



# **Western Junior Cricket Union**

THE WESTERN DISTRICT JUNIOR CRICKET UNION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNION

held at

TITWOOD on 29th OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.30 PM

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**PRESENT:** 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 Kevin Lawler and George Watson (Committee member)  
Clydesdale represented by Mike Stanger  
Poloc represented by Craig Young and Elliott Rousen  
Ferguslie represented by Sam Scott  
Kelburne represented by Martin Pollock  
East Kilbride represented by Brian Kampman and Michelle Kiely  
Greenock represented by Peter Hempsey and Kevin Flack  
West of Scotland represented by Bob Coats and Jim Young (Committee member)  
Ayr represented by Dougie Johnstone (Committee member)  
Renfrew represented by Parvase Majeed  
Inverclyde represented by John Blair (Committee member)  
Kilmarnock represented by Niall Lochrie  
Irvine represented by Scott Wilson  
Stenhousemuir represented by Brian Reid  
Cricket Scotland/WRDC represented by Tim Hart

**CLUBS NOT REPRESENTED:**

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

**APOLOGIES:** GHK, Stirling County, Weirs, Helensburgh, Uddingston, Hillhead, David Hart, and Keith Young, Richard Rutnagur and Richard Young (Committee members).

**CHAIR:** In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the League Secretary chaired the meeting.



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**MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 24th October 2011 which had been circulated to all members in advance of the AGM were approved.

**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 2012 was made to the very deserving Mitchell Rao of Prestwick CC.

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INTRODUCTION:**

Mr Jim 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 Keith Young's report was tabled as follows:

"Rain is again the key word that best sums up season 2012. Looking back my first Chairman's report – in 2008 – started with the sentence, "I'd like to start my inaugural Chairman's report with one word: RAIN." And it seems very little has changed in five seasons. It really is a small miracle that as many games were completed in season 2012 as were, and this owes as much to the perseverance of clubs and their junior coaches, as it reflects on the sheer enthusiasm of junior players across the district to play the game they love.

Before any summer season, of course, comes the WDJCU's annual indoor tournament. Again well organised by Tim Hart, the 2011 competition saw Ferguslie CC run out winners at Under 19, Prestwick CC win at Under 15, and West of Scotland CC secure the Under 12 title. The Under 12 tournament was a new age-group introduced in 2011 and its popularity means that it's likely this age-group will again see matches in 2012. Tim will, I'm sure, keep everyone informed about the 2012 tournament over the coming months, including any changes to its structure.

The outdoor season started with the holding of the Finals Day of the 2011 Frank Smith Trophy, held over from last year because of the weather. It, along with the national Under 18 cup Finals Day, had been quite literally washed away by 2011's horrible weather. Little did we know then that this might not be just a one-off! The Finals Day saw Ferguslie CC defeat Poloc CC in their semi-final before going on to defeat Prestwick CC in the final.

The various age-group leagues were up-and-running by the time the Frank Smith Trophy Finals Day was held, with new entrants in the shapes of Forth Valley, Stirling County CC and Stenhousemuir CC. The latter two clubs were playing in the west district's junior competitions for the first time after CSL reorganisation and were – and still are – very welcome additions to the



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WDJCU. Forth Valley was the name under which the two aforementioned clubs competed in the Under 18 league, as a composite team.

In fact 2012 saw a number of joint teams play:

Irvine|Kilmarnock in the Under 18s, Ferguslie|Kelburne in the Under 15s and Hillhead|Weirs at Under 13. The ability to field such composite teams is, it's hoped, useful for clubs as they ride the peaks and troughs of player numbers at different ages.

Despite the horrendous weather, league winners were, of course, determined. Congratulations are due to all winning teams, with – interestingly perhaps – there being seven different winning clubs in the eight divisions operated in 2012. Only Ayr CC – winners of the Under 13B south league and the Under 15 league – being multiple division champions.

Beyond the WDJCU's own competitions – noting that the Finals Day of the 2012 Frank Smith Trophy was again held over – there was also west success elsewhere. Ayr CC won the Under 18 national cup, whilst West of Scotland CC were runners-up in the Under 13 national cup, and Drumpellier CC and Prestwick CC made it to the semi-finals of the Under 15 competition.

West-based youngsters also represented Scotland across the various youth age-groups. At Under 15, Ross Armour (Poloc CC), Neil Flack (Greenock CC) and Mitchell Rao (Prestwick CC) won junior international caps. Niall Alexander (Dumfries CC), Michael English (Ferguslie CC), Lyle Hill (Clydesdale CC) and Gavin Main (Uddingston CC) represented Scotland at Under 17, English and Hill as vice-captain and captain respectively. Alex Baum (Greenock CC), English, Andrew Umeed (West of Scotland CC) and Craig Young (Poloc CC) played for Scotland Under 18 in 2012. And, finally, at Under 19 level, Baum, Main, Tom McBride (Dumfries CC), Scott McElnea (Ayr CC), Sam Page (Clydesdale CC) and Umeed all made appearances. And in the women's game, west-based juniors winning age-group and/or senior Scotland Women caps included Lynne Dickson (West of Scotland CC), Samantha Haggio (Prestwick CC), Abtaha Maqsood (Poloc CC) and Nadia Wheeler (Ferguslie CC).

I won't comment here on the Western Cricket Academy or west Regional Development Centre, as both are the subject of separate reports.

What I will make passing reference to are the inter-area tournaments that were completed. Again, despite the weather. The new age-groups of Under 12 and Under 14 seemed to work well. In mentioning these I think it's worth, however, highlighting that – to me – it was disappointing that the Lanarkshire Area Group was not able to complete any matches at Under 12, and only one at Under 14. I hope that this area might better pool the resources of the clubs comprising it in 2013 so that their players benefit from this "next level" of play. This is something I know that Tim Hart is



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working hard on. Mention of Tim brings me to thank him for his work in the district over the year.

In reporting on any year I also take the opportunity to comment on matters in-and-around what took place "on the park". I've already mentioned the welcome new additions to the WDJCU. And I've highlighted the helpful fielding of joint teams. But on the negative side, 2012 saw the fielding of ineligible players on more than one occasion, and by more than one club. In short, whilst the union exists to facilitate cricket for youngsters, its age-group-specific leagues do not allow the playing – with only one exception – of over-age players. The Under 15/16B League allows the playing of two Under 16 players. In all other leagues only age-eligible players are allowed to play. The clubs that played over-age players, and were "found out", saw the results of the games in question reversed. And quite correctly so. If any club is struggling to field a side at any age-group then the answer is not to cheat. Rather it's to think about joint teams (linking this to my earlier point), or not entering a particular age-group league. If in exceptional circumstances, c.f. Kilmarnock CC this year at Under 11, a club – having entered a league in good faith – finds it cannot field a side without over-age players then playing any scheduled match as a friendly instead can be done. This maintains the integrity of the leagues whilst continuing to facilitate matches for young players. Consideration will also be given to running an Under 18/19B league in the future to provide additional – more flexible – cricket for clubs struggling to field eleven players in the regular leagues at particular age-groups. But, to repeat, playing ineligible players – cheating – is not allowed.

2012 also – again – highlighted the issue of rescheduling matches. And the weather was again the main reason why this became problematic. There is no requirement to reschedule cancelled matches, though some clubs do. And, as was discussed at the 2011 AGM, guidance that clubs should attempt to reschedule matches in the order they were cancelled proved unworkable given the sheer number of cancellations. I am not sure what the answer is. Moving to percentages and not points doesn't help, as this likely would – even in a better summer, weather-wise – see less cricket played. Thought will be given to this issue over the winter. Also to be given thought are playing condition changes. The "free hit" introduced in the Under 18 league proved good fun as an example of a recent change that worked. Talk of playing conditions reminds me to remind all clubs to read the rules. Ferguslie CC's Under 18 league title owed, ironically, everything to it and Drumpellier CC not having read the rules, playing out their final league game over insufficient overs to make it a "game". Ferguslie CC's defeat in the game not counting therefore, meaning they did not slip to second in the table. Notwithstanding this good fortune, can I advise this is not the ideal situation and clubs' junior convenors should acquaint themselves with the playing conditions.



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In closing can I thank the WDJCU Committee members for their work, Colin Dawson for another year's service as Treasurer and –last, but certainly not least – Jim Young for his service as Secretary. Jim, as everyone knows, stands down as Secretary of the WDJCU at this meeting, after having served for as long as anyone can remember. Thank you Jim for your service, and it is a service, giving of your time and efforts to ensure the good governance of junior cricket here in the west of the country. On a personal level I will miss our regular email, text and 'phone exchanges,.....even if you won't, and have greatly valued your wise counsel over the last five years. Thank you."

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr Dawson tabled the Junior Union accounts for the year to 30th September 2012. The accounts and notes had been circulated to members in advance.

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:

"I started last year's report by commenting on the worst weather for donkeys' years. Who would have thought that 2012 would be even wetter?! In such a consistently depressing season, I must congratulate all Clubs, Junior Conveners and Team Managers for their great resolve in fulfilling so many fixtures in such difficult circumstances.

The Junior Union started the year by welcoming Stirling County and Stenhousemuir into our fold and our age group league set up. This increased our potential league fixture list to a massive 391 matches, some 76 more than last season. 162 of these matches were wiped out by the almost constant summer rains. In 2011 we played 233 out of 315 fixtures, suffered 22 concessions and only lost 60 to the weather.

Prestwick were Under 11 Champions this year, winning their section in some style, and going on to win the play off convincingly against Greenock at a dark and gloomy Hamilton Crescent in September. Indeed it became so dark latterly that Greenock's management sportingly conceded a one sided match with some overs to go as there was genuine concern for the players' safety.

Clydesdale deservedly took the Under 13 title with a 100% record, seeing off some stiff competition from Ayr and West of Scotland.

Ayr built on the success of their 2011 Under 13 success by winning the Under 15 league, seeing off strong challenges from Clydesdale and Drumpellier.



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The Under 18 championship could hardly have been closer, Ferguslie and Poloc finishing with identical records. The title went to Ferguslie as they won the match between the two Clubs.

It was yet another dismal year for kwik cricket festivals, with several Sunday morning washouts decimating the planned fixture list.

As I now complete my stint as league secretary, I would like to thank everyone for their support and hard work over the years, especially my fellow Committee Members and all Club Conveners, Team Managers and Volunteers. You are the people who make the leagues and the whole junior set up run so smoothly.

I wish my successor all the best and I know that whoever takes over will continue to enjoy your vital support and co-operation."

Mr Dawson tabled the B League Report as follows:

"Overall this season will not be remembered for warm and dry weather – in fact quite the opposite.....but we seem to say that every year! No great surprise though as it was recorded as being the wettest summer since 1910! Only the U13 league sections managed to play 50% or more of possible fixtures.

In the U15 League 3 matches completed out of a possible 8 was the best with Stenhousemuir being granted two concessions by Clydesdale and GHK for their total of 3 matches. As a result and because Stenny did not lose a match the club came top in this league so well done even if they felt that they did not gain any real benefit from their first year of competition.

In the U13 League [Glasgow South Side section] congratulations are due to Ayr for managing to complete four of their six matches and for winning their section with only one loss. Only Poloc failed to complete 50% of their matches.

In the U13 League [Glasgow North Side section] completion rates were very good indeed, albeit after many attempts to replay, and would have been unblemished bar the monsoons that fell on arranged dates for Accies/Stenhousemuir matches. Hillhead with 4 wins from 6 came top in this section and congratulations are due to them.

Obviously this was a frustrating season for all the participants and especially for the various junior conveners. Several of the teams competing also had commitments in the A Leagues and these were hit equally badly by the weather. I suspect that the backlog of A League fixtures impacted on completion of the B League fixtures but many thanks to everyone for trying in virtually impossible circumstances.



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The only admin point I would make is to urge all clubs to report their results timeously via the WJCU website even if it is an away result – I would rather have two results for a match than none at all – even more important in the dying stages of the season!

In summary congratulations to the following League winners:

U15B – Stenousemuir; Runners up – Ayr

U13B South – Ayr; Runners up – Kilmarnock

U13B North – Hillhead; Runners up – West of Scotland"

**CUP COMPETITIONS REPORT:** Congratulations were offered to Ayr who won the U18 Scottish Cup and Ferguslie who won the held over 2011 Frank Smith Trophy. Bad weather has prevented the 2012 Frank Smith Trophy going beyond the semi final stage and these competitions will resume in early 2013.

## **WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

I think that, despite some particularly inclement weather, we have had a productive year in the west of Scotland and I would like to thank everyone who has put so much time and effort into cricket throughout the region. It has taken real commitment from players, parents, officials, groundsmen and many more to get games played (often after numerous re-arrangements), to run our local Area Cricket Development Groups, to attend coach education and development opportunities and to continue to make the west of Scotland a real leader for cricket in Scotland. There have been many highlights:

### **More & Better Players:**

Local Area Cricket Development Groups delivered a total of 14 winter training sessions. Local Area Cricket Development Groups had a summer fixture programme in place at U14 age group – with 9 of the 15 fixtures being played. There was also an U12 Inter-Area Development Tournament. 2 Summer Squad coaches have been in post - Andi McElnea (in Ayrshire) and Robbie Stewart (in South Glasgow). 191 sessions were delivered – with a total of 4,764 participants in sessions.

7 west-based schools entered the National Secondary Schools' Cup.

7 west-based schools entered the National Emerging Schools' Cup.

3 west-based Regional Qualifying Tournaments were held in the Asda National Primary Schools' Kwik Cricket Competition.

The West Regional Development Centre ran a winter training programme and a summer fixture programme – with three WRDC players being selected for the National U15 Team.



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## Stronger Clubs:

The updated TOP Club programme was launched during 2012. Four Clubs have submitted their TOP Club documentation so far. There are new indoor net facilities at the Ayrshire Athletics Arena, in Kilmarnock – and talks are on-going with Glasgow Life / Glasgow Sport about the possibility of an additional facility in Glasgow.

Many Clubs continue to build key partnerships with organisations in their local communities - such as Local Authorities, Local Sports Councils and Community Sport Hubs.

## Well-Trained People:

Four Kwik Cricket Game Courses have been delivered. (78 successful candidates)

Four ICC Introduction to Cricket Courses have been run. (99 successful candidates)

Three candidates passed assessments for their UKCC 2 Coach Award.

Eighteen candidates are attending the on-going UKCC 2 Coach Award Course.

One Level 1 Umpiring Course has been run. (7 successful candidates)

One Introduction to Umpiring Course has been run. (12 successful candidates)

Three First Aid Courses have been run. (20 successful candidates)

Five Coach Observations have been carried out.

One Working with Children Workshop (6 candidates) has taken place.

## Other News:

Ferguslie CC won the WDJCU U19 Indoor Super Eights in December 2011. Prestwick CC won the U15 Competition and West of Scotland CC won the inaugural U12 Competition.

Ayr CC won the U18 National Cup.

The Glasgow Academy finished 3rd in the National Secondary Schools' Cup.

Airdrie Academy won the National Emerging Schools' Cup.





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Hutchesons' Grammar School finished as runners-up in the Asda National Primary Schools' Kwik Cricket Competition.

Three of the WRDC / WCA coaches (Tim Hart, Iain Kennedy and Andi McElnea) successfully applied for a place on the sportsScotland Coaching Talent (West) Programme.

Finally, I would to thank everyone for their continued support – as we all strive to make our Clubs, our Area Groups and cricket in the west of Scotland successful and sustainable."

## **WESTERN REGIONAL ACADEMY:**

Keith Young tabled this report:

"This is my second report as Director of Cricket Scotland's Western Cricket Academy. As in my first year it's important to start by thanking everyone involved in the academy, and in its smooth-running. In this regard specialist coaches Tony Judd, Iain Kennedy, Andy Tennant and Craig Wright should be named. John Blair's availability for matchday involvement was also much-appreciated. Tim Hart was also, again, involved on the mini-tour to the north-east of England in late Autumn.

There were a reduced number – twelve – of players in the academy in 2011-12, all centrally selected by Cricket Scotland. Of these, one (Danial Chaudhry) moved to Birmingham at the start of the winter programme, and a second (Alex Baum) trained with the Eastern Cricket Academy as he was at university in Edinburgh. The key aim of the academy continues to be to progress young players in the game. And in this regard I think the academy continues to meet its aim. As in 2011, the vast majority of the academy players played 1st XI league cricket for their clubs throughout season 2012, most, again, in the national league. And of the eleven, seven represented Scotland at age-group level in the season just ended.

Changes in the winter off-season programme included additional weekday evening batting sessions for batters that increased coaching "contact" time and allowed the players involved to hit far more balls than in previous years as a new season approached. There was also a reduced strength and conditioning ("S&C") component to academy group sessions, again increasing technical input and practice times. S&C remains a key component of the overall assessment of players, but programmes are now encouraged to be followed outwith academy sessions as opposed to within. These changes, I think, were positive.

The academy's match programme had a different facet to it in 2012. This was that the team that played in matches, played as the "Western Warriors Under 18s", this different "branding" reflecting the playing name of the senior west-based representative team. The match programme comprised



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three components: (i) matches versus WDCU Premiership clubs, (ii) inter-regional matches, and (iii) the aforementioned end-of-season mini-tour to the north-east of England where four matches were scheduled against the NUSC-CC and Ulster Schools again. Another change saw no week-long inter-regional tournament as such, these matches being played over the season instead.

As regards results, the main winner was the weather! Only one match versus WDCU clubs was played, a win over GHK CC at Old Anniesland. Only two inter-regional matches were played, seeing two wins. And even in the triangular tournament in Durham only three of four matches were played, seeing two losses and one tie. But compared to the games played in 2011 in this tournament, and with arguably a younger side, the Warriors competed much better.

Looking to 2012-13, a new academy squad has been selected. Eleven players have again been centrally selected for this squad, the first session of the new academy year having taken place on the third Sunday of October.

There will again be a – larger – "regional squad" of Under 18 players training and being coached over the winter too, with pre-Christmas sessions for the first time. The pre-Christmas sessions will also allow the academy's coaches to "trial" some older juniors who have, perhaps, been "missed". Thank you."

## **WEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE REPORT:**

Tim Hart tabled his report as follows:

"The West Regional Development Centre (WRDC) season 2011-2012 began with over 40 players attending trials in early October 2011. Following these trials, 26 players were offered a place in the WRDC Winter Training Squad – with 24 accepting their places, and receiving a free tracksuit thanks to Western District Cricket Union sponsors Lords International. In total, there were 12 winter training sessions delivered at Hutchesons' Grammar School.

In the summer, the WRDC played games under the Western Warriors name. There were 11 scheduled U15 Western Warriors games. The weather was the real winner with the Inter-RDC Festival at Fettes being washed out (without a ball bowled) and only 3 fixtures were actually played. These games resulted in 1 win and 2 losses.

There were also 2 scheduled U14 Western Warriors games. Both of these were played – resulting in 1 win and 1 loss. A total of 25 players played for the U14 and U15 Western Warriors in 2012 and Ross Armour (Poloc CC),



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Neil Flack (Greenock CC) and Mitchell Rao (Prestwick CC) were all selected for Scotland U15 during the season.

Overall, Shujaa Khan (Ayr CC) finished as the top run scorer (86) – with Muhammad Azeem (Kilmarnock CC) and Adil Ghaffar (Clydesdale CC) second (70) and third (68). Khan scored the only fifty of the season, with 53 (retired) in the first game of the U14 Triangular Festival (hosted by Ayr CC) and Azeem also scored a very impressive 48 against the U15 Eastern Knights in the first game of the season.

With the ball, Gregor Anderson (Clydesdale CC) was the leading wicket-taker (6/90), with Ghaffar and Robbie Henderson (Ayr CC) finishing joint second (4/46). Anderson and Henderson both took “4-fors” (with Henderson’s including a hat-trick!) and Ghaffar took a “3-for”.

Despite the weather, the enthusiasm of the players was outstanding and I must thank all the players (and their parents / guardians) for the excellent, and speedy, communication during the season. I would also like to thank the Clubs, and groundsmen, that agreed to host home games.

Finally, I would like to thank Head Coaches (Andi McElnea and Ian Young) for all their support – along with Paul Davies (who assisted at most sessions during the latter part of the winter) and Cricket Scotland’s Andy Tennant and Craig Wright for their specialist bowling support.

Hopefully, 2013 will be drier and will enable us to get more fixtures played."

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR JUNIOR COMPETITIONS 2013:

After discussion about the many examples of clubs fielding over age players in 2012, it was decided that introducing Player Registration was overkill, and we would continue to rely on the existing penalties.

It was also decided not to make any changes to the “B” League structure.

Two Rule Changes were approved for 2013. There will be a maximum limit of four overs per bowler in the Under 15 and Under 18 Leagues, and the free hit for a front foot no ball will now apply in the Under 13 League.

Instead of entries being taken at the meeting, Clubs were invited to enter 2013 Junior League competitions online, using the newly created facility on the WDJCU website. Clubs were asked to submit their entries as soon as practicable before the end of the year, always paying realistic heed to their resources.

Clubs were also requested to let the new League Secretary know about any ground availability issues.



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## **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

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

Dougie Johnstone – Chairman  
Colin Dawson – Treasurer  
Keith Young – Secretary  
Tony Coyle – Committee member  
Richard Young – Committee member

## **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:**

Fred Haw was unanimously re-appointed, subject to being re elected by the Senior Union.

## **AOCB:**

Clubs were advised that they should keep detailed records of attendances at their hosted Kwik Cricket festivals in future so that Cricket Scotland could audit the outcomes.

Tim Hart reported that there were hardly any applicants for the Winter Skills Clinic due to take place on Thursday evening. Unless some more candidates came forward the Clinic would be cancelled.

Jim Young conveyed the dissatisfaction of Clubs at the new TOPClub requirements imposed by Cricket Scotland without consultation and also at the difficulties arising when attempting to complete the .pdf returns. Tim Hart commented that some of the new criteria were under review, but in the meantime it was important that Clubs submitted the returns as best they could and arranged a follow up meeting with him. Duly noted.

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