



# Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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## Premier Section Cricket Committee

14<sup>th</sup> meeting – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – 7.30pm by Zoom

### Note of Meeting

Present: Roger Pugh (chair), Mark Beardshall, Chris Froggett, Nick Kendall, Bryan Lowe, Steve Ward

Apologies: Mick Forrester

1. **Welcome & apologies.** Apologies were received from Mick Forrester.
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** RP had provided an update on action points. He had carried out his actions and the others were to be covered in the agenda.
3. **Co-option of Nick Kendall.** Nick has now attended two meetings since expressing interest in filling the vacancy left by Chris Cobb, and has said that he would like to join the committee. RP said that he could be co-opted now and ratified at the AGM. This was agreed.
4. **Equity & Diversity update.** Carried forward in JB's absence.
5. **Overseas players.** There has been no update from ECB on the paid permitted engagement (PPE) route of entry for overseas professionals. CF clarified that it is a police check that in the home country that is required, for consistency with those on the ISP route – **RP to remind DW to raise at the PL chairs meeting.**
6. **Ball trials**
  - i. RP provided some feedback from the captains' meeting. The Dukes ball seems to be the preferred option, being harder and retaining its shape better, although there has been some comment that it is too heavily laquered and the bowlers find it more difficult to swing. NK said that Treeton preferred the Dukes ball.
  - ii. RP said that the full feedback will be collated after the completion of trials, some of which were delayed by the weather, and the options, with costs, put to PS clubs for vote at the AGM.
7. **Premier Leagues Management Board**
  - i. RP updated the committee on the latest communication from Alan Birkinshaw about a meeting with YCSPL. This says that, 'we are assuming that the main reason for the meeting is to discuss Roger's position so unfortunately, we do not feel that is appropriate now.' He further comments that the main focus for Chris West and himself is on the response to the ICEC report, and that 'we would not wish to do anything that might be considered as compromising that work.'
  - ii. It was agreed that this is an incorrect assumption. The failure to communicate and consult on the New Farnley issue, also raised at the captains' meeting, and the Streethouse move to the Bradford League, are equally important. It appears that the PLMB do not consider that it is necessary to involve our league in decision-making. MB said that we should keep a record of our concerns.

- iii. RP said that DW had written back, expressing understanding of the PLMB position in relation to their workload, and asking for understanding of ours, and for an assurance that the meeting will take place before our AGM. The committee will be kept informed.

## 8. Cleethorpes' withdrawal from the T20 Blast

- i. MB said that BWMCC had been disappointed by the withdrawal and that JB was to advise CCC of the costs incurred.
- ii. There was a discussion about whether the T20 Blast and K3 Dental competitions should be on an 'opt in' basis, and it was agreed that as Premier Division clubs, participation in both was expected. RP said that this view was reflected by the captains at their meeting.
- iii. There was a full discussion, in which the comments made by Paul Hewstone at CCC, and the merits of different sanctions, were considered. It was agreed that CCC:
  - will not be allowed to enter any YCSPL T20 competition in 2024 and 2025
  - will not be considered to host any YCSPL finals between 2024 and 2027 inclusive
  - be fined £500, which will be used for the good of Premier Division clubs
  - must reimburse any expenses incurred by BWMCC in connection with the T20 semi-final
- iv. The issue of restructuring the Premier Division to ten clubs, which would allow for a Saturday T20 competition, along the same organisational lines as last year, was discussed. It was agreed that the intention to discuss restructure for 2025 should be put to the clubs at the AGM. **RP to action.**

## 9. Umpire recruitment. RP had circulated his Umpire Recruitment & Retention Strategy paper, on which he has already had a couple of comments that he intends to incorporate. There was a general discussion, in which the following points were made:

- i. SW believes that there are too many layers of bureaucracy, ie, the ACO, the SY ACO Branch, the YPLUA and the SYCUA. He also said that a Premier League umpire has to pay three separate subscriptions, to the AOCO, YPLUAS and SYCUA. BL said that a YPLUA umpire has only to pay a sub to the YPLUA and does not have to pay to the SYCUA – although some choose to.
- ii. CF had been speaking to two umpires who said that there was poor communication between the two umpires' associations, and sometimes mixed messages to members. RP had raised this with Paul McFarlane, who said it was not the case, because three SYCUA committee members were on the YPLUA committee. **RP to go back to PM to emphasise that it is the perception of some of his members, and that it needs to be addressed.**
- iii. The benefits members get from their subscriptions was questioned. It was agreed that the main benefit of the ACO sub is insurance; whilst the SYCUA sub pays for the cost of meetings, training courses, etc. BL quoted figures for putting on the new laws training in the last close season, which included payments to clubs for facilities. There was considerable concern about this, as several clubs, including BWMCC, Wakefield Thornes and two Whiston clubs, would gladly make facilities available and charge only for food and refreshments. **RP agreed to raise with PM.**
- iv. BL referred to the cost of kit, and SW said that some umpires needed to have seven different kits, for different competitions. RP said that this should not be the case – the YCSPL makes no stipulation about what kit an umpire should wear. He said that he had always had the view that when coloured kit was being worn by players, and a pink ball used, the umpires stand out better if wearing the traditional white. **RP to follow up.**
- v. CF said that he would be happier making the levy payment if it went to an 'umpires development fund', to be used to support new umpires. **RP to include in the strategy.**
- vi. RP referred to the comments by AH, in which he said that rule complexity was an issue that is off-putting for potential umpires, and that he had offered to be part of a small working group to look at rules and remove complexities. **RP said he agreed with this, and he would include in the strategy.**
- vii. SW said that whilst scoring in the South-East, he had seen publicity for 'umpires' open days' which involve a recruitment marquee at big games. **RP agreed to include this idea in the strategy too.**

- viii. RP said that the ECB had taken an active interest in the strategy and that he had been involved in correspondence with David Elworthy on the subject. The ACO Officials Development Officer for the North, John Farrell, is now involved, and will be having a video meeting with RP and PM.

10. **Other business**

- i. *Player qualification for later stages of the cup & T20 competitions.* Following a recent complaint, RP proposed that we introduce a rule to require players to have played a minimum number of games for a team in order to play for that team in the semi-finals/final of the cup and T20 competitions. This was agreed in principle. **RP to draft wording for a suitable rule.**
- ii. *Trophy naming.* New trophies had been purchased for the Premier Division championship and T20 Blast winners. RP said that he believed that trophies should be named after our Hall of Fame inductees. It was agreed that the former would be '*the Bill Croft Trophy*' but the decision on naming the T20 trophy will be deferred. It was proposed that new trophies should be purchased for the Premier division batting, bowling and all-rounder prizes, the latter two to be '*the Nick Cowan Trophy*' and '*the Steve Foster Trophy*'.
- iii. *Cup competitions.* SW gave an update on the state of play in the YCSPL cup and national T20 competitions.

11. **Close.** The meeting closed at 9.40pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5 September by Zoom.