

Report on WICB Umpires' and Referees' Sub- Committee Meeting, held in Antigua Friday September 30, 2011.

On Friday September 30, 2011 umpire Patrick Whyte and I Cecil Fletcher represented WICUA at the WICB Umpires and Referees Sub Committee Meeting. The meeting was held in the Board Room at WICB Headquarters in Antigua.

Prayer:

Prayer was offered by Mr. Lennox John Member.

Chairman:

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Allen Sammy, WICB Member.

Attendance:

Others attending were, Mr. Roland Holder, WICB Senior Project Manager, Mr. Rawle Lewis Project Manager, Mr. Tony Howard WICB Director of Cricket and Mr. Adrian Griffith, Senior match Referee.

The meeting commenced at about 10.45 am and concluded about 4.33pm.

A minute silence was observed for persons who were associated with the fraternity and who have passed away recently.

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I was given the opportunity to introduce myself. During my introduction I made mention of the invaluable support that

WICB has given to WICUA over the years. I referred to the thinking of the master and servant syndrome, I told the meeting that WICB was a good master. I made it clear that whatever assistance we may seek from the WICB we intend to earn it, so that we are not seen as 'beggars' if you may. That programmes, achievements, frank and meaningful deliberations will be brought to the fore.

In response, the chairman, who was quite articulate and effective in his management of the meeting, he said among other things, that the master and servant era has been viewed as colonial. He sees both entities as partners. He was very pointed when he alluded, that partners should recognize the need for each other, at all times. His recognition of 'partnership' actually set the tone for the deliberations that followed.

The agenda for the meeting was very exhaustive. In the pre lunch session much was achieved. In the post lunch session things were a bit hurried due to time constraints.

Detailed account of our deliberations.

- WICUA representatives brought to the attention of the meeting that WICUA was not asked to present any matter for discussion, which would form part of the agenda.

Decision: It was agreed that the matter was an oversight on the part of WICB, it will be corrected for future meetings.

- WICUA representatives under Matters Arising from the Minutes sought answers as to how the umpires, that went on the umpires exchange program were selected. WICB representatives told the meeting that requests were made of territorial cricket association to submit names and that they did not. That in year 2 a similar situation arose. The decision to send those that went was taken after applications were received on their behalf. WICUA representatives told the meeting that WICUA was unhappy with the process and that there should never be

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- a repeat in the future. WICUA recommended a position which formed the basis of a decision.
- Decision: It was agreed that all such communication to territorial cricket associations be copied to WICUA, in order that first hand information be had. This will be a departure from tradition, where originally WICB only communicate with cricket associations and not WICUA.
- WICB representatives informed the meeting that the umpires exchange program will continue in the new year. There is an expectation that South Africa will be added to the list of England and Bangladesh.

Decision: Umpire Gregory Brathwaite will be sent to Bangladesh and umpire Nigel Duguid to England. Should South Africa come on stream the likelihood of a new umpire could be considered. It was emphasized that umpires being considered for the program are those who are aspiring for the ICC panel, taking into account all the variables.

Dr Sammy spoke about the need for territorial umpires association to indulge in making private arrangements in

order to replicate aspects of the WICB exchange programme. He said Trinidad and Tobago are at an advance stage of such a process. The way forward he said was to find the venue and to write to the WICB requesting them to oversee the project. In the case of territorial arrangements umpires over 45 years old may be considered. The matches which such program would attract would be club matches. Exposure, understanding different cultures, weather conditions and behavioural attitude etc. etc. are some of the reasons for the programme.

- It was of concern to the meeting that umpire Brathwaite who went to England on the umpires exchange programme recently, did not, unlike the others, submit a written report to the WICB. Intense discussions were held as the WICUA representatives told the meeting of a verbal report Brathwaite made to some members to WICUA's Biennial Convention. The meeting was made to understand that he was unhappy about instances of poor treatment, by the host, which he said was below his expectation. WICB representatives could not address the matter due to the lack of information from Brathwaite.

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However the meeting was told that the programme was intended to allow our

- umpires to understand what takes place in the world beyond our shores, it was never only to get match exposure.

Decision: The meeting agreed that in the future all umpires on the conclusion of their exchange assignment, shall, within 30 days, submit a written report to the WICB.

- WICB representative [Holder]told the meeting that a request by the Hon. Secretary for a copy of the minutes of a particular WICB umpires sub-committee meeting was denied. Explanation given was that protocol dictates that only members of the committee can access such a document. Any member can disclose to his constituents what transpired at the meeting.
- WICB representative produced copies of reports as they relate to the umpires on the local ICC Panel. They are Norman Malcolm, Peter Nero, Joel Wilson and Gregory Brathwaite. Malcolm got a poor rating. The rating for the others was good. It was reported that Mr. Barry Dudleston the ICC Regional Umpires Manager has been in constant touch with these umpires as it relates to

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their performance among other issues. WICB representatives told the meeting further, that

consequent to Malcolm's rating, the ICC have informed the WICB that he will not be accepted if recommend to the panel.

Decision: Umpire Norman Malcolm would not recommend to the ICC local Panel. He was replacement is Nigel Duguid of Guyana.

Umpiring duties assigned are:-

Peter NeroOn Field

Joel Wilson.....On Field

Gregory Brathwaite...T.V

Nigel Duguid.....T.V

- The WICB Regional Super 50 Competition will be held in Guyana October 19-29, 2011

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Decision: The umpires selected to officiate are:-

Peter Nero....Joel Wilson.....Gregory Brathwaite.....

Nigel Duguid.....Goland Geaves....Lennox Abrahams.

4 umpires from Guyana will perform standby duties.

The 4 umpires on the ICC Panel will officiate in the semi-finals and the final if possible.

- WICB representatives told the meeting that the 22 umpires on the emerging panel are expected to do 2 years and to officiate in at least 4 matches, thereafter they will be assessed. They will be required to complete the cycle before any consideration for upward movement. Umpire Athol Hamilton and Bernard Joseph of Antigua, due to a work related issue have not yet taken up any assignment.

Decision: The under 17 tournament will take place in Guyana during the month of December 2011. Both Hamilton and Joseph will be selected to officiate in matches. Should they fail to honour their appointment,

that could be their last chance and replacements may be found.

- The late umpire Clyde Duncan was a member of the WICB senior panel, up to the time of his death, which occurred during the month of July 2011. His passing created a slot on the panel which is to be filled

Decision: Umpire Billy Doctrove has been slotted in. Umpire Colin Alfred was not considered for 2 reasons.

[1] He is currently on the panel to be assessed.

[2] Replacement does not necessarily mean that the successor would come from the same territory, that created the void, this is based on the new dispensation.

- WICUA representatives spoke on the outstanding matter of the need to have an umpires' manager. This matter was deliberated on.

Decision: WICUA to write to WICB setting out the need, the role and function of the manager and also to recommend someone for the position. Document to be submitted before December 31, 2011.

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- WICUA representatives spoke on the need to have qualified women umpires officiate in WICB competitions.

Decisions: WICUA to write to WICB setting out the pathway for women umpires. Such path must address the question of age among other consideration. It was agreed that when suitable women umpires are selected, each territorial association will have the right to submit the name of one female alongside their male counterpart . The WICB will take it from there. The document to be submitted before December 31, 2011

- WICUA representatives spoke to the need for WICB to issue match pass, to present and former WICB regional panel umpires, to attend all matches in their territories and that a similar arrangement be put in place for current WICUA Executives. That the section of the ground that they will have access, is to be in keeping with the high esteem, in which they are and were held.

Decision: Accepted and will be effected.

- WICUA representatives spoke on the need to have all territories recognized and be given an opportunity to

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- participate in the activities of the WICB. It was highlighted, that the majority have benefitted and that those who have been denied need to be brought into the 'stream'. Request was made to accept submission of names from the umpires associations in Canada, USA, Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

Decision: It was agreed that they be allowed to officiate in selected matches, such as the Under 17 Tournament.

It was suggested that conditions may apply consistent with arrangements made previously between WICB and other entities in North America when they are involved in cricket related matters.

- The meeting was told that some umpires had difficulties in getting time off from their employer.

Decision: WICB to assist by making contact with employers, when so required.

- As it relates to the annual grant WICUA spoke to the need for WICB to honour and to settle the outstanding amount of US\$4000 for the period 2010 and 2011.

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Decision: The matter to be referred to Mr. Barry Thomas, the WICB's Financial Comptroller.

- WICUA representatives spoke to the need for WICB to assist the territorial umpires association with an annual training grant. The matter was deliberated.

Decision: WICUA to write to WICB establishing the need and to convey the estimated sum of money required annually. To be submitted before December 31, 2011.

- WCUA representatives spoke to the need for continual high level training for the umpires, on the emerging panel and suggested that at intervals, they be assembled at the WICB HPC for training. The training to be funded by WICB at this time. That when WICUA becomes financial viable assistance would be given.

Decision: WICUA to write to WICB setting out the need. Document to be submitted by December 31, 2011.

Other Matters Briefly Discussed:

- The long hours associated with flights from one destination to another was discussed.

Decision: Things will remain as they are.

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- Concerns were raised about the late notification of appointment for matches.

Decision: Things will remain as they are.

- Concerns were raised about the manner in which payments were made, in that, at times one does not know which payment is for what.

Decision: Matter will be directed to Mr. Barry Thomas to have same remedied.

- The matter of how early should an umpire arrive from his territory, to the territory where the match is scheduled to be played, was discussed.

Decision: Two days before for all matches.

- Performance appraisals report on the umpires that officiated in the just concluded season were submitted. The reports were not discussed.
- The compulsory performance appraisals at the conclusion of a match was discussed.

Decision: The match referee will first meet with the umpires. He along with the umpires will then meet with the captains and team managers.

- Adjustments to umpires match fees were not discussed, as it was disclosed that the matter was receiving attention.
- The matter of the away from home allowance was not discussed, as the minutes of the last meeting clearly indicated that such provisions had been scrapped and all monies are now being paid as salary.
- WICUA spoke to the need for a mid term meeting of the umpires Council, between June and July 2012, but needs financial assistance from WICB. It was discussed.

Decision: It is a matter for the finance department of WICB. WICUA is to write to WICB informing them of the need for such a meeting. The document to be submitted by December 31, 2011.

- WICUA representatives informed the meeting of new innovations undertaken since recent times, such as:-
 1. WICUA Web Site
 2. Annual umpires subscription scheme
 3. Planned territorial umpires exchange programme

4. Intended fundraising project
5. Recruitment of 17-19 year old to join the umpires fraternity

Acceptance: The meeting accepted that WICUA was moving in the right direction and offered congratulation for the noticeable change in the way things are done.

- Mr. Adrian Griffiths spoke about the ineffectiveness and the inefficiency of the current match referees. He noted that they lack the basic requirement in order that they could perform. He spoke about the direction the ICC wants to proceed. He spoke about criteria. He said former test players are persons the ICC has been looking for. The ideal age group should be over 40 and under 50 years old.

Decision: Mr. Griffiths to research the role and functions of the match referee and make a submission to the WICB before December 31, 2011.

- Captains reports resulting from matches under the control of the WICB were received at the meeting for:- Billy Doctrove...Goaland Greaves....Joel Wilson.....Luther Kelly.....Clancy Mack.....Nigel Duguid.....Clyde Duncan [deceased]...Vivian Johnson.....Lennox Abrahams.....Norman Malcolm.....Gregory Brathwaite.....Peter Nero.....Vincent Bullen.....Anthony Sanowar.....Wycliffe

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Mitchum....Carl Tucket....Christopher Taylor....Denish
Randhandie....Zahid Bassarath.....G. Suckhadeo....Lyndon
Rajkumar.....Colin Alfred.....Patrick Gustard.....Nand Kumar
Shivsankar.....Shannon Crawford.....Verdayne Smith.....Erickson

Degalerie.....Francis Maurice....Michael Morton..... Ryan
Willougby....Leslie Reifer Jr.....Jonathan Blades.....Ricardo
Brathwaite.

The grades were good overall and so too were the comments of some captains. Some areas of weakness were detected in some umpires. The reports will be copied to the relevant territories. It is expected that dialogue with the association and the umpire will be had, in an effort to correct that which needs to be corrected and enabling the maintenance of that which is good.

Submitted for the information of the Managing Committee and for WICUA records.

Cecil Fletcher.....President WICUA.....[Rep.]

Patrick Whyte.....[WICUA Rep.]

