

ECB Yorkshire South Premier League

Committee Meeting

Wednesday 18th July 2018 – Toby Inn Bessacar, Doncaster

Note of meeting

1 Attendance

Present were Mark Beardshall, Chris Cobb, Gareth Davis, Matt Dixon, Mick Forrester, Chris Froggett, Andy Harrison, Ray Knowles, Paul McFarlane, Roger Pugh, Richard Storer (item 2 only) and Steve Ward. Apologies were received from Matt Summerhill.

2 Hallam pavilion update

- RS said that the club had raised in excess of £50k towards the pavilion project, but other funding had not been forthcoming. This had forced the club to reappraise and, given that the temporary arrangements that focused on the football end of the ground had been popular, they were now considering whether a lower-cost development at that end of the ground might be feasible. This could take the form of a two-storey development with storage on the ground floor and changing rooms and viewing area on the first. The club are looking at how any new facilities could be shared, in order to strengthen bids for community funding.
- GD provided an update on the position regarding section 106 funding for the club.
- Given the developments since our initial meeting with the club, it was agreed that we need to provide clarification to Hallam on what the league would be looking for from redevelopment work, for example, changing rooms with toilets and showers, umpires room, viewing area; car parking and improved scoreboard. This will be done in conjunction with YCB, in order that we are consistent with any funding restrictions imposed by the YCB or LA.

3 Chairman's report

- *Captains' meeting.* RP said that several of the issues raised were to be discussed in other agenda items, but referred to the proposal to allow overseas players to participate in ECB competitions, which has received a favourable response. He said that it would be raised as part of the discussion on ECB competitions review at the following day's ECB Premier League chairmen's meeting. RP to feed back after the meeting.
- *Overseas players.* CC raised the issue of the new rule on allowing two overseas players, also referring to possible abuse of the rules on amateurs. RP referred to the feedback from the captains meeting on the new rule, and said that hard evidence would be needed before any perceived abuse could be dealt with. There was some debate on the overseas players rule, and RP undertook to work with CF to canvass committee views from all clubs on the rules, which will inform any decision by the committee on whether to propose amendments.
- *Sponsorship.* All Rounder have said that they would like to continue with the sponsorship but are unable to commit until September. RP is in the meantime following up on other suggestions. PM reported that so far no sponsorship money has been received this year. RP to follow up with *All Rounder*.

4 Secretary's report

- *t20 update.* SW said that Hallam would be representing the league in the area stage of the competition, which will be at Denby on 29 July. He also reported that there had been a number of withdrawals from the u19s competition, two of which had been due to a clash with the Joe Lumb competition. RP has written to the JL organiser to ensure that the respective organisers liaise over fixture dates in future.
- *Annual presentation dinner.* SW asked that committee members promote the dinner, which is on Friday 9 November at the Shaw Lane Sports Club. The event last year was very well received, and in Geoff Miller we have obtained an excellent speaker for the 2018 dinner. It was agreed that clubs must inform us in advance if they are unable to use their full allocation of six tickets, in order that these can be reallocated. RP to write to clubs about the dinner.
- *ECB compliance check on overseas players.* The status of three YSPL players is being investigated by the ECB compliance team, who have asked to see copies of their visas. The players in question are one each from Appleby Frodingham, Treeton and Wickersley Old Village.

5 Treasurer's report

PM had provided a summary of the accounts in advance. It was clarified that part of the ECB money received is the £6k for clubs, which will be distributed after the end of the season, by which stage a further payment of £3+k performance money will be due. Disregarding the £6k for clubs, there is currently £3,692 in the account, which will be supplemented by £3k sponsorship and £3+k performance money from ECB.

6 Compliance Officer's report

- *Disciplinary round-up.* RK reported that, to date, there has been one suspension for a L2 offence and six first cautions have been administered for L1 offences. These result in four and two disciplinary point respectively being given to the clubs concerned.
- *Heavy Woollen Cup.* It was agreed that, following a request from the HWC committee, any disciplinary reports about players belonging to our clubs in this competition, which required a formal hearing, would be dealt with by the YSPL.

7 Potential rule changes

- *Off-side wide balls.* RP pointed out that following feedback at the captains' meeting, he had realised that there is an anomaly in our playing conditions, whereby off-side wides are dealt with under normal cricket laws, and leg-side wides under one-day rules. After discussion, it was agreed that no change will be proposed by committee.
- *Fielding restrictions for the first 15 overs.* AH said that he had noted this season that several teams had adopted very defensive field placings from the start of games, and suggested that to encourage more attacking cricket, the number of players outside the fielding circle should be reduced in the first 15 overs. It was agreed that a trial rule be proposed to the AGM to 2019 to address this issue.
- *Boundary ropes.* RP said that in some other Premier Leagues, it was compulsory for clubs to have a boundary rope, on the basis that a rope makes it much easier to for umpires to adjudicate on whether the ball has reached the boundary or whether a fielder has touched the boundary. He will draft a proposal to go to the AGM.
- *PA systems.* RP said that some PLs also require clubs to have PA systems, to use in the event of scoreboard failure or for using when staging t20 and high profile games. The overall view of the committee was that this should not be a requirement, but can be encouraged for clubs staging the latter fixtures.
- *Walkie-talkies.* These have been purchased for all clubs, to facilitate communication between scorers and umpires, but MF reported that they are not widely used, and that sometimes umpires refuse to use them. RP to raise with the clubs and Simon Widdup.

8 Mid-season pitch reports.

These are still awaited. RP to circulate when they arrive.

9 Representative games. RP reported that there are two under 23s games scheduled for August – against MCC at Abbeydale on 9 August, and against YPLN at Town Fields, Doncaster on 23 August. He reported that nominations for the u23s side had been received from eleven clubs. For future open age sides, nominations will be sought from clubs of both their own and other players. Following feedback from the captains meeting about formalising representative team selection, AH agreed to Chris Marples and MB in a selection panel.

10 Club of the Year award. It was agreed that the criterion on All Stars should reflect general efforts made, rather than simply participant numbers.

11 Other business

- *Play-off grounds.* It is the YSPL's turn to host the Yorkshire Champions semi-final involving this season's league winners. Barnsley and Cleethorpes have been approached, but are not available for use. Abbeydale will by that date be in use for rugby, the status of the ongoing alterations is not known, and in any event, Sheffield Collegiate may be involved. The criteria for hosting is that the ground should be of Yorkshire 2nds or equivalent standard. SW to check out the availability of Town Fields, which is currently used for YCCC Academy and age group games. RP then to speak to Alan Birkinshaw.
- *Promotion & relegation.* There was a general concern that there is not sufficient strength now in the SYSCL Championship to warrant a 'two up/two down' relegation system. It was agreed that we should open discussions with SYSCL with a view to moving to 'one up/one down.'
- *Feedback from umpires meeting.* RK reported that there was much discussion at the meeting about differences in rules between YPLN and YSPL. The situation causes confusion amongst umpires, who may prefer to stand in one league only. RP said that it was a waste of time discussing this. There are four premier leagues in the county and they each have autonomy in their playing conditions to suit the participating clubs – this is not likely to change in the foreseeable future. Even if ECB decide to impose some commonalities at some stage, they will not remove that freedom to decide on the detail of the playing conditions. If umpires prefer, they can umpire in one league only.

12 Close

The meeting closed at 9.30pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19 September.