

## Annual General Meeting 2016

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 – Phoenix Sports & Social Club

### Note of meeting

#### 1 Present

*Clubs represented:* Appleby Frodingham, Aston Hall, Barnsley, Cleethorpes, Hallam, Sheffield Collegiate, Tickhill, Treeton, Wakefield Thornes, Whitley Hall, Wickersley Old Village

*Committee:* T Bentham, C Froggett, A Harrison, R Knowles\*, P McFarlane\*, K Motley\*, R Pugh, M Summerhill, R Tong\*, S Ward

*\* ex officio members*

#### 2 Apologies

M Beardshall, G Davis (A Watson deputising), M Dixon

#### 3 Chairman's welcome

- RP welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Hallam and Tickhill on their promotion into the YSPL.
- RP congratulated Wakefield Thornes on becoming the first Yorkshire Premier Leagues' champions following their success in Abu Dhabi – he said that this was a tremendous boost for the YSPL. RP said that the players of both teams, both on and off the field, had been a credit to their clubs, their leagues, and Yorkshire cricket in general.

#### 4 Chairman's, secretary's and fixture secretary's reports

All three reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and there were no matters arising – see reports attached.

#### 5 Adoption of financial accounts

- The 2016 accounts were circulated in advance of the meeting – see attached.
- RP said that he had seen the bank statement which tallied with the accounts; this would be made available if anyone wished to see it.
- RP said that £6,000 ECB money was currently held at the bank for distribution to clubs in membership in 2016. This would be undertaken once the amount of the ECB performance money was known. Any reductions in performance pay due to failures by clubs, such as failures to use the live score service, would result in a deduction from that club's share of the £6,000.

- SW clarified that in addition to the £6,000, around £3,000 performance money was expected from ECB later in November, based on the league running an under 19s competition, signing up to *Get the Game On*, use of Live Score Service, provision of pitch and fair play markings, etc.
- PM clarified that under the ball deal negotiated with Oxbridge last year, the ball prices would remain the same as this year in both 2017 and 2018.
- The meeting agreed the adoption of the accounts.

## 6 Committee vacancy

- RP said that there had been one nomination for the vacancy left by Ian Armiger, who was taking a break after 32 years' involvement with the Appleby Frodingham club. He declared that Mick Forrester, also from Appleby Frodingham, was therefore duly elected unopposed to the committee.

## 7 Changes to playing conditions

- The proposals for revised playing conditions in league games were circulated in advance. RP introduced each of these turn, gave an opportunity for comment and clarification, and asked clubs to vote on the ballot sheet provided. The results of the ballot were as follows:
- *Rule 20 – rearrangement of fixtures.* The proposal was for an addition to the rule, to allow for the postponement of a league game where a team has three or more first-team players selected to play in another ECB competition that unavoidably takes place on the same day. RP clarified that in applying this rule, the committee would apply common sense in deciding in each case who would be considered 'first team players.' MS and RP confirmed that every effort would be made to avoid fixture clashes, and that cancellation of league fixtures would remain a last resort. The proposal was carried by nine votes to two.
- *Rule 4 – start of play.* The proposal was that start times in the League would be brought forward by 30 minutes to 12 noon for all matches. There was a concern voiced that some players work on Saturday mornings, but it was pointed out that the idea had met with general approval at the captains' meeting earlier in the season. The proposal was carried by nine votes to two.
- *Rule 6 – intervals.* The proposal was that where an interval between innings does not coincide with the tea interval, the length of that interval should be increased from 10 to 15 minutes, in order to allow sufficient time for sweeping, rolling and remarking of the pitch. The proposal was carried by ten votes to one.
- *Rules 6 & 15 – cost of teas and umpires.* The proposal was that the cost of teas and umpires be shared between the two clubs on match days, rather than being the sole responsibility of the home club. RP said that he had received several representations on this issue during the course of the season, on the basis of greater fairness and rewarding of those who put time and effort into providing teas. The committee had no strong view either way and decided to put the issue to the clubs and go with the majority. The proposal was carried by eight votes to three. A minor amendment was allowed by majority approval that the cost of 13 teas to be paid by the visiting club would be fixed at £45.
- *Rules 7 & 8 – delayed starts and interruptions after the start.* As a result of confusion with the existing rules during the season, on the part of both captains and umpires, and taking into account comments received, a simplified revised rule has been devised. This aggregates the two half-hour periods of grace before and after the start, after which overs are deducted, so that overs are lost only after a total of one hour is lost after the scheduled time of start; and also replaces the previous 'two overs for every and a half minutes lost' clause with 'four overs for each full 15 minutes lost.' This proposal was carried by eleven votes to nil.

- *Rules 7 & 8 – delayed starts and interruptions after the start – additional proposal.* An additional proposal, dependent on the above amendment being carried, was that the hour allowed before which any time is lost in the second innings is extended by any time by which the first innings is completed in under three hours ten minutes. This proposal was carried by eleven votes to nil.
- *Rule 9 – bowling restrictions.* The proposal to restrict the number of overs that a bowler can bowl to 13 was defeated by six votes to five.
- *Rules 16 & 21 – failures to comply with scoring and reporting requirements.* The rules have been re-written to clarify exactly the League's scoring and reporting requirements, and the proposal was that an automatic two-league point deduction would be imposed for failures. RP clarified that a first warning and final warning would be given before a deduction was made. The proposal was carried by eight votes to three.
- RP said that the precise wording of these amendments would now be determined and incorporated into a rewritten version of the Playing Conditions, which would then be published on the website.

## **8 Format of league t20**

A proposal for a revised format of the League's t20 competition that would allow for group stages to take place over three dates (two Sundays and one midweek evening), with only two matches taking place on a Sunday, thus allowing later starts and more practice time, was defeated by eight votes to three. The competition will therefore be organised along the same lines as last season.

## **9 Format of under 19s t20**

RP outlined some basic principles for the organisation of the League's under19s t20 competition, that had been agreed following an ad hoc clubs' meeting held towards the end of the season. These were:

- YSPL will again run a competition in 2017
- whilst acknowledging and accommodating where possible the ECB aim of retaining young players in the game, the YSPL competition should be taken seriously and be competitive
- clubs will participate on a voluntary basis
- the competition will be run in liaison with the Ben Jessop League (BJL)
- clubs will be allowed to partner with non-participating clubs in either YSPL or SYSCL to raise a side
- clubs will be asked whether they wish to participate and then to self-assess themselves as 'strong,' 'medium' or 'weak'
- the required numbers can be made up from SYSCL clubs, in consultation with the BJL
- the YSPL competition will be held between the beginning of July and mid-August
- games can be played on Sundays or during the week

RP outlined the proposal to incorporate a seeding system aimed at ensuring competitive games, with non-seeded clubs competing in mini-leagues, with the winners progressing to play stronger sides. He said that the YCB under 19s organiser, Richard Wilkinson, was currently considering options, along with ECB colleagues. In the meanwhile, he invited any views from clubs.

## 10 Fees

RP advised the following 2017 fees:

- the League subscription will remain at £30 per club
- umpires' fees are increased to £55 per umpire per match

## 11 Other Business

- AW gave a short summary of the new ECB engagement strategy [Cricket Unleashed](#). This is aimed at arresting the decline in participation in the game. RP requested that clubs take time to look at the plan to see and consider how it might be relevant to them.
- RP said that he had now taken over as the webmaster on the YSPL site and that SW had taken over responsibility for social media. He invited any comments or suggestions.
- RP referred to the Yorkshire Cricket Groundsman's Association. There remains a vacancy for a YSPL representative to attend YCGA meetings, and he asked for anyone interested to contact SW or himself.
- RP said that the League are considering what league management system the YSPL will use for registrations, reporting, scores, etc, next season. The revamped PlayCricket site and CricHQ are the two main options. KM, SW and RP will be talking to both in the next couple of weeks.
- MS said that the fixtures would be released imminently. RP said that he would post them on the YSPL website.
- TB said that the Umpires' Association is actively seeking to recruit more umpires; the panel needs to be larger and there is an imbalance with more umpires coming from the south than the north – TB would be very pleased to hear from any potential umpires.

Meeting Closed 8.50pm

**RP/1116**

## Chairman's report

To sum up my thoughts in one sentence, I have to say that our first season has surpassed my greatest expectations.

On the playing side, I congratulate Wakefield Thornes, our first champions, on their most deserved success. By the time of our AGM, we will know if they have been successful in Abu Dhabi – whether or not they are, it has been a great achievement by them to reach this historic game and they have been a credit to our league. From 2017, the final will take place in the UK, and I hope that as a result that the play-off rules will better reflect those in the premier leagues.

A word about our runners-up, Appleby Frodingham, who kept pace with Thornes for so much of the season and perhaps surpassed their own initial hopes with a second-placed finish. They have a nucleus of talented, home-grown, young players, and I hope that they will continue to flourish.

I am very sorry that we are losing Doncaster Town and Rotherham Town – stalwarts of the old Yorkshire League over its eighty-plus years and both with periods of greatness in their proud histories. But the departure of old friends is the inevitable consequence of promotion and relegation, and I wish them both well in their quest to re-join us soon. The other consequence of our new structure is the fact that so many end of season games that might otherwise have been largely meaningless have been given new meaning and consequential keenness by the threat of relegation. I saw at first-hand what success in these crucial games meant to the players and club officials.

In the place of Doncaster and Rotherham, we welcome Hallam and Tickhill; two very different clubs but who share an ambition and determination to compete at the highest level possible. I am sure that both will strengthen our league – I hope they will do themselves justice, and I wish them luck.

Congratulations too to Sheffield Collegiate and Barnsley, our senior and under-19 t20 champions respectively. T20 is now an established part of our game, and even old traditionalists like me embrace it and acknowledge its value. I will not go through all our individual award winners here, we will do that properly at the dinner later in November, but for now I congratulate them all, and thank them for their contribution to the success of our inaugural season.

We put a lot of work into our new playing conditions and rules before the season, and, with the exception of a few tweaks that we will address later in the AGM, I believe that they have worked well. But it is the clubs who have put everything into practice, and I would like to thank them all for supporting our new league and for the way in which they have conducted themselves on and off the field. On a personal note, I thank them too for the welcome that Kirsty and I received as we visited all the grounds during the season.

I would like to thank our committee for their input and support not only during the season, but over the twelve months' planning that preceded it. It is very easy to see what some of them do, the outputs of the treasurer and fixture secretary, for example, are self-evident, but the advice, experience and ideas contributed by them all are not perhaps so easily noticed, but are no less valuable and much appreciated. A huge amount of work is involved in the running of a cricket league, all of it on a volunteer basis, and it would be remiss of me not to recognise the sterling efforts of Steve Ward and Kevin Motley, in particular, week in and week out. My very best wishes to Ian Armiger on his 'retirement' after 32 years' service to Appleby Frodingham and, latterly, to our committee.

I would like to thank four others in particular for their support during the season; our main sponsor, Chris Taylor at *All Rounder* Cricket; Rob Richtering, my main contact with our neighbours in the north; Andrew Watson of the Yorkshire Cricket Board, who provided practical support when we most needed it; and David Ward of the South Yorkshire Senior Cricket League, whose efforts to provide us all with umpires are immense.

Despite what has been a very successful first season, we cannot be complacent. In my former career I learned that you have to move forward to stand still – and I believe that also applies in sport. We had only three disciplinary reports during the course of the season, and we must maintain and even improve on this in the future. There are also four issues in particular that we need to address:

- weather rules - we have proposals to simplify these, and we now need to work with our colleagues in the Umpires Association to ensure consistent application
- under 19s t20 – we did not get this quite right, but we have plans to improve
- compliance – in both the area of reporting and scoring requirements the overall level of compliance has not been good enough, and, reluctantly, we make proposals for sanctions for non-compliance
- media – our website and social media presence has not been good enough, and again we have plans to improve

After our AGM, we look forward to celebrating our successes at our inaugural dinner on 19 November. I know that not everyone can be there, so I hope that you will all winter well, and I look forward to seeing you again in 2017.

Roger Pugh  
27 September 2016

## Secretary's report

After months of planning, meetings, phone calls and emails, I can honestly say that it has all been worthwhile. The first season of this new League has been a resounding success, both on and off the field. I believe that this is because we have the right people in the right positions on the Committee, and we have some wonderful people in all our clubs, who have all bought into the concept of the Yorkshire South Premier League.

I would like to thank Chris Taylor, of All Rounder, for his support over the past 12 months. I hope that the relationship with this League will continue for many more years.

The work that our Chairman, Roger Pugh, has done over the last year and beyond is immeasurable. He has kept his head when others around him were faltering, and continues to provide support, advice and wise council to all who will listen. I would like to thank him for his help and advice, and to thank all the league officials and committee members for their input over the last year or so.

On the field, I would like to congratulate Wakefield Thornes for both winning the Championship and reaching the Champions Trophy Final at Abu Dhabi. There are worthy champions, and a credit to our League.

The first year has been a learning curve for everyone, and it is important that we all strive to improve, and it is evident that the Leagues social media presence must get better. Plans are afoot to rectify this, and hopefully the improvements will be apparent very soon. More training will be provided on the DLS system to scorers, umpires and captains so that everyone can understand the concept, and how to get a result.

The League's relationship with our partners has grown over the year, and I must thank all at ECB, Yorkshire Cricket Board, Yorkshire League North and South Yorkshire Senior Cricket League for their help and support.

I would like to welcome Hallam CC and Tickhill CC, who will both enhance our League. I hope that Doncaster Town and Rotherham Town bounce back quickly, and am sure that both clubs will have plans in place to do so as soon as possible.

So, it is time to build on the first season, to carry on the momentum and ensure that this league is a league that all clubs in the catchment area aspire to join. It is important that we continue to build on our relationships with ALL our partners, and to ensure that we continue to improve in all we do.

Steve Ward

28 September 2016

## Fixture secretary's report

For the first time in history, all fixtures throughout the southern portion of the county were produced by one person. Although this meant that I created over 2,800 fixtures, unlike other seasons these were created together and synchronised from the top of the pyramid to the bottom. This means the workload was significantly decreased, due to not having to 'match in' to pre-determined fixtures – a good thing in the era of ever dwindling volunteer time.

ECB Yorkshire South Premier League are always the easiest fixtures to generate. Very few ground availability issues and top level cricketers wanting to play every Saturday, means that the generation of the fixtures can be done at random with all clubs 2<sup>nd</sup> XI fixtures fitting in around them. In this era of facilities vanishing further down the cricketing food chain, it is absolutely imperative that we make best use of facilities higher up.

We also produced a fully co-ordinated cup calendar for Sunday's, which although not perfect, was a great leap forward from previous years. The bad weather we had caused issues, but without the co-ordinated calendar we would have run into real difficulties.

Moving forward to 2017, we will continue to develop the Sunday Cup calendar further and will continue to produce a co-ordinated set of fixtures with the South Yorkshire Senior League, Pontefract & District League and Yorkshire & Derbyshire League to make life as easy as we can for clubs. Added to this, the ECB U19 T20 competition will be incorporated into the schedule to ensure the best possible opportunities for our younger players.

Matt Summerhill

29 September 2016

## Financial accounts

### YSPL End-of-Year Accounts Statement 2016

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Contributions from YCPL & SYSCL	1,650.00	Survey	26.00
Start-up loan YCB	2,000.00	Balls	5,616.33
Loans from officials	1,500.00	Ties	588.50
Tie sales	180.00	Umpire observations	458.50
League subs	360.00	Refreshments for club meetings	480.95
YCB subs	720.00	Insurance	319.50
Payments for balls	4,699.20	TCS licences	143.88
Handbook adverts	225.00	Printing for All Clubs meeting	290.00
Sponsorship	2,060.00	Travel expenses	179.00
ECB	7,000.00	Advertising banners	360.00
YLUA loan	250.00	Umpires seminar	222.00
Umpire observations (YPLN contribution)	229.25	Handbooks	420.00
		YCB subs	720.00
		Repayment of loans to officials	1,500.00
		ECB payments to clubs	6,000.00
		u19 competition expenditure	1,149.18
		t20 competition expenditure	1,005.18
		YLUA loan	250.00
		Championship trophy	128.49
	<b>20,873.45</b>		<b>19,857.51</b>
<b>Excess income over expenditure</b>	<b>1,015.94</b>		
Carried forward	-	Cash & cheques	-
Excess income o/expend	1,015.94	Cash at bank	7,015.94
		Debtors	-
			<b>7,015.94</b>
		Creditors	6,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,015.94</b>		<b>1,015.94</b>

Notes:

#### Stock in hand

Ties	800.00
Balls	tbc

#### Creditors

12 x £500 ECB payments to clubs*	6,000.00
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\* subject to compliance with reporting and scoring requirements