

Match Secretary's Report to the AGM on 9th November 2019.

2019 has been a difficult year for both the men's and ladies' match programmes, mainly for the reasons I mentioned in my report last year, i.e. lack of applicants, and withdrawals after selection. We did have some new players, some of whom came in to help out at the last minute, and all seemed to enjoy the matches, so hopefully they will apply to play again in the future.

As a result of the problems Jill and I have had over the last few years, but particularly this year, the Executive Board has agreed that for a one year trial, match fees will be reduced from £12 to £8, and coach fares will be reduced from £12 to £6. This means that for an away match with a coach the cost will reduce by £10, from £24 to £14. They also approved the use of up to 8 coaches, 4 each for both men and ladies, against the 4, 2 each for the men and the ladies, which have been used recently. We hope that these changes will help with the situation next year, but we do need help in publicising these details.

We also need help in publicising the fact that anyone can now apply to play in County matches, no qualification is needed any more. This has been the situation for a couple of years, but doesn't seem to have got through to many bowlers who might be interested in playing.

Ross Turnbull will produce a Flyer for all clubs to display on the club notice board to help with this publicity. The details will also be included in the circular which goes out in January with the forms to apply to play in County Matches.

Without these changes, I believe that the Match Programme is likely to fail in 2 or 3 years, so we have to do something to try to save it as it forms a major part of our Constitution.

This is my last report to you before I retire and I would like to say thank you for all the support I've had during this, my second term as Match Secretary. I'd like to thank Lionel Slatter in particular for the tremendous help he has given me during this season, and the end of last season by running most of the men's matches when I was not able to be there.

I've thoroughly enjoyed my time in the several jobs I have done over the years and now look forward to a quiet retirement.

Finally I'd like to wish my successor every success, and hope he enjoys the job as much as I have.

Alan Gray