



# Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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## Premier Section Cricket Committee

17<sup>th</sup> meeting – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 7.30pm by Zoom

### Note of Meeting

Present: Roger Pugh (chair), Mark Beardshall, Jason Booth, Chris Froggett, Mick Forrester, Alex Fletcher, Nick Kendall, Bryan Lowe, Steve Ward

- Welcome & apologies.** RP welcomed everyone and said that he very much appreciated the 100% turn-out.
- Matters arising from last meeting.** RP said that there all action points were cleared with the exception of the following:
  - SW's issue about money paid to the PLMB for the play-offs; this would be covered later in the agenda
  - MF's question about umpires' fees; he had now confirmed that these would be the same as last year and that he had posted these on the website
- Ground fitness issues.** There was a general consensus that, because groundsmen have been unable to do the required work on grounds due to the wet weather, many may be unable to host games on the opening day of the season. It was agreed that RP would contact Premier Section clubs in w/c 1 April to check on their readiness for play. Clubs would be asked to complete a form produced in conjunction with the GMA to self-assess the state of their ground readiness. AH pointed out that if the decision was made to move the first weekend's fixtures to the reserve date, this should also apply in the Senior Section; otherwise, damage could be done to Premier Section grounds by second teams playing on them. **RP to raise at LEB and to liaise with GMA and produce and distribute a form to clubs in w/c 1 April.**
- Equity & Diversity update.** JB said that the advert for new members had been produced and sent to YCB for their input several weeks ago. No response has been received yet.
- Overseas players**
  - CF had circulated details of a club request to register a Bermudan player as a Category 1 England-eligible player. It was agreed that the player cannot be registered as Category 1 because he has not shown proof of residence in the UK for 210 days in the 12-month period preceding the end of March. **CF to advise the club accordingly.**
  - CF referred to an application to register an asylum seeker, about whose documentation he was not completely satisfied. His concerns had heightened when the club told him that the player had played in the League last season under an assumed name. The committee were agreed that the player could not be registered unless further investigation showed that he was a bona fide asylum seeker and had not committed any registration transgressions in 2023. **RP & CF to investigate further.**
  - RP said that a committee member had contacted him to raise a concern that one club had indicated they were to engage an overseas professional who was to be replaced by another before 30 June. He thought this infringed the new rule that says that replacements can only be made where a player is required to return home early by his home governing body. RP clarified that the latter stipulation applies only to replacements after 30 June and before 14 August. The rule allowing replacements before 30 June was brought in under the Yorkshire League in 2007 and there has never been any restriction on the

circumstances when a replacement can be allowed. He said that the club have done nothing wrong under the current rules, but that if the committee were unhappy with the rule allowing such replacement, we need to look at a revision for 2025. The view of the committee was overwhelmingly that they were not happy with planned replacements of this nature. **RP agreed to speak to the club to make the committee's views known, and to draft a revised rule for consideration.**

6. **Play-offs.** RP said that just before the meeting, David Ward had forwarded him an email from Alan Birkinshaw, saying that:

*'The Yorkshire Premier Leagues play-offs will be played in their existing format for 2024. This means semi-finals on Saturday, September 21 and a final on Saturday, September 28.*

'Semi-Finals:

*'Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League v Bradford Premier League  
North Yorkshire South Durham v Yorkshire Premier League North*

Final:

*'I will be exploring the availability of York and Scarborough and will provide a further update once I have responses from the respective venues.'*

RP asked if anyone had any issue with York or Scarborough, and all were content. RP said that if neither were available, one of the other three leagues should be asked to host, bearing in mind that Bradford hosted last year. MB said that it would be very difficult for a club to host on 28 September, given the need to start close season work on the ground by then. RP agreed, but said that if it came to it, clubs should be given the opportunity. **RP to feed back to David Ward.**

#### 7. **Raising standards**

- RP said that whilst he personally supported a reduction in clubs in the Premier Section Divisions from 12 to 10, he knew from conversations with some committee members that there was significant opposition to the idea. Given the fairly hostile response he got when he floated the idea at LEB, he felt that we could only progress the idea if there was a clear majority of the committee in favour, and he did not believe that was the case.
- CF said that he saw that proposal not in isolation but only as part of a package of measures aimed at driving up standards. JB suggested that we should draw up a list of criteria and score the clubs against it, in order to assess which areas we need to focus on. CF & RP said that there were already criteria used within the League to assess facilities and standards, as well as the Premier league criteria, so it would not be a case of starting from scratch. **RP to draw up a list for discussion at the next meeting.**

8. **Other business.** RP reported that David Ward has been following up the non-payment of the second instalment of ECB monies (the performance-related element). Apparently, ECB have paid the money into the wrong bank account, and have been trying to recover it. MB said that was their mistake, not ours, and the money should now be paid irrespective of whether it is recovered. RP to raise at LEB next week.

9. **Close.** The meeting closed at 9.10pm. The next meeting is arranged for Wednesday 15 May (7.30pm).