

MADHYA PRADESH CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association held on 13th August 2017

(As confirmed during the Annual General Body meeting of MPCA held on 2.10.2019)

The Annual General Body meeting of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, was held on 13th August 2017 at the Holkar Stadium, Indore, at 2.00 p.m.

Attendance of the members was recorded in the attendance register. Quorum for the meeting was attained and the meeting started.

The Hon. Secretary expressed warm welcome to all members who were present for the meeting.

He then informed the house that Dr. Nishith Patel, Life Member of MPCA, was nominated as the Vice President of MPCA by the Managing Committee to fill up the vacancy owing to resignation tendered by Mr. Narendra Hirwani which was accepted by the Managing Committee.

The Hon. Secretary requested Dr. Nishith Patel to preside over the meeting. Dr. Nishith Patel extended his consent and presided the meeting.

In his speech, Dr. Nishith Patel expressed sincere thanks to the Managing Committee and the General Body for reposing trust and faith on him. He appreciated the unique feature about MPCA in relation to the strong inter-personal relationship between the members. He also admired the great legacy of cricketers that have represented India from the soil of Madhya Pradesh. Apart from the players, there have been several excellent administrators of cricket who have contributed to the State and National cricket. In view of such a grand history and equally impressive stage of present resources, it is indeed a big responsibility to steer the Association and hence it is a great honour to chair the meeting. He fondly remembered his grandfather and father as both of them had served the Association as the President for a long time. Such family record also escalates the responsibility on his shoulder, for which he shall make every effort to deliver.

He then welcomed the members who were present for the meeting.

The house paid homage to the departed souls of our Members, Cricketers and other Associates - Mr. Ramesh Bhatia, Retired Justice P D Mulye, Shri. Kanwaljeet Singh Khanuja, Shri. Shanti Prakash Mittal, Prof N M Dubey (former member), Shri. Anil Singh (Hon. Joint Secretary of Rewa Divisional Cricket Association).

Mentioning the highlights of the year, Dr. Nishith Patel appreciated the efforts taken by our members, officials, staff and all those who contributed wholeheartedly for the grand success of our 'Maiden Test' match played at Holkar Stadium in October 2016. This was our 'debut Test' and we emerged as one of the best Test centres in India. This achievement was followed by another splendid event in form of the Final of the coveted Ranji Trophy

Tournament being staged under auspices of MPCA at Holkar Stadium. Then, April 2017 gave us the opportunity to stage three IPL games after a hiatus of few IPL seasons. Such series of events reflect our high reputation as the excellent organisers of cricket in India.

He also informed the house about the two back-to-back International matches in form of ODI (India – Australia) and a T20 match between India and Sri Lanka to be played at Holkar Stadium in the next few months.

He then congratulated our player Nuzhat Parween for her International debut, Mr. Nitin Menon for being awarded best Umpire in India, Ms. Sandhya Agrawal, former captain of the Indian women's Test team and member of MPCA, on being granted the Honorary Life Membership by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in recognition of her distinguished service to the game, another member – Mr. Sushil Doshi on completing 50 years as a commentator which is a great attainment, and Mr. Sandeep Mungre for his appointment as BCCI observer for the Test at Rajkot.

Contribution of such teams, players, members and other associates has helped MPCA shine in Indian cricket circuit.

He also recounted other activities, events and achievement for the year like –

- i. Holkar Stadium hosted the India and England match of the Blind World Cup on 2nd February 2017. The stadium facilities were provided free of cost by us. A large number of spectators had gathered to enjoy the match.
- ii. We had a reasonable domestic season with boy's U-19 team qualifying for the knock out after a long gap, Women's and girls u-23 team performing well at the National stage, while the Men's Sr. team emerging as the zone champions in T-20 format with a clean sweep.
- iii. Our cricket promotion and development activities continue. We have initiated new tournament for Girls U-19 and there has been great response from the teams. So also, the Managing Committee has taken another step of Girls U-17 tournament as well as inter school tournament for girls as per the discretion of the Divisions considering local response.
- iv. The infrastructure development works continue at Gwalior, Jabalpur and the new ground at Hoshangabad.

Before concluding the speech, he mentioned about the due-diligence of Associations being conducted on part of BCCI. As per the report from Deloitte, the audit agency, there is not a single notable adverse remark in our case and we are perhaps amongst top few Associations under BCCI. This speaks a lot about the robust fundamentals of our Institution, transparency, and quest for excellence. He, along with the Hon. Secretary, applauded the work on part of the Hon. Treasurer and the Finance Committee (present and past) and the working staff for such distinguished work.

Thereafter, the agenda was taken up for discussion.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous Annual General Body Meeting held on 29th August 2016.

1.1 Mr. Kamal Shrivastava suggested to reword the portion of the draft minutes under agenda no. 5. as under –

On this agenda of the elections of the Office Bearers and Members of the Managing Committee (for the term 2016-18), the house approved the proposal by Dr. Bharat Chapparwal by majority and accordingly the existing Office Bearers and the Managing Committee shall continue until the time there was a clarity on the issue of implementation of reforms and new elections are held thereafter.

The above suggestion was accepted by the house unanimously.

Dr. Leeladhar Paliwal suggested to avoid such errors in draft minutes.

1.2 Mr. Suman Kamani suggested that there is no need to invite the President to chair the AGM as the power is vested in the post and hence we can delete the related paragraph.

1.3 Mr. Suman Kamani also tried to know as to why he was not provided the bifurcation of expenses on legal matters as recorded in the minutes.

Dr. Bharat Chhapparwal expressed that the agenda pertains to confirmation of draft minutes. We should assess the factual recording of the minutes in terms of what had transpired during the meeting. The question on part of Mr. Kamani may be considered as 'action taken on minutes'.

Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia stated that the minutes clearly reflect what was expressed by Mr. Kamani. However, this does not mean that the request was accepted. Similar issue of checking voucher and financial documents was discussed in previous meeting also. It is necessary to understand that the repository of trust is voted by the members in the incumbent management, who has to handle such trust with diligent working. There is a system of audit, there is a Treasurer, a financial officer, and a finance committee. If we start the practice of providing vouchers and such documents to members asking for such papers, there will not be any cricket activity but only clerical work going on in the office. We have already passed a motion that all such demands would be ceased. The draft minutes under question properly suggest the views and demands expressed by Shri. Kamani but there was certainly no decision to provide such papers. The previous decision to not to consider such requests remains in force.

1.4 Dr. Leeldhar Paliwal expressed that if a member expresses his view and if the same is recorded in the minutes then why action is not taken.

The Hon. Secretary responded that we work on the principle of majority and in the present case the demand was not what the majority of members requested. Since the suggestion was expressed, the same is recorded to that extent.

Subject to above 1.1 and 1.2, the minutes were taken as confirmed unanimously.

2. Adoption of the Annual Report for 2016-17.

A couple of members pointed out binding problem of annual report as some of the pages were not in sequence.

The house adopted the annual report unanimously.

3. Consideration and approval of the Audited Statement of Accounts and Audit Report for the year 2016-17.

Referring to a note in the auditor's report, Dr. Leeladhar Paliwal pointed out that if the auditor declares in his report that the Managing Committee is responsible for preparation of the financial statements then what is the purpose of having such auditor.

The Hon. Treasurer responded that the responsibility indeed rests on the Managing Committee and the format of reporting by the auditor is standard and uniform.

Mr. Damji Suthar referred to his request in the previous AGM for providing few vouchers but the same was declined. According to him, if the voucher cannot be provided then there is no purpose of having quotations / tenders or preparing vouchers and payment could be made directly.

He requested to know about the status of ombudsman and code of ethics committee.

The Hon. Secretary replied that we are waiting for the directions / guidance from BCCI and the appointments would be in place accordingly.

Mr. Damji Suthar requested to know about the status plan for recovering the income tax paid under protest.

He then referred to the schedule of administrative expenses pertaining to Rs 10 lacs paid under retainer contract.

The Hon. Secretary invited his attention to the fact that he (Mr. Suthar) had submitted few queries before the AGM and his queries were replied. So is it essential to discuss the same issues again.

Mr. Suthar stated that he was expressing observations after perusing the reply received. Hence, he wanted to know as to why the expenses for retainer contract (with Adv. Ajay Bagadia) were incurred in absence of any

approval by the Managing Committee or the AGM. As also, what is the term of the contract and what benefit will MPCA achieve out of this.

The Hon. Secretary responded that the term of the contract is one year, and is approved by the Managing Committee. hence the information is incorrect. There are several legal matters going on, including few filed by our own members, and the Association has to protect its interests. The appointment of a retainer infact results in saving money as against engaging legal counsel on case basis.

Mr. Suthar suggested that we should not do any work against the law so that any member is required to approach court. This will save lot of funds.

He then referred to money paid to the lawyer for legal work at Supreme Court in relation to Lodha Committee report, and also tried to know the outcome of such legal case.

The Hon. Secretary explained that the fees were paid to senior Supreme Court Advocates to appear for us in the joint appeal by MPCA along with several other associations. The counsel fee is being shared equally between the Associations. The matter is still under consideration before the Supreme Court.

Thereafter, Mr. Vinodrai Pandya suggested that our annual report / financial statement clearly states that if any member has any query then he can ask for detail or approach the office bearer to discuss and satisfy his concerns. Hence, there should not be a reason for such individual question – answer being discussed in the AGM.

Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia then appealed the house to understand the fact that the BCCI had appointed M/s Deloit to conduct detail audit of all associations in India. Deloit is a name that features in top few auditing agencies of the world for strictest implementation of auditing standards. Such distinguished audit agency has conducted our detail audit and submitted report to BCCI. It should be a matter of pride for all of us to note that MPCA has been judged to be amongst the top few Associations. In such circumstances where a top auditing agency has considered our accounts and reported favourably, there may not be a reason for this house to debate on miscellaneous aspects of accounts.

After the above discussion, the house approved the Audited Statement of Accounts and Audit Report for the year 2016-17.

4. To consider and sanction the proposed Annual Budget for the year 2017-18.

Mr. Suman Kamani expressed his dissent to the budget since the vouchers are not being shown.

Mr. Damji Suthar questioned the reason to the increase in the budget towards property tax from approx. 8.00 lacs to 66.00 lacs, and what is the breakup of such tax.

The Hon. Secretary answered that the fresh tax amount was as per the demand raised by the Indore Municipal Corporation.

Mr. Dilip Chudgar added to the above and explained that few years back, the tax amount was fixed to be about 7.50 lacs and we were paying it accordingly. We were getting exemption on property tax while other miscellaneous taxes like water, waste etc. were paid. This year the municipal corporation has not only denied the exemption but has also included open plot (cricket ground area) in the tax computation. Hence, the tax has increased for 2016-17 and onwards with annual demand of close to 33.00 lacs.

Mr. Kamal Shrivastava expressed that he, along with Mr. Chudgar, had approached the IMC official before the tax amount was ascertained in the past. According to him, even today MPCA stands entitled for property tax exemption for the reason being that we are a sports body and spent money only on sports. Hence, we should not be required to pay property tax but only other form of taxes should be paid.

The Hon. Secretary replied stating that we have already submitted our representation to the State Government. If Mr. Shrivastava could help in the matter it would be appreciated.

Mr. Damji Suthar tried to know that when we have spend approx. 5.28 crores for upgradation of Holkar Stadium in 2016-17, why is the requirement for additional 6.50 crores in the present year.

He was explained that there are several aspects of the stadium which required to be upgraded to align ourselves with directions of BCCI or to extend contemporary facilities to the spectators. The budget in question covers proposals for turnstiles, solar project etc.

After the said discussion, the budget for the year 2017-18 was approved by the house.

5. Appointment of Auditors for 2017-18.

The Hon. Secretary informed the house about the recommendation of the Finance Committee to appoint M/s Anil Kamal Garg & Co., Chartered Accountants, as the auditors for the year 2017-18.

The above recommendation was approved by the house and Anil Kamal Garg & Co., Chartered Accountants, were appointed as auditors of MPCA for the year 2017-18.

6. Any proposal for amendment to the Constitution, provided that no such amendment shall be passed except in accordance with clause 17 of MPCA Constitution.

The Hon. Secretary informed that there was no proposal received for any amendment to the Constitution.

7. Any other matter with the previous permission of the Chair.

7.1 Dr. Leeladhar Paliwal requested the permission of the Chair to raise a question.

He said that he has recently approached the High Court, along with few other members, for implementation of Lodha Committee recommendations by MPCA. The Hon. Secretary has filed an affidavit stating that we will accept the recommendations. However till now the same is not implemented.

Also, he questioned that when the working of the Lodha Committee started in 2014, Associations like Chandigarh, Orrisa, Punjab and several other Associations appeared but not MPCA. Why did MPCA not approach the court then and why MPCA is in now in the court is a question before him. The real reason is behind the curtain. According to him, when the office bearers resigned they went to the Supreme Court to keep their control on the Association intact.

Many members objected to the use of objectionable language by Dr. Paliwal.

Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia suggested the house that the matter is sub-judice and hence it is not prudent for public discussion at this forum. If the court decides anything then we can discuss the issue.

7.2 Prof. S P Chaturvedi requested the permission of the Chair to raise an issue.

He expressed that MPCA has a rich tradition and legacy. Our members are renowned and respected individuals in society. MPCA is widely admired for its activities and events.

In such a good and upright set-up, few of our members have recently approached the police expressing threat to their life from other members during this AGM. This is a very intolerable act on part of these members. He would like to know the names of such members who pose a threat to those who have approached the police. Such expression of threat not only humiliates the members present in the house but also is a serious allegation on the Association as a whole.

The house agreed that the act on part of the members to approach police is indeed condemnable and is a grave insult of MPCA as a family.

Dr. Leeladhar Paliwal highlighted that even Mr. Raju Singh Chouhan had asked for police protection during IDCA election.

The members intervened that the point under discussion relates to MPCA and not any Division.

Mr. Alpesh Shah stated that Dr. Paliwal is a senior member of MPCA. But one should restrict the discussion to the present matter and not to switch the dialogue to something in the past. Also, use of polite language is utmost necessary to ensure no one is insulted.

Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia expressed his immense distress on the fact that since the beginning of this AGM, there has been no discussion on cricket or cricketing activities for close to 45 minutes. In every AGM we are spending our time discussing same inconsequential issues. There has not been a single instance of anything

being shared in relation to cricket, progress of our players, plans for organising international matches, development of cricket at Divisional level etc. It would be in the interests of all if to firmly define what should be discussed at such opportunities.

Mr. Raghuraj Singh Chordia also appealed the house and the office bearers that unless we start taking strict action against those who are humiliating our Association or the member colleagues, such nuisance will not stop. He had requested the house in the previous meeting also. In spite of conscientious work by the office bearers and others who are involved in activities of MPCA and raising our standards regularly, few of our own associates are not presenting a pleasant picture of our Association or its members to the new generation.

7.3 The Principal of Daly College also requested to speak.

He appreciated the wholehearted efforts taken by Mr. Sanjay Jagdale in the process towards renovation and refurbishment of the historic cricket ground and related facilities at Daly College. However, he also echoed the concern expressed by Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia that the house is not having any discussion on cricket but aspects like money and vouchers and accounts etc. are being discussed profoundly. He suggested to introduce some new concepts to revive the falling standards of school cricket, which can be done with collective efforts of all members using their experience and expertise.

Being no other business to transact, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Milind Kanmadikar
Hon. Secretary