



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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Premier Section Cricket Committee

1st meeting – Monday 18 January – 7.30pm by Zoom

Note of Meeting

Present: Mark Beardshall (chair), Alex Fletcher, Mick Forrester, Chris Froggett, Bryan Lowe, Matt Summerhill (for item 3), Andrew Tipple (observer), Steve Ward

Apologies: Chris Cobb, Andy Harrison

- 1 **Welcome.** MB welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the YCSPL Premier section cricket committee.
- 2 **Committee roles.** SW briefly described the structure of the new league, and the committee's role in it, and said that it was intended that all members of the committee should have specific roles. As Head of the Section, General Manager, and Compliance Manager respectively, MB, SW & CF already have roles that also involve their attendance at the League Executive Board (LEB). SW proposed that the roles for the other committee members would be to represent the Premier Section on League sub-committees as follows:

Disciplinary:	Chris Cobb
Events (chair):	Alex Fletcher
Honours:	Mick Forrester
Ground inspections:	Andy Harrison

Bryan Lowe will serve as the umpires' representative and as the link with the Senior Section cricket committee, of which he is also a member. These roles were agreed, subject to SW's follow-up discussions with CC and AH.

MS clarified his position, saying that as League Chairman he intended to sit in from time to time on both this meeting and that of the Senior Section, but that he did not plan to be at every meeting. On this occasion he would attend for item 3 only.

- 3 **YCSPL update.** MS gave a brief update covering the following issues:
 - *ECB call.* There will be an ECB Premier Leagues chairmen's call on Wednesday this week, and he will feed back on any pertinent discussions.
 - *Funding.* The YCSPL Premier League funding for 2021 is £12,250 – subject to a substantial season being played. This is both the maximum allowed for any PL this year, and significantly more than would have been payable to the YSPL as a 'stand-alone' league. It is hoped that there will be an increase in future years, depending on TV money received by ECB. 75% of the money is on a 'fixed fee' basis and 25% is performance-related. The fixed fee criteria will be for Premier League priorities for 2021, which should be known by the end of January; and the performance-related criteria will be known by the end of March. Once these are known, decisions can be made on how the funding will be used by the league and distributed to clubs. In discussion, SW said that the payment to each club over the last ten years has been £500. CF commented that one of the main original purposes of the PL funding was to provide a contribution to the additional costs of running a Premier League team.

- *Royal London Cup*. The draw for the 2021 RLC will be carried over from the competition not played in 2020. The four YCSPL representatives are Barnsley WM, Doncaster Town, Elsecar and Sheffield Collegiate. In future years, our four allocated places will be offered to the clubs that finish in the top four places in the Premier Division. If any club does not wish to participate, their place will be offered to the next club in the table.
- *Covid*. MS expected that the impact of Covid on the 2021 season and overseas players would be discussed on Wednesday's call. He will feed back on any information received.
- *Diversity & inclusivity group*. The D&I group has now met twice, and very positive discussions have taken place. At the group's next meeting, they will nominate a chair (who will sit on the LEB) and will decide whether to change the name of the group. MS suggested that a representative be invited to sit on this committee, as well as one on the Senior Section committee. This was agreed. *[Note that the group will henceforth be known as the Equality & Diversity group]*

The membership of the group is Jason Booth (Barnsley WM), Shaaq Choudhry (Sheffield Collegiate), Afraz Khan (Allama Iqbal Sunday League), Irfan Mirza (Rotherham Town), Milton Samuels (Caribbean), Nelson Windle (Whitley Hall), Aneela Khalil-Khan (Sheffield Collegiate).

- *Sponsorship*. MS said that he wanted to get the message out to clubs that we wanted their help in finding sponsors for the different divisions and cup. If we can cover all of these on a sliding scale between around £2,000 and £350 we can bring in £11,000, which equates to a single major sponsorship. If clubs can do the initial groundwork, the League can take over and hopefully reach agreement. The club finding the sponsor will receive a 15% of the sponsorship as a reward for their efforts. There are a couple of discussions ongoing with potential sponsors at present, and a website item, publicised on SM, will be prepared to encourage clubs to help. AF and AT were proposed for a League sponsorship sub-committee if one is to be set up.

4 **Playing conditions**. The draft Premier Section playing conditions had been circulated for approval. These are based on last year's YSPL playing conditions, subsequently amended by the merger working party, and updated to reflect minor issues since. These were agreed.

5 Covid implications for 2021

- MB said that the plan is to play a full normal season, and whilst it is too early to make decisions on any adaptations necessary due to the Covid situation, it would be prudent to think about what we will do in the event of the season being delayed; individual matches being cancelled due to Covid issues; or on-field protocols potentially adding to the time taken for overs to be bowled.
- CF said that he had initiated discussions at his club about whether, if the start was delayed, players would prefer to sacrifice Sunday cup competitions in order to get the League campaign completed. MB said that these were the sort of issues that clubs would need to be asked, and decided upon, if the situation arises. There are still three months before the start of the season, and he encouraged members to seek views and think about 'what ifs' in order that decisions could be made at a subsequent meeting if necessary.
- MB said that if ball cleaning and sanitising did need to take place, there must be multiple stations provide for this, in order to minimise delays.

6 Overseas players

- CF said that clubs are asking questions about whether there will be overseas players in 2021. He felt that it was too early to make decisions in the context of the ever-changing picture. Based on last season's events, he did not expect any steer from ECB on the issue – they can only operate within the wider travel guidelines.
- CF said that over 200 overseas players were still registered last season – albeit a substantial reduction in the norm. He said that ECB had hinted at their views in saying that they would not look kindly on clubs obtaining emergency funding and then engaging an overseas player, but as far as he was aware this had not been followed up on.

- On the wider issue of ECB guidance on overseas players, CF said that the ECB rules on their website are as last season, with the minor change that the qualifying period for overseas professionals of five first class matches in 24 months, has been increased to 36 months to reflect events over the last year.
- MB understood that the intentions of clubs on engaging overseas players in 2021 were broadly split between those that wanted to press ahead with getting an overseas and those that did not. The important issue is that clubs make the right decisions for their futures, based on their financial positions.

7 **Schedule of meetings.** SW had circulated the schedule of meetings, including the Premier Section committee dates. These will continue to take place on Mondays at 7.30 by Zoom unless otherwise notified, the next being on 15 February.

8 Other business

- *2021 award-winners.* AF volunteered to organise an awards ceremony by Zoom for the 2020 winners. He could organise a guest speaker and put something on at short notice. MF suggested that this could be used as a 'lead in' to the 2021 season. SW agreed to help.
- *Hall of Fame.* There followed a discussion about the Hall of Fame, including whether it would continue in its present format, the criteria for nomination, future nominations, etc. BL pointed out that this is covered on the [Hall of Fame page](#) on the website.
- *Documents for comment.* SW said that he would circulate the latest versions of the Ground & facilities and Key Facts documents, and would welcome any feedback by next Monday please.
- *Clubmark.* SW said that there are to be changes to Clubmark. News of the new system is imminent. It should not be an issue for clubs already accredited – the changes will have more effect for new applicants. It will be the responsibility of the League to monitor on an ongoing basis. SW will cover this action for Premier Section clubs.
- *Play-Cricket.* The new site for YCSPL will be fully open very soon. There will be an announcement on the League website.
- *Scoring requirements.* SW is currently undertaking an audit of Premier Section clubs, focusing primarily on DLS and live scores. A new version of DLS (v4) is to be used this year.
- *Captain's reports.* MB said that David Ward had raised the question of the need for captains' reports and outfield markings. SW to check with ECB whether captains' reports are still required.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Addendum

Main points from the ECB Chairs' call 20 January 2021

- ECB are keen that as full a season as possible takes place – funding is dependent on this. ECB will be in continuous liaison with DCMS.
- Each League should formulate their own contingency plan for Covid impact.
- Premier League accreditation criteria will now be published in February rather than January.
- A new Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) has been introduced. Clubs must be compliant by 31 July. Game-wide insurance is available through SHMS.
- The New Code of Conduct for on- and off-field behaviour is to be launched. Compliance will be mandatory for Premier League accreditation.
- The tier 5 procedures for overseas professionals, including sponsors licences, continue and now include the EU, but not Ireland.
- A review of Play-Cricket categories is ongoing. An update is expected in February.

Next call – 17 February 2021 (4pm)