

THE ALL ROUNDER CRICKET ECB YORKSHIRE SOUTH PREMIER LEAGUE

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Committee meeting – 27th July 2016

Note of the meeting

1 Members present

I.Armiger, M.Beardshall, M.Dixon, A.Harrison, R.Knowles, K.Motley, P.McFarlane, R.Pugh, S.Stoker, R.Tong, S.Ward

2 Apologies

T.Bentham, C Froggett, M.Summerhill

3 Issues from last meeting

- RP has reminded all clubs of the need to complete captains' reports; It was agreed that it was unsatisfactory that the reports were removed from the system if not completed after less than a week – this will be fed into the ECB work on developing new league management systems
- KM is to do a piece of work around which clubs are using the Live Scores system; it was agreed that if clubs were not complying, their money from ECB would be reduced accordingly

4 Financial report

- an up to date financial statement had been distributed, showing a surplus of £630.43; this includes £1,000 from ECB for the under 19s competition, in addition to which, the League has received £6,000 from ECB, which equates to £500 per club
- the club monies will be distributed after the end of the season, once it is known whether any deductions are being made from our performance pay due to compliance failures
- the loans from the three League officials have now been repaid

5 Feedback from Captains Meeting

- suggestions were made that we move to a 12.00 noon start in YSPL, in common with YPLN, and that the 10-minute turnaround time between innings, when tea has been taken early, is inadequate and needs to be increased to 15 minutes; these met with agreement and proposals will be put to the AGM
- the rules on delayed starts and interruptions after the start have caused problems and RP has agreed to look at potential simplification; AH suggested that the rules should be aggregated and a total 'one hour's grace' is allowed for short interruptions both before and after the start

- several issues were raised in relation to umpiring; RP has talked to the SY branch of the ACO about these, and has sent a summary to all panel members; the comments will be used to inform umpires' close-season training

6 Ground Issues

- RP reported that, in response to the concerns expressed last time, Hallam have made significant improvements to the playing area and have put in place definite plans to extend the pavilion and bring it up to the required standards; he recommended that the club be accepted into the League on the basis that the football club facilities would be used for two seasons before the pavilion extension was completed
- several concerns were then raised about the use of the football facilities, the funding for the project, the impact of the building work and potential fixture clashes with the football club; RP agreed to arrange a further visit to Hallam for any committee members to be able to see the facilities at first hand and to discuss any concerns with officials from Hallam CC
- RK raised concerns about the quality of the pitch at Tickhill; RP and AH agreed to investigate and SW will write to Martin Ford at IOG about releasing funds for pitch reports
- RP reported that Michael Heseltine has advised him that the work on the sightscreens at Sheffield & Phoenix United is back on track to be completed by the deadline of 20th August 2016
- RP reported that the facilities and ground at Rotherham Town looked much improved since the 2015 visit, but told the committee that the groundsman, Colin Smith, had heart problems and that the club had advised that they were needing to seek help with ground maintenance

7 Cup Competitions

- RP said that he had contacted Keith Haynes at Treeton, to ask if, in the event that two YPLN clubs were in the J P Plant Trophy final, they would feel that the likely negative effect on the attendance would mean that they would prefer to defer to the following year; after consulting his committee, Keith confirmed that if it could be agreed that the 2017 final would be held at Treeton, they would prefer to defer until then; RP said that he had agreed with Rob Richtering in YPLN that Treeton would host the 2017 final (the 2016 final will now be held at Stamford Bridge), even in the event of Treeton being relegated from YSPL
- it was agreed to set up a small sub-committee at the end of the season to look at how both t20 competitions had worked in 2016, and to make any recommendations for improvement
- MB said that the area finals of the u/19s t20 competition will be held at York on 30th August, which clashes with YSPL fixtures; he said that three, potentially four, of his team could be selected for both games; RP agreed to ask if the t20 finals can be moved, in order to avoid the clash

8 Feedback from ECB Premier League Chairmen's meeting

- RP had circulated the Powerpoint presentation from the meeting to committee members
- RP said that there was considerable concern at ECB about survey findings that indicated a reduction in participation in, and popularity of, cricket; he said that ECB have responded by developing a new strategy, *Cricket Unleashed*, that was fully discussed at the meeting; RP said that he would set up a meeting at the end of the season, at which he would explain the strategy to YSPL and partner league clubs
- RP also referred to a Player Registration presentation that was mainly about visa requirements for players from abroad; he stressed that the onus is on the clubs to ensure that players hold the correct visa as appropriate, and that there were severe financial penalties (up to £10,000) for non-compliance with visa requirements – presentation to be posted on website with these notes

- ECB are developing a new on-line management system under the Play Cricket banner, that will support the running of leagues in a single system – he has offered YSPL involvement in the development process
- the Premier League performance payments are being reviewed and our feedback is being sought; the payments for *Get the Game On* and for pitch reports are likely to be withdrawn, and two new payments for supporting women's cricket and encouraging change in lower/partner leagues are to be considered; the overall amount of money available will remain the same

9 Discipline

- RP had circulated, in advance of the meeting, a full report on the four disciplinary cases that had taken place in the YSPL to date
- RP read out a letter from TB about one case, and a full discussion ensued; the committee unanimously upheld the action taken by the disciplinary sub-committee, which was based on the facts as reported at the time

10 Trophies

- SW agreed to locate the available trophies from the YL and to identify any shortfalls

11 Presentation Evening and Dinner

- RP reported that he had just received the itinerary for the Yorkshire Champions Trophy trip to Abu Dhabi; he said that the party would need to check in at Manchester Airport at 6.00am on the morning after the scheduled dinner
- it was agreed to change the date of the function to Friday 18th November, in order to ensure that our champion club will be able to be fully represented at the dinner

12 Other Business

- RP agreed to write to MCC to ask for a fixture against MCC for a YSPL u/21s XI
- RP said that he had obtained agreement in principle with Rob Richtering to respond to concerns expressed by umpires by reviewing the playing conditions in YPLN and YSPL and proposing solutions to areas of difference (he will feed into this a proposed new simplified rule on time lost from games)

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm – the next meeting will be on 21 September

Follow-up actions

Suggested rule changes (5.1/2). These have been incorporated into the playing conditions review.

Hallam CC (6.1/2). A visit was arranged to Hallam on 4 August. MB, GD, MD and RP attended with officials from Hallam FC and Hallam CC. The facilities were fully inspected and a full discussion took place on the concerns that had been raised:

- Funding – GD assured us that the pavilion project has ECB/YCB priority status and that there should be no problem with the required funding being available
- dressing rooms – the football dressing rooms, which would be used on a temporary basis until the new extended pavilion is available, were examined; both home and away dressing rooms are of a more than acceptable standard; there is an excellent officials' room; the distance from the pitch is not excessive and will not be an issue in the short term
- 'staging post' – as there is no view of the playing area from the dressing rooms, Hallam have agreed to provide a

suitable covered area between the dressing rooms and the playing area, to which the batting side can take their batting gear and watch the play

- teas and bar – the football club facilities are available for teas and for social purposes after the game
- timescales – if the funding is available in time, work will start at the beginning of August 2017 and should be finished in time for the start of the 2018 season (although we understand that slippage is possible in any building project), whilst if the funding is not available in time for a 2017 start, work will start at the start of August 2018 for the 2019 season (the reason for the August start is because the junior season will have finished by then, and a lot of the heavy work can be done before the ground gets very wet)
- disruption – most of the heavy deliveries will be lifted over the wall behind the pavilion, which will significantly reduce the risk of damage to the playing areas (a digger will need to be driven around the edge of the playing area, but this should not cause a problem when the ground is dry)
- football – Hallam assure us that there is a very good relationship between the football club and the cricket club (the football club chairman was again present to welcome us and show us round) and there will be no issues in terms of fixture clashes; the co-operation is evidenced by the fact that the football club responded to our 2015 report by working on the outfield at the football end, and this is now vastly improved from our 2015 inspection

Tickhill (6.3) We are assured that the recent problems are the result of the square being incorrectly treated. Mark Pearson and Alan Kettleborough will be working on the ground at the end of the season and are confident that the problem will be eliminated for next season.

Under 19s area finals (7.3). RP wrote to the u/19s finals organiser Richard Wilkinson, who advised that it would not be possible to rearrange the finals day. MS proposed that, as the Barnsley team is representing the YSPL, they be given permission to rearrange their league fixture on 30th August, in order to ensure that players are not deprived of the opportunity to play in the finals. This was unanimously agreed by the committee (MB was not involved in this decision). The committee then debated whether league championship points would be awarded for the game, if weather prevents play in all other games on the original date (noting that a principle is being set for the future). It was decided that any points won in the rearranged game will count in the league table because:

- weather conditions could prevent play in the rearranged game just as easily as on the original date – it is a matter of luck either way
- it would be wrong to deprive the team that have not sought the rearrangement of any points earned
- as a league, we are signed up to the ECB *Get the Game On* campaign – there would be no incentive to play the game if, by the time it is played, it is known that no further league points could be earned

BCC and SPUCC have been advised of this decision.

Letter from TB (9.2). RP advised TB that his letter had been read, but that the original decision would stand.

Presentation dinner (11.2). The dinner has been rearranged for 18 November, and a letter issued to all clubs.

MCC fixture (12.1). The fixture has been requested and an acknowledgement received. We will be advised if we have been successful in due course.

Review of playing conditions (12.2). The review is now well advanced. When it is complete, it will be sent to Rob Richtering and copied to committee members for information.