



Note of 18th committee meeting

Wednesday 17th July 2019 – Toby Inn, Bessacar, Doncaster

1 Introduction

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

2 Hallam – use of Crimicar Lane for YSPL games

- *Mark Beckles Willson, President, Hallam CC.* Mark updated the committee on developments since the committee met at Crimicar in February:
 - a portakabin with a dressing room and four showers has now been provided for visitors' use
 - the electronic scoreboard has been installed
 - wifi is now available
 - Hallam have been in continuous discussion with the ECB and other funding bodies and they remain a priority once plans, costings and planning permission has been approved
 - initial talks with the landlord about lease extension and ground development are ongoing, and are positive so far
 - a positive relationship is already being built with the neighbours at Crimicar
 - there is as yet no decision on whether the new building would be built onto the existing structure, or would be a complete new build (Mark favours the latter and GD said that would be the norm for ECB)
 - the timescale for building is not yet clear; ECB money could be released as early as next autumn, and a new pavilion could be ready at some point in 2021, but realistically 2022 may be more likely
 - the pitch issue that arose over the Bank Holiday weekend is being addressed – there has been an improvement, and ECB have arranged for an expert analysis; MBW said that he would welcome the input
 - RP thanked MBW for his time and input, and said that he would contact Matt Mawson with the committee's decision as soon as possible
- *Committee discussion.* The following main points were made:
 - RP said that there is no doubt that, since they were accepted into YSPL, Hallam's efforts to develop facilities at Sandygate have been thwarted, and they have been badly let down in some quarters. We need to look at the present situation afresh – the question is whether we are prepared to accept the present level of facilities until the new build is completed. The club has made an effort; RP was quite impressed when he visited the previous weekend; and he had received other positive feedback. The ground has infinitely more potential than Sandygate, and there has been significant improvement in the pitches since May.
 - MB said that on the basis that the club gave an undertaking to follow ECB ground advice, he was content.
 - CF agreed, and said that the club must be ready to move as soon as funding is released. Plans should be drawn up and approved, the necessary permissions obtained, as soon as possible.
 - in summary, the committee unanimously agreed that the club should be allowed to continue to play at Crimicar for the next three seasons, subject to:
 - an undertaking from the club that they will follow all advice and recommendations made by the ECB pitch inspector in respect of both the square and the outfield
 - the production of a clear plan, in conjunction with ECB, by 31 October 2019, detailing what the club intends to build, and when, with costings and detail of how these will be met
 - the provision of quarterly update reports to the League committee thereafter

3 Reports

- *Chairman*. RP reported on two issues:
 - *Captains' meeting*. RP said that the meeting was very well attended, positive and interesting, and a full note of the meeting is on the website. RP would be talking to the Umpires Association about feedback relevant to umpiring; about ground conditions both to the umpires and SYSL; and the league and cup format issues would be covered later in the agenda.
 - *Tickhill v Doncaster*:
 - Umpire David Sharp had reported that the start of the Tickhill v Doncaster game had been delayed because the covers had not been put on when rain was forecast the night before, and that in the latter stages of the game he had to stop play to ask for children to be removed from the sight screen area at the pavilion end, and that he had been subject to verbal abuse by 'spectators'.
 - RP said that he had received a spontaneous email from Tickhill chairman Mick Ford the following day, in which he profusely apologised for the oversight concerning the covers, and said that the club had put in place procedures to ensure that this did not happen again.
 - RP followed up with a call to Mick, in which he put the second part of David's complaint to him. Mick said that it was the weekend of the Tickhill gala, there were up to 700 people in the ground, and he had been unaware of any abuse towards the umpire. He said that once aware of the screen issue, the players had taken steps to keep the sight screen area clear. He agreed with RP's request that, in future, the gala should not coincide with a YSPL home game, and agreed to confirm the date to MS in future.
 - As a follow up, RP had written formally to the club, saying that the failure to cover the pitch was unacceptable, and that in the event of recurrence, disciplinary sanctions would be taken. He reminded the club of their responsibilities in terms of controlling spectators, and said that disciplinary action would be taken in the event of any future report of abuse of an umpire.
 - PM said that the failure to cover the pitch was a clear breach of rules, which was agreed. He felt that disciplinary action should have been taken. RP said that no penalty was imposed for the failure to cover the pitch at Crimicar earlier in the season, so it would be inconsistent to penalise Tickhill. He agreed that the review of ground rules should result in the action to be taken in the event of this happening from 2020 onwards being clearly stated in our rules.
 - RP agreed to reinforce to all clubs their responsibilities in terms of covering pitches and ensuring that there is no abuse of match officials.
- *Secretary*. SW reported on the t20 and KO cup:
 - *t20 Area Finals*. SW said that all arrangements are in hand for the Area finals at Cleethorpes on 28 July; the club, as ever, have been very helpful.
 - *Viking Cup*
 - The semi-finals are now known; Doncaster will host Wakefield Thornes and Whitley Hall will travel to Woodhouse Grange, these ties also to be played on 28 July
 - SW said that following the abandonment of the quarter-final at Abbeydale due to the dangerous pitch, the tie was awarded to Doncaster Town. RP was currently liaising with SCCC and the other members of the cup committee to decide on what further action was necessary. The SCCC chairman had questioned that the ground was 'dangerous' and had suggested that the game should have been replayed. RP was now awaiting a report from the groundsman. RP said that we had to back the umpires' judgement, and even if there were a question about whether the pitch was 'dangerous', it was without doubt unsatisfactory. RP to report back on action taken at the next meeting.
- *Treasurer*. PM said that there is £2,660 in hand, but no ECB money or main sponsorship has yet been received. Both are due. The end-of-year projection remains that we will have a minimum of £2,500 in hand.
- *Fixture secretary*. MS raised the issue of the additional date for league matches. If we start on the third Saturday in April and end on the first Saturday in September we need to find one additional date, whether a Sunday or a Bank Holiday Monday. It was suggested that we end with a double-header weekend in September. MS said that it did not really matter when the additional day was put into the schedule, and it was agreed that we should ask the clubs.

4 Ground issues

RP said that a number of issues around the grounds, mainly exacerbated by the poor weather, had raised concerns, in particular around the fitness of pitches for play, covering of pitches, and availability of drying equipment. He reiterated that he was arranging to meet with the Umpires Association and will discuss with SYSCCL, with the aim of strengthening our guidance, making absolutely clear what is expected and detailing penalties for non-compliance.

5 Future format of the League and Cup competitions

- RP summarised the feedback from the captains' meeting:
 - *League games.* Representatives were unanimously of the view that players were content with the current 50-over red ball league competition – the quote that was used was 'it ain't broke so don't fix it' and views expressed included that the cricket in South Yorkshire was the most competitive that it had been in years, and that younger players aspired to play in the league as it is. To cover ourselves, however, it was agreed that we would include a question on this in the forthcoming questionnaire.

Suggestions were made about comparatively minor tweaks, including start times, the reduction of bowlers' overs to 10, the introduction of a first 15 overs' powerplay, and using better quality balls. It was agreed that these issues will be included in the questionnaire, along with a question to check that players are indeed content with the overall format.
 - *t20.* Players believe that the current competition is rushed due to the ECB schedule. There may be an appetite for an additional t20 competition later in the season, possibly on an optional basis. This to be tested in questions to players.
 - *KO Cup.* The current competition is supported, but views expressed that it should not be zoned and that it should be options.
- MS had produced some options to tackle the t20 and cup issues but is of the view that for them to work properly, there needs to be a commitment to them, and that they should not be optional. There was a general committee view that, after the ECB competitions, our t20 and cup competitions should be prioritised by clubs.
- RP, MS & SW to agree the content of a survey to clubs and players and formulate options to take the results into account, in time for the September meeting.

6 Representative teams

RP said that SW would be circulating all clubs for nominations for the three under 23 matches that will take place in August and September, starting with the MCC game at Abbeydale on 8 August. Nominations will be forwarded to the selection committee – MB, AF, AH and Chris Marples, who will advise SW of the selections. SW will then notify those selected.

7 Participation manager

RP had met with GD and agreed a specification for the role, which had been circulated to the committee in advance. This was agreed, and RP will arrange to advertise on the website. GD said there was interest in the role.

8 Website

RP said that the new website was now on the test server and that he had been doing some work on it. He expected it to be live by the following week.

9 Lashings game

Steve to ask committee members to advise him if they would like a seat at the hospitality table game on 16 August; Solly Adam has been invited; 4 Probate & Wills are unable to attend.

10 Other business

RP gave some brief feedback about the discussions on League Format and Hallam at the PLMB meeting on 27 June.

11 Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.20pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th September.