



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

www.ycspl.co.uk

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Shaw Lane Sports Club, Shaw Lane, Barnsley S70 6HZ

7.00pm start

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Reports
 - a. Chairman's report
 - b. Treasurer's report
 - c. Head of Premier Section's report
 - d. Head of Senior Section's report
 - e. Competitions Manager's report
 - f. Compliance Manager's report
 - g. Disciplinary report
 - h. Equity & Diversity Group report
 - i. Participation Manager's report
 - j. Safeguarding Manager's report
 - k. YCB report
- 3 Adoption of financial accounts
- 4 Finances 2023
- 5 Changes to constitution & rules
- 6 Election of League officials for 2023/24
- 7 Officials' recruitment & retention strategy
- 8 Play-Cricket registration removals
- 9 Roles & responsibilities of captains
- 10 Any other business allowed by the chairman
- 11 Close of AGM

Item 3: Financial accounts

Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

Income and Expenditure Account Year Ended 30 September 2023

| | 2021/22 (£) | 2022/23 (£) |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Income: | | |
| Cricket ball orders | 53,869 | 56,509 |
| ECB Donation | 12,334 | 16,087 |
| Sponsorship | 5,124 | 7,975 |
| Subscriptions | 12,065 | 12,065 |
| Penalties | 3,406 | 7,050 |
| Handbook advertising | | 825 |
| Merchandise | 5 | |
| Presentation Evening | 8,400 | 9,303 |
| Bank interest | 2 | 132 |
| Total income | 95,205 | 109,946 |
| Expenditure: | | |
| Cricket ball purchases (See Note 1 below) | 49,937 | 56,047 |
| YCB affiliation fees | 3,160 | 3,140 |
| ECB Club Funding | 8,500 | 10,211 |
| Presentation Evening | 10,121 | 7,966 |
| Presentation Evening 2023 - advance payment | | 500 |
| Awards and Trophies | 1,347 | 1,164 |
| Merchandise | | 680 |
| Development Grants Awarded | | 3,250 |
| Cup final expenses | 3,259 | 3,158 |
| Cup final medals | 2,462 | 1,626 |
| League expenses | 5,447 | 5,382 |
| Officials expenses | 2,240 | 2,643 |
| Honoraria | 1,500 | 1,700 |
| Donation to SY Umpires Ass'n | 240 | 750 |
| Website / Zoom | 851 | 833 |
| Administration | 362 | 1,551 |
| Total expenditure | 89,425 | 100,601 |
| Surplus of income over expenditure | 5,779 | 9,345 |
| 2022/23 Summary: | | |
| Opening bank balances 1 Oct 2022 | | 47,459 |
| Surplus of income over expenditure (above) | | 9,345 |
| | | 56,804 |
| Closing bank balances 30 Sep 2023: | | |
| Current account | | 32,028 |
| Deposit account: | | |
| Development Fund | | 2,844 |
| Contingency Fund | | 21,932 |
| | | 56,804 |

Note 1 - Stock of cricket balls as at 30 Sep 2023 is valued at £1293. The expenditure figure shown above has not been adjusted for this.

Checked and found correct

John Wilson ACMA,CGMA, FinstLM

Item 4: Finances 2024

1. Subscriptions per team for 2024 (including any YCB fees):

- Premier & Championship - £105 per team
- Divisions 1 & 2 - £100 per team
- Divisions 3 to 6 - £95 per team
- Divisions 7 to 9 - £90 per team

2. Cricket ball costs 2024:

Tiflex:

- Red Windsor - £21.00
- Pink Windsor - £28.20
- Pink Magna - £15.60

Readers:

- Sovereign - £18
- League Special - £13
- County Pink - £10
- Red Youth - £10.80

3. The 2022 AGM approved £1,600 in honoraria, to be distributed as agreed by the LEB. For 2023, we propose the same payments as made in 2022, with two minor amendments as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Mick Bocking | Disciplinary officer | £200 |
| • Melvyn Bond | Play-Cricket manager | £400 (increase from £350) |
| • Ashley Boothman | Treasurer | £250 |
| • Lindsay Pepper | Safeguarding officer | £200 |
| • Linzey Scothern | Trophy steward | £200 |
| • Steve Taylor | IT support manager | £200 |
| • Neil Vaughan | Disciplinary adjudicator | £300 (increase from £200) |
| | <hr/> | |
| | Total | £1,750 |

Item 5: Changes to rules

Administrative rules. The League Executive Board has approved a number of amendments to the League Administrative rules for 2024. For information only, and not for voting at AGM, the main changes are as follows:

1 *Amendment to rule 13.iii to specify that all monies due to the League should be paid within **14** days of the date of the invoice. [previously 21 days]*

2 *New rule 19.iv covering religious festivals as follows:*

The YCSPL respects the implications of significant religious festivals. If a fixture will clash with such a festival and a club is going to be significantly depleted, rearrangement will be permitted. A club wishing to rearrange under this rule should, in the first instance, contact their opposition and, if possible, reach agreement about playing the game on a mutually convenient date outside the religious festival period. In the event of no agreement being reached between the clubs, the league will work with the Equity & Diversity Group and any other relevant parties to ensure that the request is dealt with as fairly as possible. We encourage all clubs to be flexible and accede to requests of this nature, and advise that the opposing club should be given priority in providing two dates convenient to them on which the game can be re-arranged. Where the two clubs cannot agree on rearrangement, the following principles will apply:

- a. religious festivals are those widely recognised within a particular religion, not family festivals such as weddings;
- b. 'significantly depleted' will be defined as 'missing four or more regular players from a specific team because they are observing the festival and unable to play any cricket on that day', ie, in addition to any other players who may be missing for other reasons of unavailability;
- c. where a club has more than one team in the League, consideration should be given to rearranging a second, or lower, team game;
- d. where no rearrangement is agreed and, as a result of the unavailability of players due to the festival, a club will be unable to fulfil a fixture, the lowest division fixture should be cancelled (unless there are less than four players from the lower team who have played six or more games at the higher level)
- e. in any fixture cancelled under this rule, two points will be awarded to each side;
- f. when a game is re-arranged, if there is no result in 75% or more games in that division on the original date, then the re-arranged match will also be regarded as an abandoned game;
- g. in order not to disadvantage the opposition, if ground and weather conditions would, in all probability, have allowed the game to be played on the original date, but there is no result on the rearranged date, it may be rearranged again, but once only;
- h. if a club needs support when they believe a request is not being managed appropriately, they should contact the Equity & Diversity Group.

3 *Three changes to rule 37 about overseas players as follows:*

To include under 'overseas professionals', players who enter the country on the **Permitted Paid Employment (PPE) visa** and to require those players on PPE visas to provide verification of DBS and police checks (as already required for players on ISP visas)

To add two new categories of overseas players as follows:

- ii. **Refugees/asylum seekers**, who will be allowed to play in the league without restriction, and will be exempt from the overseas player registration cut-off, subject to:
 - Home Office verification of their refugee/asylum seeker status
 - their not meeting the playing qualification criteria for Tier 5 Overseas Professionals
 - players granted 'refugee status' or 'leave to remain in the UK' may be paid to play, but an asylum seeker who is awaiting a decision on his status cannot be paid
- ii. **Overseas students**, who will be allowed to play without restriction

4 *Two amendments to rule 38 in respect of replacement overseas players*

- i. An amendment to clarify that a replacement of an overseas player with a second team overseas player at the start of the season **is allowed only to replace one who has not yet arrived in the country.**

- ii. A new provision to **allow for a replacement overseas player if a team's registered overseas player returns home early to play in a competition sanctioned by the home nations governing body** and accordingly evidenced to the compliance manager; the **deadline** for replacements under this rule will be **14 August**.

5 *Clarification in rule 53.ii that:*

Across the whole league, if for any reason, a team in a promotion position will not take their place in the higher division, they will only be replaced by the next-placed team where that team finishes within no more than **12** points of the team in the second promotion position.

6 *New rule 53.vi:*

Specifying that to be eligible to play in Division 2 or above, a club must have a minimum of **two** Saturday teams.

7 *Amendment to rule 56 to specify that:*

Applications to join the YCSPL from new clubs must be accompanied by a **£100 bond**, which will be returned on the satisfactory completion of the probationary period.

Playing conditions. The following proposals have been made by the LEB and Section committees and are subject to voting:

1 *New rule 5.v for voting by Senior Section clubs, aimed at ensuring that games finish at a reasonable time where DLS is not in operation:*

'Where there have been stoppages due to weather, **play can continue until 19.50 in games of 46 overs per side, and until 19.00 in 40-over games.** After these cut-off times, play will cease at the end of the over in progress, unless a result is achieved before then.'

2 *Amendment to rule 13.i for voting by Premier Section clubs:*

To **remove** the 30 minutes before overs start being deducted.

3 *Amendment to 13.v for voting by all clubs, aimed at increasing flexibility to reduce overs before the start:*

To allow overs to be reduced before the start, where bad weather is forecast, and a reduced over game of a minimum of **20** overs to be played; **if captains cannot agree on the reduced overs, the status quo will apply.**

4 *New rules 19.i & ii for voting by Senior Section clubs, to introduce DLS in Divisions 1 & 2 and aimed at facilitating a result being achieved win non-DLS games*

- i DLS operation – **to stipulate that DLS will be used to determine results in Divisions 1 & 2**, in addition to the Premier Section
- ii To provide that in the Senior Section Divisions 3 to 9, where the allotted overs cannot be bowled in the second innings, provided that at least 20 overs have been bowled, **the result will be determined by comparing the score at the end of the last completed over before play ceased in the second innings with the score after the same number of overs in the first innings.** If the scores are equal at that point, the result will be a tie.

5 *Amendments to rule 19 for voting by all clubs, aimed at increasing incentives to play by increasing losing bonus points, and reducing incentives not to play by reducing points awarded in no result games:*

- **two** points for both sides in any game where a result cannot be achieved
- bonus points for the losing side based on their second innings performance:
 - a. batting
 - **six** points for scoring **90%** of the total of the side batting first
 - **four** points for scoring **75%**
 - **two** points for scoring **60%**
 - b. bowling
 - **six** points for taking **eight** wickets
 - **four** points for taking **six** wickets
 - **two** points for taking **four** wickets

6 **Amendments to rule 19 for voting by all clubs, aimed at increasing bonus points available in games where the overs are reduced:**

- In games decided by DLS, the batting percentages will be based on the actual score as a percentage of the DLS par score at the conclusion of the game; and bowling points will be based on the actual number of wickets taken
- where DLS is not used, the batting percentages will be based on the countback score (19.ii), and bowling points will be based on the actual number of wickets taken

Proposed bonus point scale (will need to be adjusted if amendment 5 above not passed)

| Minimum wickets taken | Minimum overs bowled (50 over games) | | | Minimum overs bowled (46 over games) | | | Minimum overs bowled (40 over games) | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|
| | 20 | 30 | 40 | 20 | 29 | 37 | 20 | 27 | 33 |
| 8 | 6 pts | 6 pts | 6 pts | 6 pts | 6 pts | 6 pts | 6 pts | 6 pts | 6 pts |
| 6 | 6 pts | 5 pts | 4 pts | 6 pts | 5 pts | 4 pts | 6 pts | 5 pts | 4 pts |
| 4 | 4 pts | 3 pts | 2 pts | 4 pts | 3 pts | 2 pts | 4 pts | 3 pts | 2 pts |
| 2 | 2 pts | 1 pts | 0 pts | 2 pts | 1 pts | 0 pts | 2 pts | 1 pts | 0 pts |

7 **Rule about cancellations, for voting by all clubs (replacing current administrative rule 18 and amended as shown):**

- Clubs must take all possible action to ensure that games are played, covering the pitch, repairing used wicket ends, covering run-ups and any vulnerable areas in the days before the game, and using drying equipment where necessary. **Where bad weather is forecast, covering should take place at least three days prior to a game.**
- If, having taken all possible action to prepare and protect the pitch and surrounding areas, and taking into account the ground conditions and weather forecast, the home club believes that the prospect of play is remote, they should make verbal contact with the visitors (it is not acceptable to just leave or send a message), no less than three hours (Premier Section) or four hours (Senior Section) before the scheduled start time. At that stage:
 - the clubs may agree to cancel the game; *or*
 - agreement may be reached to delay a decision for up to three hours; *or*
 - where there is no agreement;
 - the home side may insist that the fixture is not cancelled and that the visitors must travel. Should they do so and there is subsequently no play, they will be liable to pay a maximum of **£250** to cover the cost of umpires' fees and visitors' travel expenses; *or*
 - the visiting side may insist that the fixture is not cancelled and that they will travel. Should they do so and there is subsequently no play, they will be liable to pay a maximum of **£250** to cover the cost of umpires' fees and all teas. This liability will not apply where, in the opinion of the umpires, the pitch, surrounding areas or run-ups have not been adequately covered, when the home team will be liable for all such expenses.
- In addition to the above, **where the visiting club believe that the home club have not taken all reasonable steps to get the game on, they should report the circumstances to the relevant Section Head.** This report should be accompanied by all available evidence, including a report from the match umpires. Prior to reporting, it is advisable for a member of the visiting club to visit the ground to assess the state of the playing area. The home club will be asked to provide evidence of whatever action they had taken to get the game on. Where the relevant section committee believe that, on the balance of probability, the home club have not made adequate efforts to get the game on, the game may be awarded to the opposition, and/or penalties applied under administrative rule 13.
- When a game is in doubt, it is the responsibility of the home club to keep the match umpires apprised of any decisions made under ii above.** If a game is cancelled, the home club is responsible for verbally notifying both umpires and the relevant umpires appointments officer without delay
- In the Premier Section, clubs must have:**
 - adequate covering to protect the pitch, run-ups and any vulnerable areas on the square**
 - at least one squeegee, waterhog, or similar machine for removing surface water**
 - suitable matting to be used to cover any small unplayable areas on the square during play**
 - adequate brushes, towels and sawdust**

Cup & T20 competitions rules. The following proposals have been made by the LEB and Section committees and are subject to voting:

Addition to 14.iv (T20 Blast & Plate semi-finals and finals days) for voting by Premier Section clubs:

Wherever possible, there will be a **one-hour break between the two games** to enable proper preparation prior to the Blast final.

Addition to 21 (Player eligibility) for voting by all clubs:

To play in a semi-final or final of any League cup or T20 competition for a specific team, a player must have already played in a minimum number of league games for that team in the current season as follows; three (semi-final) or five (final); except in the case of bona fide club players who may be promoted from a lower team.

New rule on failure to field a team for voting by all clubs:

A club entered in any League cup or T20 competition that fails to field a team **with less than eight days' notice**, will be liable to disqualification from future cup and T20 competitions and a penalty under Admin Rule 13.

Item 6: Election of league officials for 2023/24

1. League Executive Board

All members of the LEB have indicated that they are prepared to continue in their roles, and there are no other nominations.

2. Premier Section committee

- Nick Kendall was co-opted onto the committee to fill the vacancy in 2023. He has indicated that he would like to continue to serve, subject to ratification at the AGM.
- All other committee members have confirmed that they are willing to continue to serve.

3. Senior Section committee. The existing committee have indicated that they are willing to continue to serve.

Item 7 Officials' recruitment & retention strategy

See following pages



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Match officials' recruitment & retention strategy

Introduction

We are currently 50-60 umpires short of being able to cover all YCSPL league games each Saturday, and the position is worsening, rather than improving. Currently, clubs are expected to provide umpires for the League panel, and failure to do so results in a levy being applied under administrative rules 58 & 59.

Some clubs in the lower divisions have nominated an umpire, but do not necessarily benefit, because umpires are allocated firstly to cover the Premier Section and then as far down the Senior Section ladder as is possible. So, despite having nominated an umpire they may themselves rarely get one. There is also discontent that all Premier Section clubs are guaranteed an umpire, at least for their first team, even if they have never provided an umpire themselves.

The current approach is not working. The League Executive Board (LEB) believes that we need to take positive action to address this problem before it gets even worse. There has to be acknowledgement that the umpire shortage is an issue for us all, and we need a joint strategy involving the clubs, the umpires' associations and the League to address it. We need to recruit for all levels, not just for umpires to progress to the Premier Leagues panel, and including the women's and girls game.

As a League, in relation to the recruitment and retention of match officials, we need to:

- nominate specified individuals whose responsibility it is to take action
- give better guidance on what we are asking people to do, and support to do it
- emphasise this is an issue for all of us – our clubs, the umpires' associations, and the League
- reward efforts made by clubs
- encourage a positive approach to perceived barriers like discipline
- look critically at rule complexity
- ensure accountability and reporting on activity undertaken – if there are no specified responsible individuals, and no reporting back, the necessary actions are less likely to be carried out
- ensure that any concerns brought to our attention are properly investigated

In summary, a three-pronged strategy is necessary to co-ordinate activity throughout the year; involving the clubs, the umpires' associations, and the League, where we work together to address issues, support each other, and where good practice is shared and rewarded.

Proposed strategy

1 Clubs

All clubs to have a nominated person on their committees, part of whose specified responsibility is to proactively ensure that efforts are made to recruit officials – this could be the volunteer co-ordinator, or other club official – it does not matter who, so long there is someone in every club who has officials' recruitment as part of their role.

Their role should include:

- identifying and approaching individuals to see if they would be interested in becoming a match official, whether recent former players, players nearing retirement, injured players, parents, regular spectators, etc, and ensuring that approaches are made not just to the 'usual suspects' but also to juniors, who may not have the aptitude to play but may be interested in umpiring, not forgetting women & girls too
- offering to set up a discussion with a contact at the umpires' association or scorers' officer, as appropriate
- identifying any local community centre or establishment where there may be potential umpires, perhaps colleges, universities, working cricket programme centres, or community centres or hubs, and making contact

- ensuring that their contact details are readily publicised in the club, on the club's Facebook page and website, for anyone to contact them if they are interested in becoming an official
- recording actions taken and providing a very short annual report to the League

2 Umpires' associations

Recruitment

- The umpires' associations to ensure that they have a publicised list of contacts for clubs to:
 - refer details of potential new umpires
 - support clubs by providing any information they require about umpiring
 - as part of their 'day-to-day' match duties, helping to identify possible recruits
- Follow up by contacting anyone who has been referred, to sell the role, explain the support and training available, including mentoring, and offering to stand in a first game with them.
- Promote a flexible approach, whereby potential umpires can do as much as little as they want, perhaps even trialling by standing only at the striker's end in the first instance

Retention

- In order to retain umpires, particularly in their early years, it is important that a supportive environment is created, and that umpires who are experiencing issues, have access to advice and support. The 'drop in' sessions for new umpires initiated by Terry Bateman and Bryan Lowe are an excellent initiative that enable new umpires to share experiences and obtain guidance. These could be built on by opening them to anyone who would like to attend, and enlisting the help of other experienced officials.
- A 'welfare officer' role could be introduced to support umpires who are experiencing difficulties and who may not be able or willing to attend 'drop-in' sessions. That way they could access support and talk through issues rather than simply deciding umpiring is not for them – everyone needs a little support from time to time!
- Actively invest in creating a welcoming and positive environment in the umpiring community, including addressing any personal animosities and clashes.
- Ensure clarity in all forms of communication with umpires, in order to ensure that they know exactly what is expected of them, particularly in relation to changes.
- If an umpire does decide to call it a day, talk to them to find out why. Could it have been prevented? Are there lessons to learn?
- Positivity! It is often said that people don't want to take up umpiring because of 'all the hassle'. But I talk to many umpires and most say they experience few problems.
- If umpires encounter disciplinary issues, they need to be nipped in the bud. Key messages must be strongly reinforced to all existing umpires along the following lines, for example:
 - 'always report conduct breaches – if you don't, another umpire will undoubtedly suffer at a future stage'
 - 'your job is simply to report all the facts as clearly and honestly as possible – the League adjudication officer then decides the action to be taken, ensuring adherence to the GCRs and consistency across the League – and that action is sometimes hampered by inadequate or even contradictory reports'
- The ECB is introducing a brand-new training package. The first part of this will be an online *ECB Umpires Course*, which will enable potential umpires to start their training whenever they want, doing as much as they want whenever they want. All umpires need to be aware of what is available, so that they can advise potential recruits.
- The umpires themselves are the best recruiting ambassadors for umpiring. Exhibiting a professional, friendly approach with an obvious enjoyment of the role will make it more attractive to others.

3 League

- Appoint a responsible official at LEB level to co-ordinate activity on recruiting and retaining match officials, including:
 - creating a joint League & Umpires Association steering group to oversee activity and ensure that the right support is in place
 - creating a network of club and umpire recruitment officers to meet by Zoom on a periodical basis to share good practice, find out what issues there are, and to seek solutions
 - identifying what additional support can be given by the League
 - reporting to LEB on network activity

- ii. Review existing rules 58 & 59 to create a system whereby:
 - those clubs that have been successful are rewarded - for example, a £100 incentive payment to the nominating club once umpire has completed 20 games, plus a further £100 on completion of 40
 - clubs that have made efforts but were not successful are not penalised; refocus on efforts made, for example, has the club nominated recruitment officer been appointed and what activity have they undertaken?
 - clubs that have not made any efforts should pay levies to help support incentive payments
 - levies are used for rewards for clubs (above) and to support officials' recruitment
- iii. Collate a report on activities undertaken by clubs, in order for the League to use it to reward good practice when considering distribution of ECB funding, Development Fund applications, and allocation of prestige games.
- iv. Ensure that there is a publicised channel for match officials to report any concerns and that they are properly investigated.
- v. Consider rule complexity. Set up a small working group to look at whether we can simplify league rules in any way. For example, to ensure we are as consistent as possible across our competitions, and to remove any unnecessary complexity.
- vi. Produce a promotional video that can be used to support recruitment activity.
- vii. Equip a gazebo for officials' recruitment, to be used at finals days, etc. Ensure that a couple of suitable experienced umpires and a scorers' officer are available to promote officiating and to answer questions.

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August 2023