

Kelvedon & Feering CC

Minutes of the 1st XI Squad meeting

Held on 26th March 2011 at 12pm, Rye Mill Lane

Present: James Baker, Ed Smith, Martin Griffiths, Alex Parsons, Oli Parsons, Josh Parsons, Lee Scott, Josh King, Sam King, Dave Schofield, Tristan Peperell, Tom Potter, Adam Yates, Steve Baker, Stuart Stobbs, Jeremy King

Apologies received from: Malcolm Wilde, Pat Ahern, Rob Morrell, Iain Stobbs, Stuart Warner, Tim Smith, Ross Burt and Neil Brice

1. Welcome new members

We are pleased to welcome Dave Schofield, Karn Sohal and Adam Parker, who will be joining us this season. James Baker is returning to play Saturdays and has taken up captaincy of the PDQ team.

2. Review of last season

Ed explained that there was an early season struggle due to availability and lack of consistency in the side. The season became more successful in the second half with some stronger performances. He also mentioned young players had come into the side for their first season in their respective roles. The PDQ side finished 4th in the premiership, beating teams we have not beaten before. This was by far our most successful season in the premier division. Everyone agreed that training standards and attendance was not up to scratch and is something that needs to be improved upon this season.

3. 2011 ambitions & expectations

The Two Counties side are aiming for promotion into division 2, while the PDQ side are looking to maintain their position in the premier division. The captains stated that they are looking for a positive start to the season, which will be achieved by commitment, good preparation, a high standard of professionalism and a strong mentality from the players. James mentioned that it is up to the players to raise the bar; if the 1st team want to play at a higher level then it will require hard work and a positive attitude throughout the year. Preparations for the season are already well underway.

4. Selection Criteria

Players were reminded of the 1st team selection criteria:

- Must be a club member
- Good availability and commitment to play regularly
- Be at the skill level required or show potential for development to play at this level
- Commitment to training, fitness and personal development
- Current form and recent performances
- Skill requirement to play a particular role in the team
- Ability to contribute positively and play as a team member

James explained that players selected to play for the 1st team will have a specific role in the team, which will be discussed and agreed with them. Players called up from the 2nd team will also be given a role, although it may not result in a regular position. Issues with availability will mean players may not always be able to play in their preferred position – this is unavoidable when there is a lack of availability for specific roles. James also explained that there will be a core squad developing through the season, consisting of players who are continuously outstanding in their respective roles. The selection committee will be holding regular performance reviews so all players will have an equal opportunity to be selected.

5. Training Structure

It has been agreed by captains and club coach that 1st team training will be Thursday evenings, meeting at 6:15 for a 6:30 start. Martin clarified that players will be expected to attend training weekly and on time, unless valid reasons have been given beforehand. Training will be for 1st team squad, development players and 2nd team players who wish to train at this level. A separate session will run the same evening for 2nd and 3rd team players

Martin informed players that Pete Williams will be running the 1st team training sessions and will act as a mentor for all 1st team matters.

James suggested that players can take some responsibility for their personal development, requesting help and advice from coaches/captains on particular aspects of their game. Players could also arrange additional training sessions between themselves, especially if they cannot make Thursday evenings.

6. Match Day Structure

It has been agreed by captains and club coach that arrival time for home games is 11:45, ready for 12:00. This means players will be in training kit and ready to start match preparations at 12:00. Similarly, away games will have a leaving deadline with a meeting time 15 mins prior to this, allowing for organisation of travel arrangements.

Team warm ups will begin at 12:00, followed by pre-match training until 12:40. This will leave 20 minutes to get changed, mentally prepare and have a 5 minute team talk. Ed and James have agreed to advise batsmen on their role before they go out to bat, dependent on the game situation. Players have also agreed that a team performance review should take place after each game, highlighting good and bad points that we can take forward to the next game.

7. Availability

The captains or club coach will be sending out monthly availability forms for players to complete and return as soon as possible. The form will list fixtures for the upcoming month and will be sent out two weeks in advance. Martin explained that it would be good to know availability well in advance to make selection easier for all KFCC teams. James urged players to let the captains know ASAP if their availability changes at all during the current month.

8. Kit

Martin has kindly sponsored 1st team caps for this season. They will be the standard green caps with an additional logo on the back. Martin explained that every player who represents the 1st team this season will receive a cap before their first game as a mark of achievement.

Players agreed that a smarter appearance is required. James showed players the training kit that is being introduced to the club this season. Kit includes training shirts, shorts, tracksuit trousers and tracksuit top, all embroidered with the KFCC logo. The training kit will be available to the whole club, not just the first team. Martin/James explained to the players that they would like to introduce 1st team shirts with '1st XI' embroidery on the chest. Players agreed that training kit and 1st team shirts are a good idea, resulting in a more professional appearance and a possible psychological advantage over the opposition.

After discussion, we reached the decision that each player in the 1st team squad will be required to have a 1st team shirt and training shirt, with the other kit optional. Martin is currently looking into getting sponsorship for the shirts to help reduce costs per item if we do a bulk order. The standard price for the 1st team shirt and training shirt without sponsorship will be £41 (negotiable with suppliers).

Martin/James clarified that this is still work in progress and nothing has been finalised yet. If players want to add suggestions/opinions then they may do so.

9. New Initiatives

- a) Match Managers: The captains will be introducing match manager roles for home fixtures this season. James explained that for every home game, 2 players will be selected on a rotation basis to be match managers for the day. They will be required to turn up at 11:30, spending 15 minutes carrying out duties such as boundary flags, screens, tables and chairs, set up score box etc. Everyone agreed to this, so plans will be finalised ready for the start of the season.
- b) Teas: Ed has raised that tea rotas have been an issue and is something that needs to be better prepared for this season. Dave Schofield explained how at Abberton they have volunteers to put the tea out during the game, although players do the shopping and preparation. Everyone agreed this is a good idea, as some players don't have help available to set up the teas and cannot be expected to do it themselves if they are playing. In these cases- if we are batting, players can help put the teas out; if we are fielding we can ask non-playing members to lend a hand. We will be looking to resolve this issue before the season starts, if anyone else has any ideas please let us know.
- c) Fines for Fundraising: As an idea to raise money for an end of season social event, the captains are looking to introduce small fines. James stated that the fines will be 50p per dropped catch and 50p to the player responsible for a suicidal run out. Martin mentioned punctuality has been a big issue in previous seasons so there will also be fines of £1 issued to players who turn up late without notifying captains beforehand or having a valid excuse. The fine will be issued if a player turns up after start time 12:00 or after leaving time for away games.

The money raised will go towards a 1st team social evening at the end of the season; such as a curry night or takeaway at the club. Everyone agreed to this, so it will be brought into play this season.

- d) Social Events: There has been a popular demand for 1st team social/drinking event over the last few seasons so this year we have decided to arrange a social evening on every Saturday when there is no Sunday fixture the following day. James mentioned there are 4 or 5 weekends available and players may come up with ideas for things to do.
- e) Awards Evening: It was agreed by everyone that awards evenings the last few years have been poorly attended. James suggested that the awards evening could be merged with another event to make it more of a club function celebrating the season. Ideas put forward were dinner dance, hiring a venue/function room, pig roast, buffet/disco. Other ideas for improvements are welcome.

The awards themselves were also discussed and some ideas are:

- Sports personality of the year, voted for by the players. (For their commitment and sportsmanship, valuable member of the team)
- Player of the year should be voted for well in advance of the awards night. (Player with continuous outstanding performances)
- Special thanks awards for outstanding commitment (player or non-player)
- For special awards, give other prizes such as coupon for cricket store or personalised award shirt.

James mentioned that other ideas from players are welcome

- f) 1st XI Website: James explained to everyone that he has set up a free website specifically for 1st team info, results, stats etc. It will come into use at the start of this season. The website address is www.wix.com/cricketteam/kfcc
- g) Points League: James stated he will be running a player points league where players are rewarded points for reaching certain batting/bowling milestones and various other achievements in a game. Awards may be given at the end of the season for winning certain categories – still a work in progress. Full details of this can be found at www.wix.com/cricketteam/kfcc under points league.
- h) Man of the Match: Ed said he would like there to be a man of the match vote after each game this season. This will either be a show of hands between the players or decided by an outside member such as Malcolm Hards (scorer). James suggested an idea of half price match fees for the winner. Everybody thought this was a good idea so there will be plans to bring this into play this season.

10. Any other business None