

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

held at

SHAWHOLM on 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011 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  
Tim Hart – CS West Development Officer

CLUBS PRESENT:

Glasgow Accies represented by Colin Dawson (Committee member)  
Prestwick represented by George Watson (Committee member)  
Clydesdale represented by David Hart 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 Meikle  
Greenock represented by Peter Hempsey  
West of Scotland represented by Jim Young (Committee member)  
Ayr represented by Dougie Johnstone (Committee member)  
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  
Helensburgh represented by Ian Chambers  
Cricket Scotland represented by Steve Paige  
WCA represented by Keith Young and Tim Hart

CLUBS NOT REPRESENTED

Motherwell, GHK, Uddingston, Irvine, Hillhead, Active Life, Dumfries, Vale of Leven, Cumbernauld, Ardrossan, St Michaels, Queen's Park, Victoria and Drumpellier.

APOLOGIES:

GHK, Uddingston, Hillhead, Drumpellier, and Richard Young (Committee member).

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the AGM held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010 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 again been circulated in advance as was now our standard procedure 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:

This is my fourth Chairman's report to the WDJCU and, looking back, weather seems to be a recurring feature. The League Secretary's report details the exact number of cancellations and so I won't say very much more about summer 2011's precipitation levels, save to say that not only were many games washed out, but a great many were also played in poor weather conditions. One particular picture comes to mind as I type this, namely a square leg umpire standing side on to the wicket at Whitehaugh on a cold, wet, evening, wearing beanie hat, gloves and rain jacket, trying to prevent driving sleet from hurting his antipodean face! Wet indeed, but also pretty cold.

Jim Young's report also more than adequately highlights the winners and runners-up in the various age-group leagues, and my congratulations are added to the winning clubs and teams. The B Leagues, as Colin Dawson's report highlights, was arguably even more adversely affected by weather, but again I'd want to congratulate the winners in those leagues.

Turning to cup competitions competed in by west district clubs, the Frank Smith Trophy was not completed, again due to weather, and its semi-finals and final will be played at the start of next season, with all players eligible to play in 2011 remaining eligible for these games. In national cup competitions Clydesdale were the district's representatives on Finals Day in the Under 13 national knockout cup, losing in their semi-final to beaten finalists Kelso. In the Under 15 national cup, Clydesdale were again unlucky beaten semi-finalists, whilst in the Under 18 cup, the Titwood club didn't even get the chance to lose in the semi-final after that competition's Finals Day at Freuchie was washed out in early September.

Any review of any year should also include comment on the Indoor Super 8s tournament – again held between Christmas and New Year. Though participating numbers were lower in 2010, this event continues to be both hugely popular and well run. Thanks to Tim Hart for organising the tournament, and for volunteering to do the same again this December. In this regard I know that he is considering some changes to the competition format to reinvigorate it – more on this in due course.

Beyond competitive league and cup matches, it was pleasing to see younger-age-group West District representative sides playing matches against sides from further afield: Tayside &

Fife and counties sides from the north of England providing opposition to Under 11 and Under 12 West District teams under the management of Tim Hart.

Reference to games against English opposition reminds me to congratulate the Ayrshire Area Development Group who undertook a short tour to the north of England with an Under 14 squad. And the WDJCU was pleased to be able to assist the Ayrshire group financially in this undertaking.

Also supported financially in 2011 was the Under 13 Inter-Area competition. This competition was won by Ayrshire Under 13, in what turned out to be a very competitive competition.

Mention of area development groups, and an Inter-Area competition, as well as the earlier mention of Tim Hart, brings me to the appointment, at the end of the playing season, of the district's new Development Manager. Tim Hart was appointed to this role and started in post on 1 September. I wish Tim well in his new role, and looking to the future, am sure he will bring good organisation, as well as no little enthusiasm, to the role. Tim will continue in his role as Administrator to Cricket Scotland's west Regional Development Centre in 2012 too, where coaches Ian Young and Andi McElnea also remain in post providing much-needed continuity at this important stage in the player development pathway.

Also in the area of representative cricket, the west district has provided its fair share of cricketers to Scotland's age-group national teams and squads. Congratulations are due to 2011 west district junior players Gavin Main, Sam Page and Andrew Umeed who played for Scotland Under 19s during the season, the first two being part of the successful Under 19 squad that won the Under 19 World Cup qualifying tournament in Ireland. At national Under 17 age-group Alex Baum, Danial Chaudhry, Michael English, Lyle Hill, Gavin Main, Andrew Umeed and Craig Young were selected, Lyle skipping the side. And at Under 15, Niall Alexander and Andrew Umeed played, the latter captaining the side.

The strength of the district's young players in the older youth age-group was also reflected by the Under 18 Western Cricket Academy retaining the inter-academy tournament in 2011, defeating Eastern, Caledonia and Northumberland at New Williamfield.

Turning to off-field matters, I would like to express my thanks again to the WDJCU's sponsor, The Trophy Centre, who, despite the recessionary climate we find ourselves, continued its invaluable financial support of the union.

Under "off the field matters" in recent years I have also found myself making reference to issues of discipline and/or other contentious matters. I'm pleased, therefore, to say that, in 2011, the number of such incidents coming to my attention as

Chairman were *de minimis*. I hope this will remain. As Jim Young alludes to, there remain some issues surrounding clubs fulfilling fixtures however, and in particular where longer travel times are involved. Can I encourage all clubs to consider carefully before committing to league and/or cup participation with the travel requirements in mind, and also - if cancellation is an unavoidable event, to have the courtesy of informing the other club involved as early as possible.

Looking to 2012 some minor changes to the playing conditions of the WDJCU leagues will be considered over the winter, including, specifically, consideration of the success or otherwise of a split Under 11 league, the future and format of the B Leagues, the rescheduling of cancelled matches and the protocols in connection therewith, and the points and placings systems. Again, as with my comment on the indoor tournament, more to follow. And Junior Convenors' comments on any of these matters are, of course, invited at the AGM.

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.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr Dawson tabled the Junior Union accounts for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The accounts and notes had been circulated to members in advance and Mr Dawson commented as follows:

WDJCU **expenditure exceeded income** by £19 during the year under review.

One point worth noting was that our Auditor has not taken any fees for some eight years and writing back these fees has helped achieve a neutral result for the year.

As far as the Balance Sheet is concerned the following comments are the same as last year:-

- 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.

Mr Rutnagur then explained that the Trophy Centre was now under new ownership. He noted about half the clubs present currently purchased their trophies etc. from the company and he would discuss the possibility of sponsorship continuing with the new owners.

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:

Given an expanded and challenging junior programme of 315 fixtures and the worst weather for donkeys' years, it is remarkable that 233 out of 315 fixtures were actually played. This compares with 239 out of 299 last year. Concessions at 22 were slightly down on last season but sadly a total of 60 matches were lost to the weather. Had the tail end of the season not been so appalling, I daresay that several of these lost fixtures would have been rescheduled but it was not to be. The Under 11s suffered 22 no results and the Under 15s had 17 washouts, which I think confirms my memories of a season where the heavens opened just about every Friday afternoon. The restoration of the Under 18 league to one division proved successful with all clubs enjoying more cricket and the conversion of the Under 13 league to home and away also seemed to work well. The Under 11 league was regionalised to see if reduced travelling would assist in getting games played (where have I heard that before?) and that resulted in 71 of 99 matches being played compared with 96 out of 120 last year. It was noticeable that a couple of clubs still struggled to fulfil half their matches but I suspect that was down to lack of players rather than anything else. It was also apparent that one region provided a markedly higher level of competition than the other but that can easily change from one year to the next.

West of Scotland won their section of the Under 11 league with a 100% record, and went on to win the play off against the other section winners Poloc, on an appropriately dismal, damp evening in September.

Ayr retained their Under 13 title with an impressive 15 wins out of 15. This is a particularly strong group of players who have been used to winning as they have moved through the age groups and it will be interesting to watch them progress next season.

Congratulations to Drumpellier who demonstrated the merits of getting fixtures played as they secured the Under 15 title, finishing above an unbeaten Clydesdale team who could not fit all their matches in.

The usual suspects were the strongest sides at Under 18 level, with Clydesdale ending up comfortable and deserved winners, winning 11 out of 11 matches.

It was a difficult year for our young kwik cricketers with at least seven of our Sunday morning festivals washed out, although two of these were rearranged. Let's hope for better luck in 2012.

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 2012. 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.

On a personal note, I have a year of my current term to go, so I'd like to intimate now that I don't intend to seek re-election next year. That, I hope, gives you plenty of time to find a new secretary.

Finally, thanks to all Junior Convenors, Team Managers, Coaches, Committee Members, Parents and Volunteers for all their efforts and support throughout a decidedly damp season.

Mr Dawson tabled the B League Report as follows:

For the second year running I have mixed feelings about the success or not of the B League competitions. It seems that teams are entered at the time of the AGM but then "withdrawn" without advice to me.

In the U15 League Irvine officially withdrew in August having played no matches leaving only five clubs "active". Of the possible 10 matches only four results were submitted.

In the U13 League [Ayrshire/M77] congratulations are due to Ayr and Prestwick for completing their full programmes whilst overall this section worked very well with each of the remaining teams managing to complete all but one of their allotted fixtures.

In the U13 League [N. Lanarkshire/M8] only one result out of a possible ten was submitted with GHK also officially withdrawing in August having played no matches and Poloc, Hillhead and Weirs not submitting any results. I was advised that some matches would be completed in early September but presumably the ongoing weather conditions precluded any play.

Glasgow Accies has already advised that it will be entering a team to the U13 B League in 2012 due to the large numbers in this age group at the Club.

I would implore club junior conveners to think seriously about committing teams to the B Leagues and even more so to advise me as early as possible before the start of the actual season if circumstances change. It is obviously preferable for organisation and travel reasons to have regional matches but if the two sections need to be combined to form a single league for the U13 age group it would be helpful both to me and to participating clubs to know in advance.

Congratulations to the following League winners:-

U15 B – GHK [based on %'age completion];

Runners up - Poloc

U13 M77 – Ayr [based on %'age completion];

Runners up - Renfrew  
U13 M8 – Uddingston;  
Runners up - Clydesdale

### CUP COMPETITIONS REPORT:

Congratulations were offered to Clydesdale whose Under 13s and Under 15s reached finals day of the National Cup competitions and whose Under 18s are still in the semi final stage of the unfinished 2011 Scottish Cup. Bad weather has also prevented the 2011 Frank Smith Trophy going beyond the semi final stage and these competitions will resume in early 2012.

### MB STANGER TROPHY

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 2011 was made to the thoroughly deserving Ryan Murray of Renfrew CC.

### UNDER 12 DISTRICT SQUAD:

Over 35 young players attended 2 trial sessions, held at Hutchesons' Grammar School, prior to the start of the outdoor season. Following these sessions a final squad was not selected – with everyone remaining part of a broader squad and the “trials” effectively becoming talent “trawl” sessions.

During the season, 4 fixtures were played – two at U11 level, two at U12 level and 25 different players represented the District during the fixtures.

The U11s travelled to Carlisle CC to play Cumbria U10s and Northumberland U10s in a mini-festival. The two T20 games played were both won. In game one, only skipper Zain Ashraf (Clydesdale CC) with 21 and Kess Sajjad (Poloc CC) with 17\* made double figures – but good bowling and fielding led by 3-1-4-2 from Raghav Kumar (West of Scotland) and 2-0-7-2 from Ashraf saw the team home by 20 runs. In game two, Tom Barrett, Angus Guy (both West of Scotland) and Ashraf all took “2-fors” as Northumberland were skittled for 51. Jamie Percival (Glasgow Accies) with 14\* and Ashraf with 13\* then saw the team home to a 7-wicket win.

The two U12 games were against Clydesdale U13s and Tayside & Fife U12s. Robbie McCallum (West of Scotland) scored 30 retired against Clydesdale and Taimoor Ahmad (Ferguslie CC) scored 40 on his home ground against Tayside & Fife – but that fixture was dominated by Christopher McBride's (Dumfries CC) outstanding 115. The pick of the U12s bowlers during the two games was Kallum Dhimi (Clydesdale CC) with 3/26 against Tayside & Fife.

### WESTERN REGIONAL ACADEMY:

Keith Young tabled this report:  
This is my first report as Director of Cricket Scotland's Western Cricket Academy. In this regard it's important to start by

thanking everyone involved in the academy, and its smooth-running. This should start with a word of thanks to the seventeen players who comprised the 2010-11 academy squad. Coming from ten west district clubs, the players represented themselves and, by extension, their clubs and the district well during the year. In addition to the seventeen contracted players, a further fifteen players played at least one competitive match for the academy during the season too. In this regard, thanks are due to clubs who allowed these additional players to play for the academy. Thanks are also due to Tim Hart who continued as Administrator to the academy, and to specialist coaches Tony Judd, Iain Kennedy, Andy Tennant and Craig Wright. John Blair's matchday involvement in the playing season was also much-appreciated and, along with Tim and Iain, he represented continuity from 2009-10.

The key aim of the academy is, obviously, to progress young players in the game. And in this regard I think the academy met its aim. The vast majority of the seventeen players played 1st XI league cricket for their clubs throughout season 2011, most, again, in the national league. And of the seventeen, eight represented Scotland at age-group level.

After the completion of the winter programme, the academy faced a full fixture card of matches. However as affected almost all cricket, particularly in the west, poor weather saw the cancellation of a number of matches. For example only five of thirteen matches in the west SNCL Reserve League were completed. Outwith this league fixture programme, matches were played against touring sides from England and Australia, the inter-academy tournament was played in and won, and an end-of-season tour was undertaken to the north-east of England where the academy came up against the NUSC-CC and Ulster.

Results-wise, and as noted, the highlight was the academy's retention of the inter-academy tournament at New Williamfield. After defeating the Eastern Cricket Academy and a visiting Northumberland side, a wash out of the match with the Caledonia Cricket Academy saw the squad finish as tournament winners. Notwithstanding the number of cancellations, the academy's performances in the five west SNCL Reserve League matches that were completed saw them finish fifth in the table.

Individual performances of merit by academy players should also be noted, with centuries from Michael English (2), Andrew Umeed and Craig Young, with a further six scores of 50 or more being recorded by the batters. With the ball, Anthony Hulatt's nineteen wickets saw him top the wicket-taking table, with four other bowlers taking ten or more wickets in the fourteen matches played.

Off the field the aim in 2010-11 was to improve the organisation in, into, and out of, the academy, including between the academy and its players and their clubs. It's hoped



this aim was achieved, but if clubs have continuing concerns and/or complaints in this regard I would invite them to let me know about them so that these can be addressed.

Looking to 2011-12, a new academy squad has been selected. Twelve players have been centrally selected for this squad, the first session of the new academy year – a fitness assessment at the National Cricket Academy in Edinburgh – having taken place on the second Sunday of October.

A change in 2011-12 is that in addition to the core contracted academy players, an additional – larger – "regional squad" of Under 18 players will also be involved with the academy. This larger group will participate in academy sessions in the New Year, and will form the pool of players from which academy teams will be selected come the 2012 playing season. It is hoped this allows more players to benefit from the specialist coaching available at the academy, as well as including players who might just have missed out on academy selection.

Thank you.

WEST REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
REPORT:

Tim Hart tabled his report as follows: The West Regional Development Centre ran for the first time in 2010-2011. Following a trial process, run by Head Coaches Andi McElnea and Ian Young and Administrator Tim Hart, 26 players were offered full-time training places; 2 were offered part-time places; and during the early part of the winter the WRDC also welcomed 4 members of the Scotland Women's squad. The training programme featured fortnightly, 3-hour, sessions which were held at Hutchesons' Grammar School.

There were five friendly fixtures scheduled for before the main Inter-RDC Festival at Fettes and one afterwards. Unfortunately, only three of the six friendlies survived the weather – with 2 wins and 1 loss resulting. Only two of the three Festival fixtures survived the weather – with both resulting in losses. And, the proposed Inter-RDC T20 festival was also cancelled due to rain.

The batting and bowling never really came together in a way that reflected the ability of the players who represented the WRDC. However, Mitchell Rao (Prestwick CC) bowled extremely well against East in the Inter-RDC Festival and fully deserved his 5/14 off 7 overs.

Following the end of the summer fixture programme, the management staff met to analyse the WRDC season. Plans have been put in place which will result in the upcoming winter training programme having a different format and it has been identified that it is essential to have an expanded summer fixture programme next season.

Mr Hart also thanked those clubs that had provided venues free of charge and asked for similar support in 2012. He hoped that communication between the Academy/RDC and clubs had improved and he would continue to work on this. On this point it should be noted that the WCA website would close and information would in future be found on the WDJCU website. It was confirmed that trials had been held for WCA and RDC for 2012 squads. WCA outcomes had been notified to players and RDC outcomes would be notified in next few days. It was suggested from the floor that Scotland full time contracted players should help at coaching sessions.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
JUNIOR COMPETITIONS  
2012:

Rule changes for next season will include reducing the length of the pitch to 21 yards for U13 league, penalty runs for wides/no balls will be 1 run in U11 league and 2 runs in U13 league, and there will be a free hit for front foot no balls in U15/U18 leagues. The use of provisional concession penalties to encourage playing of fixtures had caused some confusion and had not been universally embraced. The Committee undertook to revisit this and try to establish a procedure for rescheduling matches. There may be regionalisation of some but not all age group leagues once it became clear which clubs would be competing. We await news of Stirling County and Stenhousemuir's possible involvement in 2012.

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  
Helensburgh  
East Kilbride  
Kilmarnock  
Renfrew  
Uddingston  
Weirs

Since the AGM, Drumpellier have confirmed entry.

GRADE A UNDER 13 LEAGUE

Ferguslie  
NVT Poloc  
West of Scotland  
Glasgow Accies

Greenock  
Clydesdale  
Ayr  
Helensburgh  
Prestwick  
East Kilbride  
Renfrew  
Weirs

Since the AGM, Drumpellier and Uddingston have confirmed entry.

#### GRADE A UNDER 15 LEAGUE

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

Since the AGM, Drumpellier and Hillhead have confirmed entry.

#### GRADE A UNDER 18 LEAGUE

Clydesdale  
West of Scotland  
Kelburne  
Ferguslie  
NVT Poloc  
Glasgow Accies  
Ayr  
East Kilbride  
Uddingston  
Renfrew

Since the AGM, Drumpellier and Prestwick have confirmed entry.

#### UNDER 18 FRANK SMITH TROPHY

Clydesdale  
West of Scotland  
Kelburne  
Ferguslie  
NVT Poloc

Glasgow Accies  
Ayr  
East Kilbride  
Uddingston  
Renfrew  
Greenock

Since the AGM, Drumpellier and Prestwick have confirmed entry.

#### GRADE B UNDER 13 LEAGUE

Ayr  
Clydesdale  
Kilmarnock  
NVT Poloc  
Weirs  
West of Scotland  
Glasgow Accies

Since the AGM, Hillhead have confirmed entry.

#### GRADE B UNDER 15 LEAGUE

Clydesdale  
NVT Poloc  
Ayr (tbc)  
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:-

Keith Young – Chairman  
Richard Rutnagur – Vice Chairman  
John Blair – Committee member  
George Watson – Committee member  
Dougie Johnstone – Committee member

#### APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

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

#### AOCB:

Ayrshire were presented with the U13 area Trophy.

Area Groups will change next year. U13s will become U14s. While some parts of Scotland would like an U16 group, WDJCU prefers an U12 group.

Clubs were urged to use the WDJCU website for reporting results, preferably on the evening of the match. This should include B leagues.

Tim Hart reported briefly on his start as CS Community Development officer in the West District and was in the process of meeting all clubs' junior sections.

There were still places available on the UKCC Level 2 course in Jordanhill in November.

Noted that it was unlikely the U12 District squad would continue as before, especially if the base is broadened to introduce U12 Area sides. It was still possible however that one off games may take place against touring sides.

Why did Cricket Scotland not provide sufficient funding for Area Groups, given that they were created by Cricket Scotland? Steve Paige responded that the governing body recognised the need to put more resources into the Area programme but that might not necessarily be funding. The Cricket Scotland view was that improved coaching was the main priority, not an extensive match programme and that "resources" would probably be aimed at coaching and facilities.

East Kilbride's view that the Lanarkshire Area Group was now almost defunct was noted. Perhaps a new U12 age group might help invigorate things.

Steve Paige asked any Clubs with U17 female players to provide details to Cricket Scotland.

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