beach and those who wanted to take a dip in the hotel pool. Jamie and Josh then gave us a debrief before bedtime to give us the team for the next day, breakfast times and meet times. All in all day 1 was a good experience for the whole team, giving us our first insight into the Channel Islands.

Day 2 *Dhruv Satpute (Glasgow Academicals CC) and Dean Kennedy (Ferguslie CC)*

The second day of the Under 14 tour to Jersey started well with a hearty breakfast and a swim for some and a jog down the beach for others. At 12.30 we headed down to the ground before a 40 over match against a strong Jersey Under 14 side. A light but intense warm up consisting of some challenging drills saw everyone raring to go for the match. Skipper Dhruv Satpute lost the toss and was made to field on a decent deck with a slowish outfield. All-rounders Dean Kennedy and Dhruv opened the bowling and applied some early pressure with the new ball. Kennedy got two wickets with consecutive balls, the second of which being a beautiful good length ball that seamed at least 6 inches to take out the top of off. He went on to take a third leaving Jersey at 27 - 3. Jersey then piled on the runs in a solid partnership between their captaining opener and their number five batsman. Sammy Tung then took the fourth and final wicket late in the innings with a magical catch taken stood up to the stumps by keeper Nitesh Majhu. Other fine spells by young leggy Chris McBride and Alistair Preston-Jones restricted Jersey to 154 - 4 after their 40 overs. During the interval the top four padded up and the fielders went out.

Our opener Nitesh was given out caught behind for 0 flashing at a wide ball. In at number three was useful batsman Alistair who unfortunately mistimed a shot straight to square leg for 3. Nicholas "Justin Bieber" Pyne and Mitchell Rao then played some classy strokes to build a good partnership until Mitch fell for 21. The lower order built some small but useful partnerships which consisted of 26 from Ross Armour, 15 from Dhruv, 12 from Dean, 11 not out from Doug Willoughby and a match winning 2 not out from Chris to ensure the first win on tour. Later that night we celebrated by having dinner and watching the World Cup semi-final between Holland and Uruguay at Jersey Joes.

Day 3 *Doug Willoughby (Helensburgh CC) and Sam Tung (Clydesdale CC)*

Day 3 was another successful day for the Academy with an excellent win over a well organised Victoria College side who consisted of many Jersey Under 14 and Under 15 players. Having lost the toss the Academy were invited to field in this match which was reduced to 20 overs a side. The hard looking surface looked like a batsmen's wicket as Vic' College got off to a solid start. The breakthrough finally came thanks to a good catch at mid on from the bowling of Ilan "Iain" Selby. The lads then continued to bowl and field well restricting Vic' to 107 - 7 off their 20 overs. There were fine bowling contributions from "Wee Al", Dean and Ilan. The boys then went out to bat with fine contributions of 35 from Nitesh, 27 from Nicholas and 16 not out from Ilan, which enabled the team to chase down the total with three balls to spare. Another great win on tour for the boys of the WCA.

Day 4 *Nicholas Pyne (Drumpellier CC) and Mitchell Rao (Prestwick CC)*

Today we went to the game versus Jersey Under 15s via Victoria College as Doug had left his spikes there after yesterday's game. When we got to the ground Dhruv lost his third toss of the tour and we were again asked to bowl. The lads started really well with Ilan picking up three quick fire wickets with fine swing bowling. Then Mitchell and "Wee Al" came on for a spell, where Mitch took two for 16. At this point a partnership was made, though eventually Dhruv broke it and Nicholas came on for one over and also picked up a wicket caught behind by Nitesh. "Wee Al" came back into the attack at the death and took the big wicket of the centurion although he was dropped various times and the Jersey innings ended on 219 - 9. The batting was opened by Ross and Nicholas. Nick got off to a good start, scoring 10 off the first three balls of the innings. Three overs in Armour was clean bowled for 0 before Nick also departed in similar fashion for 15. Nitesh and Mitchell then got a good partnership going but woeful running cost Rao his wicket for 9. Nitesh soon followed guiding the ball to slip. Dhruv scored 15 and "Wee Al" scored a battling 27 not out. Sadly the boys collapsed due to some poor shots and dodgy running to leave the WCA 111 all out.

Representative honours, 2010

Scotland Under 15

Stuart Darroch, Michael English, Haris Chaudhry, Gavin Main, Andrew Umeed, Sebastian Stewart, Elliott Speirs, Lyle Hill (captain)

Areas Under 15 Select XI

Clemmie Mitchell, Nitesh Majhu, Ross McKelvie, Hamza Tahir*

Regional Academies Under 16 XI

Luke Spiers, Anthony Hulatt*

Scotland Under 17

Alexander Baum, Danial Chaudhry, Samuel Page, Calum McLaughlin, Ross Paterson, Fraser Conn, Craig Young, Andrew Umeed, Gavin Main, Jamie Cook*

Regional Academies Under 18 XI

Jamie Cook, Shreyas Chitnis

Scotland Under 18

Anjan Luthra, Thomas McBride, Samuel Page, Neil Smith, Scott McElnea, Stanley Shillington.

* Selected, though could not play fixture(s).

WEST DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER'S REPORT:

Iain Stewart tabled his report as follows: This year saw the reality of the 'credit crunch' really hit home for cricket. I was asked for advice on funding and to be a referee on more grants in the past 12 months than in the previous two years put together. On the one hand it is a sign that clubs are being proactive about coaching initiatives and improving or renovating facilities but on the other hand it is a sign of the increasingly hard financial times with sponsors difficult to come by. This has added just another challenge to covering the vast Western 'region' which still has only one Development Manager. Although now one of the 13 local authorities in the west has a Community Cricket Coach (Dumfries & Galloway), we are still disadvantaged compared to the rest of the country, where no Development Manager has more than three local authorities and their cricket clubs to service. Edinburgh, the Borders and Perth & Kinross benefit from dedicated full time cricket development staff and have SVQ or Community Coaches to aid progress. Working in cricket development in Scotland can be enjoyable and deeply frustrating all in one day's work. I do feel, though, some enthusiasm going into the winter months as progress is starting to be made on long term projects and also the NIPers coaching courses that I deliver mainly during the off season are again in demand with local authority active schools teams. There is also an increase in interest in S6 CSLA (Community Sports Leader Awards) courses.

Coach Education provision & National Introductory Programme (NIPers) courses

In 2010 two UKCC courses were allocated to the West, a Level 1 in pre season and a level 2 post season. The pre season level 1 was fully subscribed (24) and we could have filled another 7 or

8 places but too many people left it late to book onto the course and ultimately missed out.

The ICC Intro course was not in demand as much as in the past, but the CS NIPers course is still very popular, though one course was cancelled by East Renfrewshire Council. This was surprising as they have had several well attended courses in the past. An ICC course was run by me and Chris Stewart (D&G Community Coach) in Dumfries in March and by Gordon Allan (Forth Valley Community Cricket Coach) in East Renfrewshire in April. Three well attended NIPers courses were hosted by East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire (fourth such course since Feb 2008) and East Ayrshire (third course in three years). The post school time slot seems to 'work' for teachers and parent volunteers as only a little over 2 hours is needed for the course and it can be completed easily by 6pm. Another will be held before the end of the year.

Facilities

Several clubs have improved their outdoor nets and match non-turf pitches. There is of course some snobbery towards playing games on artificial wickets from some quarters. However there is also a school of thought that it would aid us develop a better standard of batsman if more junior cricket was played on artificial wickets, as they can play off the back foot with more confidence and make bowlers work hard on pitches that don't seam around.

Outdoors:

I have been pushing for a cricket ground in East Renfrewshire since early 2008 and with the help of David McLeish and Ian Pye at East Renfrewshire Council, and support from Barry Fleeting at **sportscotland**, we hope to have identified a site that could host cricket, though, as ever when dealing with local authorities, there is a barrage of logistical issues to overcome. East Renfrewshire Cricket Forum has been the 'pressure group' which has kept this issue on the agenda in recent times.

East Dunbartonshire Council is to meet with me in the near future to look into identifying a ground for cricket as it's almost a decade since the demise of the last playing wicket at Allan Glens. Also attending will be Old Talbotians CC, a club that was formed a couple of seasons ago in the Milngavie and Strathblane area, and Torrance Community Cricket Club, which was formed after a challenge from the producer of the BBC Radio Scotland Fred McAulay & Co show to Richard Cadey one of the show's reporters in June this year. They played their first match at the end of August versus Gargunnoch at their scenic ground in the Stirlingshire countryside. I gave support to starting the club formally with things like constitutions etc. Barrachnie Park, Garrowhill has been mooted as a possible venue by Glasgow East End rugby football club who wish to have a multi sport dimension. I cannot see this being more than an artificial wicket venue in the medium term at least and I feel it is better to pursue grass/artificial options in East Ren and East Dunbartonshire before pushing Glasgow Sport or local politicians to instal a pitch, given recent progress made on a turf venue at Bellahouston Park.

Indoors:

Another constraint to the amount of indoor cricket is lack of availability and the costs of indoor halls. With many facilities operating historical lets it is very hard for clubs to obtain bookings. It has been stated at a public forum that the new Eastwood High School will have indoor cricket nets installed. St Ninians RC High School, Giffnock is, through a partnership with Active School Co-ordinator Kerry Comerford and me, looking to obtain an Awards for All grant to instal indoor nets. It is an aim of the Lanarkshire Area Development Group to identify a venue to approach about the possibility of installing indoor nets. Again the funding mechanism would be Awards for All (max £10,000).

Partnerships

I continue to work closely with the local authorities and find most to be more responsive and open to cricket than when I first started. This may be partly down to new staff progressing to influential positions. In the current climate I see no likelihood of west authorities changing their stance of not funding cricket development posts, whereas their counterparts on the east coast have been far more helpful in the past (though this may also change very soon). SCOA (Scottish Cricket Officials Association) held one 'Introduction to Umpiring' course in 2010 but only two adults attended a course that was made up mainly of regional Academy players.

Groundsmanship – The Cricket Scotland/Institute of Groundsmanship courses were promoted via email and websites. Initial discussions with Jim McFadyen and several local groundsmen regarding setting up a West groundsmen's forum have taken place.

Coaches Association – A Scottish coaches' association will be restarted soon. The ICC Europe Coaches Association was promoted early in 2010.

Schools

The West regional Primary 6 school festival washeld at New Cambusdoon in early June. Thanks to work experience students Callum Leck and Andi McElnea for their organising of this year's event. The weather was excellent. George Watson's College junior school won the national ASDA P6 finals day at the scenic Doo'cot Park in Perth in June at which the west was allocated two places.

16 teams entered the West section of the Scottish Schools Cup and only five were from the independent sector. More state schools have now introduced some cricket at school but felt it was too big a step to enter the Scottish Cup at this stage. The West sectional final of the S1-3 Scottish Schools Cup was played for the second year in succession between Belmont Academy (Ayr) and High School of Glasgow. HSOG again won through and in the national semi final at Doo'cot park they beat Edinburgh Academy (who had beaten them in the 2009 inaugural final) off the final ball. In the final they played Arbroath High School, who did not play to their ability and HSOG brought the trophy back to the west.

The annual Glasgow Schools Cricket Association XI vs MCC match was drawn.

Girls & Women

The Western Women's cricket squad went from strength to strength with many more regular games, thanks mainly to the introduction of a Scottish Cup (in a League cup format) this season and several indoor tournaments in the winter. WW, through the hard work of Laura MacDonald, gained grant funding to buy much needed team kit and equipment as well as to pay for the services of the coach. Glasgow Accies were very welcoming to the girls after they started to find Glasgow Green limited as a training venue, as the players' skills were improving more rapidly than they had anticipated.

Ayr has also started a women's section and players have purchased pink playing tops. They were also in the inaugural Scottish Women's Cup. I must praise the energetic Lea Tsui, who is the part time Girls & Women's Development officer for Cricket Scotland, as she made this happen by her sheer enthusiasm and hard work. I feel I have not given enough time to the development of girls' cricket in the last year or so. With some big strides being made in the women's game, I feel it is time to re-focus and find some time to dedicate to improving the provision of the girls' game. Any support in initiating this would be welcomed.

TOPClub

St Michaels were the most recent club to progress to Bronze TOPClub status back in January and Galloway CC also finally attained Active status in mid-June of this year. Chris Stewart oversaw Galloway's TOPClub and this is a further benefit of having someone on the ground in the authority. Although it is mainly a coaching role it saved me a 200 mile round trip and allowed me to get on with other things. This pre season, instead of Development staff undertaking the audit of TOPClub folders this task was left to the Head of Community Development and the SNCL Competitions Committee. This was welcomed by the CS Development team at the time as it's a hectic period from mid February/March and this lightened the load a little. This led to each club being emailed a feedback on what was (if anything) still required to ensure the club met the criteria. A weakness of this being done centrally was that no plans were made to return the folders to the clubs and I only received the folders for the 12 west clubs in August. It was simply not good enough to keep member clubs waiting and these folders could have been sent by courier promptly after the audit was done. This issue is now over as will be detailed below. I apologise to those it frustrated. It frustrated me greatly as well, I can assure you. It was pleasing to see the senior Union enforce the rule that Division 1 clubs need to be Active, though Bronze is really the minimum a club with a junior section should have attained as it is a blueprint of the road to becoming a sustainable club. From 2011 TOPClub will be done electronically via emails and the much maligned and cumbersome folder will be replaced by a memory stick which will make my life, and the life of the good souls who take care of their club's TOPClub folders easier, I would like to think.

Disability cricket opportunities

A good partnership has been formed with Pinsent Masons LLP, a law firm with a corporate responsibility budget that contacted me in early 2010 to see if we could use cricket as a vehicle to run a disability sports related event. This event, run by Pinsent Masons, was hosted by Clydesdale CC at Titwood with sponsorship from Greaves Sports. Another cricket event is planned for the winter at an indoor soccer centre and this promises to be an exciting event. Discussions are ongoing with SDS (Scottish Disability Sport) to set up some sort of Table Cricket programme. This is played on a Table Tennis table and has a fun and competitive element in that Lord's Taverners run a tournament in regions in England and Wales and the finals' day is held at Lord's. This game can engage wheelchair users and participants with other disabilities and I am sure all would support its advancement in the west and the country as a whole.

Area Development Groups

The Area Development Groups have increasingly existed to run the junior representative sides which are the first step from the club game into the Youth Performance Pathway. The emphasis needs to shift back to development and this autumn/winter will see meetings take place to refocus on these matters. Local issues and common needs (such as indoor nets, coaching or umpiring courses) can be best identified from the ADGs as local clubs come together. Winter time is when we can do so much good technical work with our young players and Scottish youngsters get a lot less coaching time than English youngsters over this period so Areas have a role to play in running more and better quality, training programmes in winter.

With the new Community Cricket Strategy (Oct 2010 – 30 Sep 2013) about to take effect this will lead to a West Regional Plan being drawn from this and each Area Development Group will have to have an Action Plan outlining its aims over this period. The strategy was formed after consultation meetings in the spring and refined after online surveys were returned by a cross section of the Scottish cricket community.

And finally, many congratulations to all district league and cup winners in the west and to Prestwick U13, Clydesdale U15 and Poloc U18 for reaching their respective Scottish Cup finals' days.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR JUNIOR COMPETITIONS 2011:

After discussion it was agreed that the Under 18 League would revert to one division in 2011, whereas if there were a similar number of entrants for the Under 11 League as in 2010, it would be split into two divisions, on a regional basis to make travelling on a Friday evening a little less daunting. The winners of each division would play off for the title. There would be no change in the one over minimum bowling rule though Conveners should use commonsense and give youngsters more opportunities to bowl where appropriate. There would be a fielding rule change in any eight v ten player matches. For 2011, there can be a maximum of eight fielders only on the field at any time, so the team with ten players would require to "rotate" their fielders to

ensure everyone is involved and that nine bowlers are used. If feasible, the U13 League would involve each Club playing home and away against opposing Clubs.

While it was agreed not to change the Under 13B age restrictions, Conveners would be asked to use commonsense and advance communication with one another if circumstances arose where a fixture could not take place without a club fielding a team which did not wholly comply with the restriction.

A penalty will be imposed on any Club that enters an age group league competition and then withdraws after the fixtures have been published. The amount of the penalty will be a bond of £100, which the Club must pay to the WDJCU if it wishes to compete in the same age group competition in a subsequent season. The bond would be refunded to the Club on satisfactory completion of its league programme at that age group in the subsequent year. The immediate effect of that decision is that neither Weirs nor Active Life may compete in the Under 18 League without posting a bond of £100.

The Frank Smith Trophy 2011 will culminate in a specified "Finals Day" when both semi finals and the final will take place. Conveners were urged to make use of the WDJCU online match result posting service and to post the result as soon as possible after any match.

The provisional League setup will be as follows:-

GRADE A UNDER 11 LEAGUE

Ferguslie
Prestwick
NVT Poloc
West of Scotland
Greenock
Clydesdale
Ayr
Glasgow Accies
Drumpellier
East Kilbride
Kilmarnock
Renfrew
Uddingston
Weirs

Since the AGM, Helensburgh have confirmed entry.

GRADE A UNDER 13 LEAGUE

Ferguslie
Drumpellier
NVT Poloc
West of Scotland
Glasgow Accies
Greenock
Clydesdale

Hillhead
Ayr

GRADE A UNDER 15 LEAGUE

Clydesdale
Glasgow Accies
Prestwick
Hillhead
Greenock
Ferguslie
West of Scotland
NVT Poloc
Kelburne
Ayr
Renfrew
Drumpellier

GRADE A UNDER 18 LEAGUE

Clydesdale
West of Scotland
Prestwick
Kelburne
Ferguslie
NVT Poloc
Glasgow Accies
Greenock
Ayr
East Kilbride
Uddingston
Drumpellier
Active Life (subject to penalty)

Renfrew are currently undecided and would be interested in an U18 B League.

UNDER 18 FRANK SMITH TROPHY

Clydesdale
West of Scotland
Prestwick
Kelburne
Ferguslie
NVT Poloc
Glasgow Accies
Greenock
Ayr
East Kilbride
Uddingston
Drumpellier
Active Life

GRADE B UNDER 13 LEAGUE

Ayr
Clydesdale
Irvine
Kilmarnock
NVT Poloc
Queen Bees
Weirs
Uddingston
GHK
Renfrew
West of Scotland
Prestwick
East Kilbride

GRADE B UNDER 15 LEAGUE

Clydesdale
Irvine
NVT Poloc
Ayr
Uddingston
GHK

The Secretary will contact the undecided clubs and the clubs not represented at the meeting to finalise entries to the various leagues.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The following were elected for a two year term of office:-

Jim Young – Secretary
Colin Dawson – Treasurer
Richard Young – Committee member
Tony Coyle – Committee member

The Chairman thanked outgoing Committee member, Andy Teiger, for his long period of service on the Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

Fred Haw was unanimously re-appointed, having already been approved by the Senior Union.

AOCB:

It was noted that attendances at Kwik Cricket festivals appeared to have dropped off this year. Clubs were urged to support these events as they were an important tool in introducing youngsters to the game. The Secretary would ensure that proper records of attendances would be kept in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.