

ECB Yorkshire South Premier League



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 17th October 2018 - at Aston Hall CC

Note of meeting

1 **Welcome & apologies.** The chairman welcomed all to the meeting, in particular, Elsecar and Tickhill, who are promoted to the YSPL for 2019. Apologies were received from the League Compliance Officer, Ray Knowles, and Hallam CC were not represented at the meeting.

2 **Reports.** The reports from the chairman, secretary and fixture secretary were circulated in advance of the meeting (attached).

The chairman said that the sponsorship deal with All Rounder ends this year, and so far no new sponsor has been found. He said that he would welcome any suggestions. If no sponsor is found, the committee will submit proposals for fund-raising measures in the new year.

He circulated the umpires fair play markings, commenting that it was very pleasing that our clubs occupy nine of the top 12 places in the joint YPLN/YSPL table.

3 **Adoption of financial accounts.** The attached financial accounts were duly adopted.

4 **Changes to playing conditions**

Seven committee proposals for changes to the League playing conditions for 2019 were circulated in advance. After a short period of discussion these were voted on. The results of the ballot were as follows:

- a proposed change clarifying the circumstances in which League games may be postponed was carried by ten votes to one
- a proposed change to bring forward the time of the toss to 30 minutes before the start was carried by eleven votes to nil
- a proposed change that includes in the conditions last year's guidance that penalty time will not be applied for the first 15 minutes of a fielder's absence from the field was carried by eleven votes to nil
- a proposed trial rule that limited the number of fielders allowed outside the 30-yard fielding circles in the first 15 overs was defeated by seven votes to four

- two options for a new rule on overseas players were voted on; option B, which allows one overseas player only per club, whether professional or amateur, was carried by six votes to five
- a proposed change that clarifies that all professional county players must be treated the same for eligibility purposes as YCCC players was carried by eleven votes to nil
- a proposed rule to introduce a requirement for ropes to be used to designate boundaries was defeated by six votes to five

5 **Change to disciplinary regulations.** The meeting was notified of two changes to the league disciplinary rules for 2019 around cautions:

- all cautions will apply for a twelve-month period.
- if a player receives two cautions within twelve-month period, then they will be subject to an automatic two-week suspension.

The issue of notifications of suspensions to other leagues was raised. At present, we notify YCB of disciplinary sanctions and have agreed to extend this to SYSCL. The chairman will raise with the compliance officer how this information is transmitted to other neighbouring leagues.

6 **Fees.** The intention is to keep League membership fees at the 2018 level of £30, but if a League sponsor is not found, these will have to increase.

7 **Election of committee for 2019.** A committee vacancy had arisen following Matt Dixon's decision to stand down from committee work. Alex Fletcher had been nominated and was duly elected, the remaining committee members being re-elected unopposed.

8 **2019 playing season.** The fixture secretary outlined options for 2019 and undertook to consult clubs outwith the meeting. [Following this consultation, the 20219 League season has been fixed from 20 April to 7 September inclusive, with additional fixtures on the second May Bank Holiday Monday].

9 **Promotion & relegation between the YSPL and the SYSCL.** In advance of the forthcoming meeting with SYSCL to review the Memorandum of Understanding between the Leagues, the chairman sought views informally on whether clubs favoured the continuation of the present 'two up, two down' promotion and relegation between the Leagues, or the frequently-suggested 'one up, one down' approach. After discussion an informal vote was strongly in favour of retaining the present approach.

10 **Ground & facilities standards.** The chairman said that the committee will work in conjunction with SYSCL to lay down clear ground and facilities standards for the League. In addition, the committee believes that one of the League's future priorities should be to maintain and improve the standard of playing facilities, and that clubs will be required to arrange for an ECB inspection of their playing areas and to report back on action to be taken as a result.

11 **Recruitment & retention of umpires.** The YSPL have undertaken to support the South Yorkshire Umpires Association in their drive to recruit more umpires and encourage all clubs to actively seek to recruit umpires. This matter will also figure on the agenda for the YSPL/SYSCL MoU meeting.

12 **Other business.** The secretary raised three issues as follows:

- 3000 £1,000 grants may be available from ECB for Digital Improvements – he will keep clubs informed
- the new version three of the DLS system will be available next season – he will liaise with scorers
- he reminded clubs that they need to maintain their Play Cricket registrations, ensuring that they are correct and that out-of-date registrations are removed
- any club that would like to host a pre-season or annual general meeting in future should let him know

13 **Close of AGM.** The chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm. thanking all for their input and saying that he hoped to see as many people as possible at the forthcoming League presentation dinner.

Item 2.a – Chairman’s report

2018 will undoubtedly be remembered as being a glorious summer, and it has been another year of progress for the Yorkshire South Premier League.

I must start by congratulating Wakefield Thornes on their magnificent achievement of three consecutive league titles and a second Yorkshire Premier Leagues Championship. Congratulations too to Hallam, on winning our t20 competition on a memorable day at Cleethorpes, and to our under 19s t20 winners, Cleethorpes. We shall congratulate them properly, along with all our other award winners, at our third Presentation Dinner at Shaw Lane on 9th November.

When there are winners, there are always losers, and we say goodbye for the time being to Appleby Frodingham and Whiston Parish Church. Appleby Frodingham are inaugural members of our league, and it is only two seasons ago that they challenged Wakefield Thornes in our first title race. They are a good club with a good ground and will be sadly missed – I hope they will be back with us very soon.

In their place, we welcome back our friends at Tickhill, after a season’s absence, and they will be joined by Elsecar, who have finally overcome previous disappointments to achieve promotion to our league. We wish them both well next season.

Our vice-chairman and my fellow representative to the Yorkshire Premier Leagues Management Board, Matt Dixon, is tonight standing down from the committee to devote more time to his family and business. Matt has been a continual source of sound advice over the past four years, as we have planned for and established our league, and he will be missed. Thank you for all you have done, Matt, and best wishes for the future! We are very fortunate to have someone of the calibre of Matt Summerhill to step into these roles.

We have had some difficulties around overseas players this year. The rule introduced last season was not quite right, and we have put forward two alternative to rectify this in 2019. There have also been issues around ‘amateur status’ and we are introducing an Overseas Liaison Officer, Chris Froggett, who will monitor proposed registrations and give advice to clubs.

We have increased the amount of representative cricket that we have played this year, notably for our under 23s. Young players are the future lifeblood of our clubs, and we want them to have the best playing experience that we can. I believe that the players have enjoyed and learned from these games, they have finished the season with a 100% record, and although there are a couple of tweaks that we will make, we will build on this season’s success. I would like to thank Mark Beardshall and Chris Marples for their work with the representative teams this season.

Our new disciplinary processes have proved very effective and overall discipline this season has been very good. We also can be very pleased with the umpires’ fair play markings, which show our teams in a very good light.

So we turn our attentions to the future. To use an old cliché, we must move forward to stand still. The committee has some exciting ideas about how we could move the league forward in the future, and there will be discussions with our other Premier League colleagues, our partner league, the SYSCL, and our clubs, in the coming months. We must also do all we can to encourage our clubs to produce their own players and help them to retain them. Equally importantly, we must also ensure that we continue to improve the standards of our grounds and facilities as we move forward.

There are a number of people whom I would like to thank. First and foremost, our committee. As I have said several times before, they bring a huge amount of cricket knowledge and experience with them, and although they are from diverse backgrounds and have differing views, they invariably pull together for the good of the League. A huge thanks to them all!

Aston Hall, Cleethorpes, Doncaster, Sheffield Collegiate and Treeton have all done a great job in hosting prestige games, whilst Aston Hall and Whitley Hall have kindly hosted our clubs’ meetings. A very big thank you to all of them too!

The game cannot take place without umpires, and my informal chats as I went around our grounds during the season indicated that, by and large, the clubs are very satisfied with the standards of umpiring. So ‘thank you’ to all our umpires, and to David Ward and Simon Widdup for their unstinting administrative work.

Finally, I hope to see as many of you as possible at the dinner – we have a top-class speaker, we will present to our award winners, and three more worthy individuals will be inducted into our Hall of Fame – it should be a great night!!

Roger Pugh
Chairman

Item 2.b – Secretary’s report

After three seasons, it is a good time to take stock and look at where we are as a League. I think that there are two yardsticks. On the field and off the field.

On the field, the standards have improved year on year. This season almost every game mattered to everyone, and it was good to see the intensity that this brought. The quality of overseas players enhanced the quality of cricket played during the summer, but I thought that the League has attracted some good young UK players, and they all played their part,

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 by entering into dialogue and debate, and participating in the decision-making processes. I would like to express my thanks to everyone involved for their contribution and support.

I would like to pay tribute to Matt Dixon, who is standing down as the League vice-chairman, and also from his position on the Yorkshire Leagues Management Board. Matt was instrumental in creating dialogue between all parties during the period when the Yorkshire Pyramid was being formed, and his common sense approach to all issues will be greatly missed.

I would like to thank each and every one of the club officials, who work tirelessly for their clubs behind the scenes – their work is greatly appreciated

Our umpires and scorers are amongst the best in the country; it has been good to see some new umpires this year, and to see the overall progress that has been made by our panel of umpires.

I would like to congratulate Wakefield Thornes on their hat-trick of League Championships – they are a credit to themselves and the League. The way that they won the Premier Leagues Championship final emphasised how strong they really are. Congratulations to Hallam on winning our t20 competition, and to Cleethorpes on winning the under 19s t20 competition. Speaking of the under 19s competition, I would like to thank Andy Tipple for his hard work in organising the competition this season. Congratulations too to all our individual award winners, and I hope to see most of them at the League dinner next month.

I would like to welcome Tickhill and Elsecar into the League, and hope that Appleby Frodingham and Whiston Parish Church will bounce back quickly.

We now aim to carry on the good work that we have done in our first three years into the future, and let us all work together for the good of the game of cricket.

Steve Ward
League secretary

Item 2.c – Fixture secretary’s report

Well what a summer 2018 was! An unprecedented spell of sunshine meant that only 11 fixtures failed to complete during the season; six of those on the final day in September when all issues were already resolved. This compared with 18 matches in 2017 and 33 matches in 2016 – a significant and welcome improvement.

This halcyon summer was just a pipedream back in March, when months of snow had left long suffering ground staff with little opportunity to prepare grounds and the Management Committee took the difficult decision to delay the commencement of the season by one week and hold the opening day fixtures on a Sunday in August.

Unfortunately, due to ground availability, this meant one fixture had to be brought forward one week, and whilst the Management Committee would always wish to see all games played on the same day, flexibility needed to be applied. We understand the difficulties that this caused clubs, players, supporters and families but I still believe that with snow on the ground and only a few weeks to go to the start of the season, we made the correct and sensible decision.

For the first time, our May Bank Holiday Monday fixture programme was scheduled with travel distances in mind, something that we will look to replicate moving forward. Clubs will be divided into three geographical ‘pools’ and the Bank Holiday Monday fixtures randomly generated from those ‘pools’. The Bank Holiday Monday fixture allows the completion of our season in time for the Yorkshire Premier League Play Offs, but we recognise that we need to try and make this fixture as logistically easy as we can.

The Sunday schedule continues to prove challenging with National, Regional and League Cup competitions to squeeze into what is effectively only 20 weeks. This led to some fixture clashes as is inevitable, but my thanks go out to all clubs who were proactive in rearrangement to ensure that all rounds were completed by the required deadline. I do worry however, with my Fixture Secretary hat on, that without the amazing weather we had this season, the sheer number of competitions that our clubs are involved in may have caused significant logistical headaches!

My congratulations go to our Champions and now two-time Yorkshire Champions, Wakefield Thornes. They continue to be a magnificent ambassador for our League. Congratulations also go to Hallam (t20 Winners), Barnsley Woolley Miners (Yorkshire Leagues Knockout Cup runners-up) and Doncaster Town, who reached the National Stage of the ECB Club Championship, before losing to the eventual winners Richmondshire. We are very fortunate that our clubs represent us so well across the cricketing spectrum.

Matt Summerhill
Fixture secretary

Item 3 – Adoption of financial accounts

After a fantastic summer for cricket, due to the best weather we have experienced for many a year, I have to report a small loss on this year's League accounts.

Due to the fact we have not received our promised sponsorship of £3,000 in the 2017/18 financial year, there has been a loss on the year of just under £1,900. Clearly, had the sponsorship been received we would have recorded a small profit. The accounts include £6,000 earmarked for distribution to clubs, whilst we are expecting to receive a minimum of £3,000 ECB monies later in the year.

For next year we have to find a major sponsor or a number of sponsors who will support our various competitions of this great League we all support week in week out, I hope somebody out there might just give us a lead to bring this wish to our notice.

In conclusion, I congratulate all our teams and individual players who have our various trophies, but most of all ! congratulate Wakefield Thornes on winning the League for the third time in our short history, along with competing for the third time in the Yorkshire Premier League Championship final, and winning it for a second time – well done guys!

I submit the 2017/18 accounts for your approval.

Paul M McFarlane
Treasurer

Financial accounts at 30 September 2018

Income & expenditure account

	£		£
Income		Expenditure	
2017 Dinner	3,030.10	2017 dinner	2,708.20
Balls	5,770.70	2018 dinner deposit	200.00
ECB	12,500.00	Balls	6,537.60
Handbook adverts	250.00	Clothing - league	792.71
Sponsorship	-	Committee travel expenses	497.20
YCB - subscriptions	720.00	Donations	135.00
YPLN - KO Cup Final	391.39	ECB payments to clubs	6,000.00
YSPL subscriptions	360.00	Equipment	330.09
		Hall of Fame	65.70
		Handbooks	580.00
		Insurance	364.76
		Meeting rooms	116.00
		Postage & printing	366.88
		Scorers course	131.70
		t20 group stage - expenses	750.00
		t20 finals - expenses	300.00
		Trophies	1,091.92
		Under 19s competition	870.00
		Under 23s games	799.00
		Web domain renewal	7.19
		YCB - subscriptions	720.00
		YCPLMB - subscription	250.00
		Yorkshire Leagues KO Cup Final	829.58
		Yorkshire Premier Leagues Championship final	200.00
		YSPL v YCCC t20 - expenses	252.00
Total	23,022.19	Total	24,895.53
Excess income over expenditure	(1,873.34)		

Balance sheet

Balance at bank at 1 October 2017	9,172.12
Excess income o/expend	(1,873.34)
Total	7,298.78
<i>Represented by</i>	
Balance at bank at 16 September 2018	7,298.78
Debtors	
Total	7,298.78
Less creditors	
Total	7,298.78

Paul McFarlane
Treasurer

Roger Pugh
Chairman
1 October 2018