



## Note of 19<sup>th</sup> committee meeting

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Toby Inn, Bessacar, Doncaster

### 1 Introduction

Present were Mick Forrester, Paul McFarlane, Roger Pugh, Matt Summerhill and Steve Ward. Apologies were received from Mark Beardshall, Chris Cobb, Alex Fletcher, Chris Froggett and Andy Harrison.

### 2 Resignation of Ray Knowles

RP provided a summary of the incident involving David Sharp that led to Ray Knowles' resignation, as well as the similar incidents involving Andy Tipple and SW. RP has reported the incidents to the Head of ECB ACO. RP said that, once the ACO investigation is completed, he proposed that David Sharp be advised that he is no longer welcome at YSPL games in any capacity. This was agreed.

Mick Bocking from SYSCL has agreed take on the role of our Disciplinary Manager to replace RK, and will sit on a Disciplinary Review panel with Simon Widdup and RP to look at all new reports and decide on the levels of breach. MS and Terry Bateman will join these three on a panel of six, from which three will be selected to sit on any hearings. One more volunteer was sought from committee. *[note: MB has subsequently volunteered]*

SW has agreed to take on the safeguarding role in liaison with the SYSCL safeguarding officer.

### 3 Secretary's report

AF and SW are organising the dinner – SW is writing out to clubs. AFCC and Cawthorne CC to be invited.

SW will be providing close-season training for all League scorers, with the aim that all will be trained to Level 2 standard.

### 4 Finances

PM provided an up-to-date statement. The sponsorship has still not been paid, and RP is following up.

The issue of balls for 2020 was discussed. Three clubs had commented about sub-standard balls. PM said that Oxbridge have always offered to take back and replace any ball that is sub-standard, and had provided replacements in advance for that eventuality. PM said that moving to a higher quality balls would involve a significant hike in costs. He will provide figures for options for the clubs at the AGM.

### 5 Fixtures

MS is looking at the '22nd fixture date' to supplement the 21 Saturdays in the season. This issue is not immediate as the fixture can be slotted in at any time. This will be easier if the play-offs can be moved back by a week and we can use the second Saturday in September. This would depend on whether the play-off final can be taken out of the country again.

The League's four places in the National KO will be allocated to Barnsley, Doncaster, Elsecar and Sheffield Collegiate. We await details from ECB of the revised t20 competition, and YCB are discussing the format of the current under 19s competition with ECB.

### 6 SYSCL

RP reported that there was a very positive YSPL/SYSCL liaison meeting last week. We will continue to align wherever possible YSPL and SYSCL Championship rules. MS has developed plans to introduce a 2nd XI competition from 2021. This would be managed by YSPL and would have promotion/relegation to/from the SYSCL. The issue will be put on AGM agenda to gauge initial club reaction.

## **7 Cawthorne**

RP reported that he had inspected the Cawthorne ground. It is a lovely ground and will be an asset to our league. The only issue is the visitors' changing room. This is quite small and has only one shower. CCC have said that extension is their No 1 priority and they may be able to do this in time for 2020, but have offered to swap dressing rooms till this is done. It was agreed CCC be accepted on this basis.

## **8 Committee for 2020**

Under the revised constitution proposals, the committee will be increased by two posts. These will enable the inclusion of a Participation Manager, the u19s organiser, and an umpires' representative. We are still sourcing the first, Andrew Tipple will be the second, and the Umpires' Association has been asked to nominate the third. Mick Bocking does not want to come onto the main committee at this stage.

## **9 Rule changes**

RP summarised the main proposed constitution and rule changes. At present, some of our rules are not in the most appropriate place, and the aim is to reorganise them under three separate headings – 'constitution', 'League admin rules' and 'League championship rules.' Changes to the rules in the Constitution need to be voted on by clubs at AGM and ratified by the Premier Leagues Management Board; League admin rules can be set and amended by the committee; and changes to League championship rules will be voted on by the clubs at AGM.

Most of the changes proposed now are relatively minor clarifications, but the most important are (a) tighter ground facilities and fitness rules and (b) proposed new overseas rule to allow clubs to register two but play only one (aligns with SYSCL). *[note: full details now circulated to clubs]*

## **10 Club of the Year**

Taking on board feedback received last year, RP has produced a club self-assessment document that will be issued to clubs for completion, checked and used in the categories where we do not have hard figures. SW to issue.

RP is liaising with David Ward about the information from the captains' and umpires' reports.

## **11 Hall of Fame**

The nominations for induction in 2019 are Matt Dixon, Harry Fidler and Kevin Motley. Matt Dixon and Ray Knowles will be given Life Member status. There are also a number of players who are believed to be approaching the end of their playing careers, who will be considered in future years.

## **12 Participation manager**

No confirmed expressions of interest have yet been received, but SW is following up a possible lead. *[note: Liz Lazenby has subsequently agreed to take on the role]*

## **13 Sponsorship**

The current deal with 4 Probate & Wills is for one year only, and it was felt to be prudent to be putting out some feelers now in the event that we need a new main sponsor for 2020. We need a decent size company who do business in SY/NL and with whom we have a contact that RP can follow up. As we have discussed before, we can survive without, but it will mean some economies and getting more money out of clubs. RP asked that all committee members let him have any suggestions. MS asked that RP produce a 'one-pager' about the league that could be put in front of a potential sponsor. *[note: this has now been done and is attached]*

## **14 loG courses**

loG are putting on some courses for groundsmen and there is opportunity to have a bespoke one arranged for our league. It was agreed that this was a must! SW to take forward in liaison with GD.

## **15 Next meeting**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm. The next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October.



## League sponsorship opportunity

The Yorkshire South Premier League is seeking to attract a main sponsor for its league cricket competitions and representative teams for a three-year period from season 2020 onwards.

South Yorkshire is a hotbed of league cricket, and as the premier league in the area, we now generate substantial local media coverage and a growing social media following, primarily on Twitter and Facebook.



### *Our league*

In April 2016, the Yorkshire South Premier League (YSPL) was inaugurated as one of four Premier Leagues in Yorkshire – the highest level of recreational cricket – as part of a new geographically-based league pyramid structure.

The YSPL comprises the 12 top clubs in an area covering the whole of South Yorkshire and beyond, including Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, stretching to Wakefield in the north and in the east to Appleby Frodingham (Scunthorpe) in North Lincolnshire.

One of our leading clubs, Wakefield Thornes, has twice won the Yorkshire Premier Leagues Championship, lifting the inaugural trophy in 2016 and regaining it at Headingley in 2018. Another, Sheffield Collegiate, reached the final of the ECB National t20 competition at the county ground, Derby, earlier this month.

### *Sponsorship*

After a three-year sponsorship deal with *All Rounder Cricket* in our first three years, we agreed a one-year deal with solicitors *4 Probate & Wills* for 2019.

We are now seeking a £4,000 per year sponsorship, which would be used to support our under-23s side; hosting prestige games; and initiatives to improve the quality of our cricket.

### *Our offer to a sponsor*

- **Publicity.** The league will be renamed in the sponsor's name, as above, and this name will appear on our website, social media accounts, handbooks, and our club websites.
- The league is mentioned weekly in the written press during the season (Yorkshire Post, Sheffield Star, and other South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire papers); as well as in specialist cricket media such as the national *Cricketer* magazine and the *Cricket Yorkshire* ezine.
- **Advertising.** Advertising banners will be displayed prominently at all our grounds; adverts will be displayed on our website and in our handbooks, and those of our partner league, the South Yorkshire Senior Cricket League.
- **Social media.** Our new website is now attracting over 3,000 hits in a month; 1,200-1,500 monthly views on Facebook and around 1,000 monthly on twitter.
- **Other.** We are very keen to develop any other ideas for building on the above or working in partnership.

