



ECB Yorkshire South Premier League

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Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18th October 2017

Note of meeting

- 1 Welcome & apologies.** The chairman welcomed all to the meeting, in particular, Doncaster and Whiston PC, who were promoted into the League for 2018. He passed on apologies for Mick Forrester and Matt Dixon.
- 2 Reports.** The reports from the chairman, secretary and fixture secretary were circulated in advance (attached) and there were no matters arising.
- 3 Adoption of financial accounts.** The attached financial accounts were duly accepted.
- 4 Changes to the constitution.**
 - Two proposals for revisions to the constitution were circulated in advance. The chairman introduced these individually, 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:
 - a revision to formalise the roles of vice-chairman, treasurer and compliance officer, making the latter two full committee members and thus increasing the committee to 12, and removing provision for specified ex officio posts, was carried by 12 votes to nil
 - a revision to clarify voting, proposal and nomination procedure for the AGM was carried by 12 votes nil
- 5 Changes to playing conditions.**
 - Five proposals for revisions to the League playing conditions were circulated in advance. The chairman 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:
 - a proposed change to the match cancellation procedure due to ground conditions in rule 2, designed to provide more flexibility and encourage communication, was carried by 12 votes to nil
 - a proposed change to rule 19 to stop transfers of YSPL-registered players between member clubs during the season, without express consent, was carried by eight votes to four
 - voting on an additional proposed change to rule 19, to allow clubs to play a second overseas player, who must be an amateur, was tied at six votes for and six votes against, and was carried on the casting vote of the chairman, who said that he must support the committee proposal
 - a proposed change to rule 20 change the qualification for losing bowling bonus points to two points for six wickets and four for two wickets, was carried by 12 votes to nil
 - a proposed new rule 24, detailing the action to be taken if a club fails to fulfil its' fixtures, or is suspended from doing so, was carried by 12 votes to nil
 - a proposed new rule 25, to introduce the requirement for clubs to provide a designated separate viewing area for players and officials, was carried by 12 votes to nil

- 6 New disciplinary regulations.** The chairman provided a brief explanation of the new disciplinary regulations from 2018, the main features of which are:
- the introduction of a caution for level one offences; two cautions in the same season to result in a two-match ban (there will be a review procedure in the event of a caution being contested)
 - the introduction of an automatic 12-league point team penalty when 12 disciplinary points are accumulated by a team in a single season (two points being accrued for a caution and four when sanctions are taken following a formal disciplinary report)
- 7 Playing season.** Clubs were asked informally whether they would prefer to drop May (Spring Bank) Holiday fixtures in favour of starting the season a week early. A show of hands revealed an equal split in opinion, so the chairman ruled that, as there was no clear wish for change, the status quo should continue.
- 8 Fees.** The chairman said that there would be no change in league fees for 2018, and Gareth Davis confirmed that the YCB fee would also remain unaltered.
- 9 Election of committee.** Following the adoption of the change to rule 10 of the constitution, Matt Dixon, Ray Knowles, Paul McFarlane and Matt Summerhill were elected unopposed to the newly-formalised committee posts of vice-chairman, compliance officer, treasurer and fixture secretary respectively; and a ballot was held to decide the remaining five posts from the six nominations. Mark Beardshall, Chris Cobb, Mick Forrester, Chris Froggett and Andy Harrison were duly elected.
- 10 Scorers.** The secretary expressed his grave concerns about the quality of scoring at some clubs. He cited a lack of concentration and interest, scorers not bringing a printer and paper to games, printers not working, mainly due to running out of ink or lost cables and a lack of knowledge about DLS. He said that the standard and intensity of the cricket played in the League, and the commitment of the players, demands scorers who are fully trained, competent, and who actually want to be there at the game. The chairman added that the players take the game very seriously, as they do the awards that are based on recorded scores, and that they are entitled to expect that scoring is conducted with the same degree of application. Pre-season scorer training will be provided.
- 11 Promotion & relegation between the YSPL and the SYSCL.** The chairman said that he had been given feedback during the second half of the season that the current 'two up, two down' promotion and relegation between the YSPL and the SYSCL was not at the right level and that he wished to take informal views from clubs. As only comments in favour of the current system were expressed, no change will be proposed at the present time.
- 12 Format of under 19s t20 competition.** Views were invited on the possible extension of the under 19s competition during July and August. There was no support for extending the competition but a request that it leads into the national competition will be followed up with Richard Wilkinson of YCB.
- 13 Recruitment & retention of umpires.** The chairman said that the South Yorkshire Umpires Association was seriously concerned about the shortage of umpires. David Ward said that the SYSCL was subsidising Premier League umpires and that numbers and quality were issues. The YSPL will work with the Umpires Association to identify ways that the League may be able to help.
- 14 Other business.**
- Gareth Davis updated the meeting on Clubmark and All Stars
 - Steve Ward confirmed that there will be no change to the Rudgate Brewery Knock-Out Cup in 2018, for which he will now act as sole organiser
 - Steve Ward confirmed that there will be training pre-season on the Play Cricket system
- 15 Close of AGM.** The chairman closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance and input into the formal end-of-season business, and saying that he hoped to see as many people as possible at next Friday's season celebration event, the presentation dinner.

Item 2 (a) – Chairman’s report

In reviewing the season, my overall view is that it has been one of real progress. Nonetheless, we have had one or two problems to deal with, and I will focus below on the issues that I think we need to focus on next year.

On the playing side, I congratulate Wakefield Thornes on deservedly retaining our league championship. In addition, of course, they again reached the Premier Leagues Championship final, when they came up against a very good Hanging Heaton side and were very narrowly beaten – but for a few incidents during the game that did not go their way, they could easily have retained their crown. They have been great ambassadors for our league. Last year I commented that I hoped the play-off rules would better reflect those used in our leagues, and I think we achieved that.

In our league championship, Whitley Hall set a good pace and led at half-way; Sheffield Collegiate were always challenging at the top, and were still in the hunt when we reached the penultimate weekend – both teams had very good seasons that will give them encouragement to go one better next time. Treeton were our most improved team, with a rise of six places to fourth – they learned from their experiences in our first season and recruited wisely. Of the two promoted clubs, Hallam did extremely well to finish just below half-way, whilst several players commented to me that Tickhill were not one of our poorest teams and were unlucky to go down. They are a good club with excellent facilities, and I hope they will be back with us very soon. It was a bit of a nightmare season for Sheffield & Phoenix – their problems were well documented and I will not go into them here, save to say that Sheffield United were one of the founder members of the Yorkshire League, a club with a long and proud history, and I wish them well in the difficult times they face. We have now had two seasons of promotion and relegation between our league and the SYSCL. I have had feedback on this issue from people at several of our clubs, and I think it is only right that we should talk about it, which is why it is on today’s agenda. Looking ahead, we welcome back Doncaster Town, as well as a new club to Premier League cricket in Whiston. I hope they will both do themselves justice, and I wish them luck for an enjoyable and successful season.

A very pleasing aspect of the season has been the quality of the overseas players that we have had in the league. I am a strong supporter of overseas players, because I believe that they enhance the quality of the league, and I am pleased that we have proposals to increase the number of overseas players from next year. But there were many outstanding performances during the season, and we will fully recognise all the leading team and individual award winners at our dinner next week. I am frequently told that one of the strengths of our league is its competitiveness, which is very pleasing, and also underlines that, whilst we have had a small number of disciplinary cases, overall that competitiveness is expressed in the right way. I was also very pleased with the response of the players to our under 21 fixture this season, and I am committed to arranging more, similar, games in future.

From a personal perspective, Kirsty and I really enjoy our Saturday afternoons visiting our grounds. Of course, two years down the line, I have got to know people a lot better now, and I look forward to renewing acquaintance with now-familiar faces as we travel around. The success or otherwise of a league is ultimately down to its clubs and players – and I think we can be rightly proud of ours, and I thank them for their support.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our committee for their input and support throughout the season. We have the ‘grunts’ who do the day-to-day work, people like Ray Knowles, Paul McFarlane, Kevin Motley, Steve Ward, and myself; and we have those, like Mark Beardshall, Matt Dixon, Chris Froggett and Andy Harrison, who provide input into our discussions and decision-making from their vast knowledge and experience of the game – not forgetting our fixtures guru, Matt Summerhill, who can be relied upon to provide a voice of reason. It is a very good mix – we do not always agree, but we have respect for each other’s views, and we invariably reach a consensus that we can go along with. Speaking of Kevin Motley, he has been beset by health problems this season, and as these are not yet clear, he has decided to step down from his responsibilities next season. Thank you for all that you have done for us Kevin, and I am sure everyone will join me in wishing you all the very best and a return to full health.

During the season, Terry Bentham stepped down from our committee. Terry’s support had been crucial in setting up our league, and I thank him for his contribution – I hope he will put his feet up a bit now after all the work he has done over the years. David Ward is another tireless worker, whose work as umpires appointments secretary is vital to our league, and I thank him for his support. Finally, my grateful thanks go to our main sponsor, Chris Taylor at *All Rounder Cricket*, whose financial support enables us to host games, buy kit, and in general just keep functioning as we do!

Last year, I detailed a list of priorities in these comments – weather rules, under 19s t20, reporting and scoring compliance and media. I believe that we have made good progress in most of these, although there is more to be done on scoring. I think we need also to work with the umpires’ association on recruitment & retention of umpires, as well as consistency, and we will continue to consider ways of improving the under 19s competition.

I hope to see as many as possible of you at our presentation dinner on 27th October, but 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 2018.

Roger Pugh
27th September 2016

Item 2 (b) – Secretary’s report

After two seasons, I think it is clear that this league is one of the best in the country. The quality of cricket has certainly got better and better, with most clubs competing well week in and week out. The quality of the overseas players that the clubs have recruited this season has been evident for all to see, with IPL and test players showing their skills.

The quality of people involved with the League off the field is also of the highest calibre. Our chairman, under the watchful eye of Kirsty, continues to ensure the smooth running of the League. I would like to thank him for his continued hard work and support. Communication is paramount in this organisation, and all the League Officials and Committee members play a big part in entering dialogue and debate, and are a big part in the decision making process.

I would like to thank Chris Tayler, of All Rounder, for his continued support. Sponsorship is a two-way thing, and I am always looking at ways that we can promote his business.

I would like to thank each and every one of the club officials, who work tirelessly for their clubs and who put up with my phone calls and emails on a regular basis.

Our umpires and scorers are amongst the best in the county. It has been good to see some new umpires this year, and good to see the progress that has been made by our team of umpires. However, I have made it known to Roger that I do think that some clubs and people don’t take the role of scorer seriously. I am looking at ways of providing training for all scorers, possible to ECBACO Level 2 standard, which involves personal development, similar to an NVQ.

On the subject of scorers, without doubt the best that I have sat with is Kevin Motley. He has decided to step down from his work with the League due to ill health. His contribution to both this league and the old Yorkshire League has been outstanding. I have no idea how we will replace him! I know that he hopes to score again, but his health must come first. Thank you mate!

I would like to congratulate Wakefield Thornes for retaining the League Championship, it was thoroughly deserved, they are a strong unit. I am sorry they were just pipped at the post in the Premier Leagues Championship play-off final, by a narrow margin. Congratulations also to Sheffield Collegiate for winning the t20 competition; to Wakefield Thornes for winning the u19s t20 competition; and to the individual award winners – we hope to see most of them at the league presentation dinner later this month.

I would like to welcome Doncaster Town and Whiston Parish Church into the League, and I hope that Sheffield & Phoenix United and Tickhill will bounce back quickly.

Let us hope that we can carry on the good work that we have done in our first two years into the future, and let us all work together for the good of the game of cricket.

Steve Ward
2nd October 2017

Item 2 (c) – Fixture secretary’s report

The challenges around fixtures for a Premier League are very rarely around the scheduling of Saturday League fixtures. Quite rightly, the fixtures for the YSPL are produced first, and the SYSCL 2nd XI fixtures (and of course Lincolnshire!) patch into these to give a fully co-ordinated set of fixtures across the various league structures. The real difficulty last season came with late changes by the ECB to the dates of the National Club and National t20 fixtures, which not only brought about a very late scramble to realign the Rudgate Cup and our t20 competition, but led to a number of clashes with SYSCL competitions where teams were being asked to field 1st XI and 2nd XI’s on the same day. This was not ideal and is certainly something we would wish to avoid in future, but sometimes there are circumstances beyond our control. This experience has meant that we have delayed publishing the 2018 Sunday calendar, until the ECB fixture dates are confirmed – please bear with us on this.

Discussions are being held with our colleagues in the north of the county in relation to the format of the Rudgate Cup, however until I am told otherwise the structure I am working to remains unchanged. As for the t20, it was agreed that the current format of three groups of four playing a knock-out round for a place at the finals day, along with the winners of the SYSCL competition, will continue at least for the 2018 season.

Finally, may I give thanks to all club secretaries for their support in the work I do.

Matt Summerhill
9th October 2017

