

OCC Report to 2021 Autumn General Meeting

Committee composition: In the absence of a Cricket Leinster AGM in 2020, all committee members agreed to continue on the committee with the exception of Hadley Southall who decided to stand down. The OCC offered its sincerest thanks to Hadley for all his work on behalf of the committee over a number of years. Consequently, Syam Mohan (Finglas) was co-opted to cover the vacancy for 2021, Joe Connolly was co-opted from the LCU&SA and Simon Dyke was co-opted onto the committee for administrative support.

New clubs in 2021: The OCC agreed to accept the requests of Cork Harlequins and Galway to join the Leinster competitions subject to the proviso that they play all their matches in Leinster. This seems to have worked well in 2021 with mixed results for the clubs.

Unfortunately, AIB and Dundalk were unable to commit to playing in 2021.

Coloured clothing/shirts and white/pink balls: OCC agreed that all T20 and cup cricket in 2021 would be played in coloured clothing with pink/white balls. To aid the switchover, clubs were allowed to wear coloured shirts with white trousers and pads for the 2021 season only. The introduction worked well with just a few covid related delivery problems and was generally accepted across the board as a worthwhile initiative.

Prescribed balls: OCC agreed that all balls should be purchased centrally, but the introduction was delayed until 2022 to help with clubs finances.

Starrings: The OCC agreed that the new system for starring management introduced in 2020 had worked well and that it would be retained. The system has continued to work well in 2021 with very few starring infringements.

2021 playing regulations: At the suggestion of Peter Thew the OCC removed any unchanged elements of the Laws of Cricket from all the playing regulations. This showed a clear reduction in the number of pages in each set of regulations and despite, justifiable concern, seemed to work well without any major issues.

Allocation of clubs to OCC members in 2021: Clubs were allocated as follows:

Joe Connolly - Ashbourne, Wexford
Mick Cotter- Clontarf, DLR, Leinster, North Kildare, Wicklow County
Andy Hirst - Clondalkin, North County, Phoenix, YMCA
Syam Mohan - Bagenalstown, Castleknock, Co Galway, Lucan, Sandyford
Olag Sivanantham - Balbriggan, Finglas, Gorey, Kilkenny, Slieve Bloom, Tyrrelstown
Peter Thew - Knockharley, Merrion, Ringcommons, Swords, Terenure
Adrian Tudor - Athlone, Carlow, Cork Harlequins, Greystones, Mullingar, Rush
Steve Wood - Adamstown, Laois, Longford, Pembroke, The Hills
Micky Lowe - Civil Service, Cork County, Dublin University, Halverstown, Malahide, Railway Union

2021 structure - Pre Covid lockdown: All fixtures were to be originally arranged from the CL office this season. A detailed timetable of fixtures was published with provision for changes from clubs with OCC agreement within a prescribed time period.

The planned structure provided two separate competitions at each level:

Leagues

Teams were divided into 18 divisions each of eight teams. Teams were originally due to play each other home and away providing 14 matches per team. Matches were due to start over the weekend of 17/18 April and finish over the weekend of 4/5 September.

T20 Competitions

We aimed to follow the pattern of the successful 2020 competitions. There were 9 separate T20 competitions planned largely based around the following divisions:

Premier League/Championship & Senior League Cup

Divisions 3 & 4 Tillain Cup

Divisions 5 & 6 YM Salver

Divisions 7 & 8 Intermediate cup

Divisions 9 & 10 Whelan Cup

Divisions 11 & 12 Junior cup

Divisions 13 & 14 Russell Court Trophy

Divisions 15 & 16 Minor Cup

Divisions 17A & 17B Adamstown Cup

For all teams, the plan was to provide a minimum of 20 matches - 14 league plus 6 T20s - and more depending on progress beyond their round robin groups.

2021 Season

Unfortunately due to government policies on Covid, the start of the season was understandably delayed. The season finally began on Monday 7th June with T20 league cups carrying through to mid-July. Thereafter, league matches were played – one match against each team in the 18 divisions. To accommodate this many of the T20 matches were played as double-headers allowing two matches per day on one ground. The winning team of each T20 group proceeded to the semi-final.

In order to allow for some element of promotion/relegation for leagues, play offs at season's end for each division (except divisions 17A & B) involving team finishing second at home to league winner were arranged to decide Title and promotion. The bottom team in each league was relegated. Winners of divisions 17A and B played off against each other for promotion to division 16.

Irish Senior and National cups were not played in 2021.

All nine T20 Cups were successfully completed without any problems with nine different winners.

All 18 leagues play off/Title matches were completed in early September.

Division 17B

The OCC promoted the introduction of this division whose aim was to provide a platform for youth players to enter adult cricket. Each of the eight teams that entered undertook to field a minimum of five youth players per match each of whom would either bat in the top six or bowl at least three overs and/or keep wicket. The response from these teams seems to have been very positive and congratulations are due to Finglas 3 who won the league. The OCC is seeking detailed feedback from participating clubs. One clear area for amendment would seem to be the obvious need for a separate T20 competition for these teams. We will be encouraging an expansion of this initiative if the feedback continues to be positive.

Playing Regulations

General Playing Regulations were amended to include promotion play offs. A difference in wording on reflexes was detected between the General Playing Regulations and the competition rules. This was rectified quickly and fresh guidance notified to clubs.

Other issues

The number of incidents particularly in matches without allocated umpires has reached unacceptable levels. Some drastic measures may need to be considered to address this growing problem. The OCC will liaise with the LCU&SA and the cricket committee in establishing next steps.

We had to penalise some teams for non-completion of umpires' grading reports, no scorers and/or DLS record and incorrect team sheets.

At the conclusion of the T20 competitions, the OCC made some changes to Divisions 5, 8 & 14 with four teams changing across divisions. The changes seem to have been in the main beneficial and will assist with the allocation of teams in 2022.

OCC Attendance

The OCC met via Zoom on 13 occasions in the year. Attendance was as follows:

Micky Lowe (Chairman) 13/13

Peter Thew (Secretary) 13/13

Joe Connolly 12/13

Mick Cotter 10/13

Simon Dyke 12/13

Andy Hirst 13/13

Syam Mohan 12/13

Olag Sivanantham 12/13

Adrian Tudor 13/13

Steve Wood 13/13

In closing the OCC would like to thank all clubs for their continued support, understanding and feedback in helping to make cricket happen in these difficult times. Thanks must also go to all the members of the Cricket Leinster team for their tireless support and efforts in this pursuit.

Michael Lowe

Peter Thew

OCC Chair

Hon Secretary