



# Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

[www.ycspl.co.uk](http://www.ycspl.co.uk)

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13 November 2024

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

7.00pm start

## Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Reports
  - a. Chairman & Head of Senior Section's report
  - b. Head of Premier Section's report
  - c. Women's & Girls League report
  - d. Safeguarding Manager's report
  - e. Equity & Diversity Group report
  - f. Competitions Manager's report
  - g. Disciplinary report
  - h. Compliance Manager's report
  - i. Umpiring report
  - j. Scoring Manager's report
  - k. YCB report
- 3 Financial accounts
- 4 Finances 2025
- 5 Changes to constitution & rules
- 6 Election of League officials for 2024/25
- 7 Proposal for distribution of 2024 ECB funding
- 8 Premier Section standards
- 9 Life members
- 10 Any other business allowed by the chairman
- 11 Close of AGM

***The AGM will be followed by cup and T20 draws for those who wish to remain for them***

## Item 2: Reports

### a Chairman & Head of Senior Section's report

This has been a difficult season because of the poor weather that hit us from the start. Out of more than 1,300 league fixtures, over 300 failed to achieve a result. Two cup finals were postponed, the *K3 Dental* and Presidents Trophy, and they will be played in early 2025. DLS was extensively used to achieve a result in the competitions in which it operates, which is what it is there for. We are now looking at using DLS in Divisions 3 to 5 from 2026.

At present we have 95% of matches scored electronically, which is well above the ECB requirement of 50%. Thanks goes especially to Steve Ward for organising scoring training over the close season.

The Equity & Diversity Group have become more established and been involved in a number of issues. They have decided to reorganise and have advertised for some new members of the group.

Thanks go to our sponsors and all the volunteers both at our clubs and on the league committees. We are seeing continued growth in the Women's and Girls game, they are now part of our organisation and will also have members on the LEB. The LEB has been reorganised to comply with the Code of Sports Governance, that we have to comply with as a Premier League. We will continue to support junior and women's and girls' cricket with some ball sponsorship.

We welcome three new clubs in 2025, Frickley Colliery (two teams), Wadworth (one team), Waverley (two teams); whilst Sheffield University Staff will bring in a second team and a third club plan to bring in a third team. All divisions except Division 9 will have 12 teams. We will now have 63 clubs and 134 teams. We also have a number of clubs showing interest for the 2026 season.

Our thanks go to the clubs who did an excellent job of hosting cup finals in 2024; Cawthorne (T20 finals day), Sprotbrough (Whitworth Cup), Darfield (Mick Savage Trophy) and Mexborough (Billy Oates Memorial Cup).

Umpire recruitment and retention remains a major issue, and our working group has been looking at how we can improve – all clubs need to be committed to this process.

The number of disciplinary reports has reduced compared to last season. My thanks go to the disciplinary team for ensuring the ECB General Conduct Regulations have been applied consistently to all incidents reported by the umpires and clubs.

We continue encouraging our clubs to improve their grounds and facilities and this work is supported by Gareth Davis from the YCB. The Development Fund has made excellent use of some of our ECB funding, paying out £5,880 in grants to eight Senior Section clubs this year.

Finally, I thank all our clubs, their players, officials and followers, who make our league what it is, and I congratulate all our award winners in 2024.

I have taken the decision to stand down at the AGM from my positions on the YCSPL committees but will still be around to watch a few games in the future. I have been well supported in all my roles over the last four years and before that in the South Yorkshire Senior Cricket League. I wish the League all the best going forward.

**David Ward**

## **b Head of Premier Section's report**

I would like to thank our committee for their input and support during the last year.

I congratulate our winners; Cleethorpes in the Premier Division, Wickersley Old Village in the Championship, Whiston Parish Church in the Whitworth Cup, and Doncaster Town and Ackworth on their T20 successes. I also congratulate our individual award winners, making special mention of Mayank Mishra of Cleethorpes, who was the leading wicket-taker in all 31 Premier Leagues across England and Wales.

I thank all those who make it possible for us to enjoy competitive cricket over the summer. We are privileged to have as good an umpires' panel as we do; we have some excellent scorers, and I thank Steve Ward for his work to ensure that our scorers are fully trained and valued. It was a difficult season for groundsmen because of the very wet March and April, and it speaks volumes for their work that the pitches were as good as they were.

Grounds and facilities standards remain a priority for us. As a Premier League, we must aim for the highest possible standards, particularly at our Premier Section clubs, and our new standards document is aimed at ensuring continued improvement.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to David Ward, and thank him for all that he has done for our league over the last four years, and for the SYSCL before that. Working with him as closely as I have, I can testify to the enormous amount of work he does for the League, and cricket in general. I wish him and his family all the very best for the future, and I hope we will continue to see him at our grounds and events for many years to come.

**Roger Pugh**

## **c Women's & Girls' League Participation report**

Since the last AGM, the W&GL has created a fully formed and functioning Executive Committee, comprising the following:

Chair – Liz Harris (Oughtibridge WMCC) YCSPL LEB  
Vice Chair – Tracey Helliwell (Bradfield Bernadettes)  
Wendy Crabtree (umpire) – Umpire Coordinator  
Brian Hepworth (umpire) – Governance, Discipline & Fixtures  
Eleanor Barber (Treeton CC) – Safeguarding Officer  
Ros Miller (Oughtibridge WMCC) Play Cricket Coordinator  
Alex Littlewood (Worsborough Bridge CC) Equity & Diversity Deputy  
Sarah Wood (Wickersley OVCC) – YCSPL LEB & Social Media Coordinator

Having now set the foundation of the W&GL, the natural progression would be to fully integrate the W&GL into the the YCSPL. A consultation meeting was held on 8 October between representatives of the W&G's Section and Roger Pugh, YCSPL vice-chair, with regards to the integration. W&GL clubs were then given until 14 October to register any objections to the proposal. None were received and the W&GL supports the proposal at the YCSPL AGM that the League be fully incorporated into the constitution and governance structures of the YCSPL. I hope you agree that this proposal marks a bold and positive step forward for the overall progression of our League and the W&G's grassroots game. If formally agreed, we would indeed, be the first W&G's League in the North of the UK to have made such strides.

### *Summer 2024 season update*

41 softball teams signed up for the summer season; hardball has five teams in Division 1, 11 Super 8 teams and three Teams have now moved up and into the Premier League – Sheffield Collegiate, Rockingham and Doncaster Town – so we are starting to see the progression into the hardball game, which I am very pleased to report and want to see this expand further as the W&G's League also progresses. 19 Teams now have teams in multiple formats, with a total of 60 W&G's Teams this year, including nine new teams/clubs.

### *Umpire Recruitment*

The W&GL has 22 newly-recruited umpires, and admission to the South Yorkshire Umpires Association is at a discounted rate to encourage participation.

### *Winter Indoor season 2024*

The 2024 Indoor season will comprise of two hardball divisions and four softball divisions, over 20 weeks commencing Sunday 6 October, with 47 teams from 30 clubs signed up to compete at S20, including 13 hardball teams. There are five less teams than last indoor season, which is mainly due to the clubs either changing up to hardball or not fielding as many softball teams as last winter. This will be the first year this has been funded directly from club subscription and match day fees.

In summary, the W&G's game continues to grow at a rapid pace and progression to Hardball formats, as per anticipated future ECB directive, will be planned in the coming seasons.

Finally, my congratulations to all our winning teams across all formats this last year.

**Mel Mahmood**

### **d Safeguarding Manager's report**

Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the YCSPL. I continue to work closely with the YCB, where Ray Knowles has now officially retired from his advisory role, and the YCSPL thanks him for his support throughout the years. Joy Walker continues to be Head of YCB Safeguarding, along with Kim Corson and Jessica Burdis, the County Welfare Officers. I have continued to be part of the League Safeguarding Officers Network Group for the Yorkshire region.

The education of our volunteers continues to be face-to-face; Safe Hands courses are still to be arranged locally, but I have been assured the dates and venues will be posted shortly on the YCB website.

The YCB will continue to visit clubs throughout the year, so please make sure your club is 'safeguarding safe'. The visits may be pre-booked or by a spot check.

Safeguarding continues to be a major part of ECB Clubmark. Safeguarding information has to be kept up-to-date and uploaded to the portal to achieve the accreditation.

As a League we have again had a number of safeguarding investigations throughout the season, and at present we have one ongoing case.

I would personally like to thank all our clubs for their continued support; I appreciate all their hard work and the time spent by their volunteers making sure our clubs are 'safeguarding safe'. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and I actively encourage more volunteers to become involved with safeguarding within their ever-growing clubs.

**Lindsay Pepper**

## **e Equity & Diversity report**

Now over two years since its inception, the EAD group have been able to provide assistance within areas that the YCSPL and EAD group believe would benefit cricket in South Yorkshire.

This past year the EAD group have consistently played a role in assisting a wide range of league matters, mostly within the disciplinary areas, as well as providing comment and input around development areas that the league would look to potentially implement.

The EAD has taken into account the recently published ICEC (Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket) and has requested guidance from YCCC/Cricket Board in ensuring that the EAD can support the YCSPL moving forward.

The EAD group this past year have also found it difficult to move forward. The reason and rationale for this is a range of things such as;

- Individual members availability
- Lack of Interaction with YCCC/Cricket Board

Going forward the focus will now be on a reset of the group and consider:

- A name change/update
- Review of the terms of reference for the group
- Additional members
- Guidance from YCCC/Cricket Board
- Administration assistance

## **f Competitions Manager's report**

One thing I have learnt in over 20 years of this role, is that rain is the scourge of the Competitions Manager. In 2024, my colleagues up and down the land battled their nemesis with the vigour of Flash Gordon to Ming the Merciless. In the end, Ming held the upper hand with two of our 2024 Cup Finals, the K3 Dental Cup and the Presidents Trophy having to be held over to the 2025 season after two wash-outs.

The fact that we reached all of our finals on time was a minor miracle. The decision by clubs a few seasons ago to get rid of reserve dates in the early rounds of the Senior Section cup competitions was a huge help in getting rounds finalised on time. Although clearly deciding games on the toss of a coin or a bowl out is not the way any of us would want to progress a competition, the packed Sunday schedule these days means that we have little option.

Back in October, a late withdrawal in Division 2 left us one team short. With applications already accepted, it was decided that the division would run short to allow a strong applicant to be placed here in 2025. For next season, we have even numbers of teams in every division with the exception of Division 9, although as we write this an application from an existing club for an additional team has been received and so we may get to the starting line without any divisions having 'bye-weeks'.

Unfortunately, at the deadline set for fixture returns last season we had 11 clubs who failed to submit their information. It really is frustrating to be chasing clubs who know that the information is vital to compile your fixtures. Deadlines are necessary to ensure that there is time to complete all the steps necessary in order to get the final fixture list published in time to go in handbooks, fixture cards, etc – please ensure you meet them.

We had 42 ground unavailabilities in 2024, which was up from 35 in 2023. It is vital that as much of our League cricket as possible is played on Saturday with the congested Sunday schedule noted previously. This is why we issued a schedule of the Saturday fixture dates from 2025 to 2033, to allow clubs plenty of time to negotiate with landlords and other sports that share the facility. Please take up the opportunity – help me to help you.

Frustratingly, a number of rearrangements were left to the last minute. This meant that opponents had secured Sunday League fixtures making rearrangements very difficult. Indeed, a handful of games could not be rearranged. Please ensure that where a rearrangement is required, this is done as a matter of urgency to maximise the number of available dates. If you are being asked to rearrange a match, please do everything in your power to support – you never know when you will need the favour returning.

Thank you to the majority of clubs who have positively supported me by acting promptly on my requests – it is hugely appreciated. I love this job and producing your fixtures, I just ask for your help by sticking to deadlines, they are there for a reason!

Finally, I am submitting proposals to the AGM for some seeding in our cup competitions. The full proposal is below.

### **Proposal for cup competitions for the 2025 season onwards**

Whilst we all enjoy a good giant killing story, it is incumbent on us to ensure as best that we can we produce high quality finals that represent the best of our League at every level. Whilst in the past few years, there is no doubt that some finals have delivered on this, others have been mismatches. This can of course happen in any scenario, we love the game because one performance can change a game, but often it is because a random draw has given a team a pathway to a Final that means we don't get a game that reflects our status.

#### ***Proposal***

##### ***K3 Dental Cup***

- Eight seeds (four North, four South) enter the competition in Round 2. The remaining 16 teams enter the competition in Round 1.
  - The eight seeds are made up as follows;
    - teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in YCSPL in the previous season
    - teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in YPLN in the previous season
    - the two teams from the YCSPL that progressed the furthest in the K3 Dental Cup in the previous season\*
    - the two teams from the YPLN that progressed the furthest in the K3 Dental Cup in the previous season\*
- \* note – where more teams from YCSPL/YPLN reach a particular round than seeding places are available, the place(s) will be granted to the teams which finished highest in the divisional table in the previous season.

By creating this adjustment to the seeding system, it allows the fall-back option of playing any previous season's final held over due to the weather, on the same date as Round 1 in the new season (as both finalists will be guaranteed to be seeded).

An as example, for the 2025 season the seeds would be as follows:

- teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in YCSPL in the previous season – Cleethorpes & Wakefield Thornes
- teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in YPLN in the previous season – Clifton Alliance & Castleford
- two t teams from the YCSPL that progress the furthest in the K3 Dental Cup in the previous season\* - Sheffield Collegiate (final) & Cawthorne (semi-final)
- two teams from the YPLN that progress the furthest in the K3 Dental Cup in the previous season\* - Scarborough (semi-final) & Harrogate (quarter-final) (*finalists Castleford already qualified*)

All rounds to be created via an 'open draw' format and the full draw is made before the start of the season, so clubs can see their full pathway.

##### ***Whitworth Cup***

- All 16 teams enter the competition in Round 1. Eight seeds kept apart in the draw for Round 1. Four seeds play home matches, four seeds play away matches.
- The eight seeds are made up of the teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in Championship Division in the previous season
- Round 1 to be drawn before the start of the season. Each subsequent round an 'open draw' made on the day of the previous round.

### *Mick Savage/Presidents Trophy/Billy Oates*

- Number of entrants to each competition varies, but Round 1 must involve enough teams to reduce Round 2 to 16 teams. The number of seeds which receive a bye to Round 2 will vary by the number of entrants.
- Round 2 will follow the principle of Round 1 of the Whitworth Cup, with eight seeds kept apart in the draw for Round 2. Four seeds play home matches, four seeds play away matches. The eight seeds are those entering each competition which finished in the highest positions in the previous season.
- All rounds to be created via an 'open draw' format and the full draw is made before the start of the season, so clubs can see their full pathway.

### *T20 Blast & T20 Plate – Group stage*

- Each competition is limited to 12 teams. Four seeds in each competition will be placed in Groups A-D. The other 8 teams in each competition will be randomly drawn.
- The four seeds are made up as follows;
  - T20 Blast – teams reaching the semi-finals of the T20 Blast in the previous season. Where a team in the previous season is not eligible to compete, the seeding place(s) will be taken by the team(s) finishing highest in YCSPL ECB Premier Division in the previous season.
  - T20 Plate – the two teams that played in the previous season's T20 Blast and the two teams reaching the final of the T20 Plate in the previous season. Where a team in the previous season is not eligible to compete or does not enter, the seeding place(s) will be taken by the team(s) finishing highest in YCSPL Championship Division in the previous season.
- In both the T20 Blast and Plate, the seeded club will be offered the first opportunity to host the Group Stage.
- Semi-finals of both competitions will be drawn before the start of the season.

### **Matt Summerhill**

## **g      Disciplinary report**

Season 2024 saw 26 players receive disciplinary sanctions in respect of 28 separate disciplinary offences. This represented a significant decrease from the previous season when it was necessary to discipline a total of 43 players for a combined 58 offences.

All but two of the sanctions issued in 2024 were of the lower scale (Summary) type i.e. Level One 'warnings', together with Level One and Level Two offences as follows:

Level One 'warnings'	14	Level Three offences	2
Level One offences	9	Level Four offences	0
Level Two offences	2	Miscellaneous offences	1

Two players received two sanctions and 24 players each received a single discipline sanction.

Bans totalling 22 weeks were applied across the YCSPL during the season, and suspended bans totalling 60 weeks will remain in place until the end of season 2025.

The following is a breakdown of the sanctions received in respective divisions during 2024:

Premier	9 players (9 sanctions)
Championship	2 players (2 sanctions)
Senior Section	15 players (17 sanctions)

An increasing number of other players were dealt with by way of 'words of advice' – administered on the day of the game – for matters considered by the umpires to be of a minor nature.

It was necessary to hold one disciplinary hearing that related to two Level Three allegations (disciplinary hearings are mandatory for Level Three and Level Four allegations).

Members of the Disciplinary Committee met with officials from a Premier Section club during the season in order to discuss what was considered to be ongoing poor player behaviour.

As a result of receiving 15 disciplinary penalty points, two Senior Section clubs were deducted 12 league points during the course of the season.

### *Summary*

Clearly, when taking into consideration the fact that umpires were not appointed to a lot of games in the Senior Section, the number of players reported represented a very small percentage of the actual cricketers that played in the YCSPL last season.

The Disciplinary Committee regularly assess the existing disciplinary system. We always seek to be proportionate, fair and consistent when finalising individual cases and will proactively continue to 'tweak' the rules and regulations in order to benefit players, clubs and officials alike.

Throughout season 2025, the Disciplinary Committee will continue to take a closer look at captains and their conduct/behaviour in games where any of their players have been reported. Each report will be looked at on an individual basis and if, on the balance of probabilities, it is felt that a captain ought to have done more to prevent the poor behaviour of his/her player(s) then appropriate sanctions will be considered for the captain in question.

The online disciplinary report form has been amended to introduce a section where the umpires are asked to consider and detail the role of the captain on each occasion that it has been necessary to report a player.

In addition, the Disciplinary Committee would like to remind all clubs and umpires about their safeguarding responsibilities in respect of junior cricketers. Players found to have 'crossed the line' in relation to junior cricketers will be dealt with accordingly.

Finally, thanks go to all who have supported the Disciplinary Committee throughout the past season – it is greatly appreciated.

**Neil Vaughan**



## **h Compliance Manager's report**

We continue to monitor and register overseas players in line with ECB guidelines. We stress once again that these are criteria agreed between the ECB and the Home Office and that they relate to immigration rules and regulations.

In 2024, the ECB undertook a sampling of Category 1 players and they believe that a few players are still 'slipping through the net'. They also conducted a review of players from ICC Associate Nations and concluded that some players registered as amateurs should indeed have been registered as professionals. However, to the best of our knowledge none of these applied to players in our league.

The ECB have revised some aspects of guidance for 2025. These relate in particular to:

- timescales for Sponsor Endorsements
- player contracts -Heads of Terms
- migrant endorsement – clubs must be Safe Hands and Clubmark compliant
- definitions of amateur status

This is peak time of year for overseas player recruitment and we will be issuing updated guidance to clubs shortly.

**Chris Froggett**

## **i Umpiring report**

We are still on average about 50 umpires short every week. We urgently need more umpires to help players to better enjoy their cricket, and so that that they do not have to umpire any part of the game.

Next season, the SYCUA will not appoint one umpire to a game unless unavoidable. This is for safety reasons and to ensure better support for umpires.

The umpires' monthly social nights will continue during the close season at Whiston Forge CC. These provide an opportunity for umpires to share experiences and to support each other. If anyone is interested, whether currently umpiring or not, please contact Terry Bateman or just come to a meeting. There is free tea and coffee and a warm welcome for all.

**Terry Bateman**

## **j Scoring manager's report**

Our League continues to lead from the front as far as electronic scoring is concerned. In 2024, 94.73% of games were scored by either laptop or tablet/phone against the ECB target of 50%. That was an increase of 1.23% from 2023, and is by far the best in comparable leagues in the country. This does bring problems, though, and there were many issues with Play-Cricket on Saturday afternoons during the season. These were mainly caused by the app, as used on tablets and phones. The app is simply not up to the job, and scorers and leagues all over the country were experiencing difficulties.

Tied into this is the ever-increasing use of Live Streaming. Clubs need to think about the system that that is used to Live Stream, and the Yorkshire ECB ACO and I have prepared a document highlighting the pros and cons of each system, that is now available to all clubs on the website.

Our scorers, captains and umpires in Division 1 and 2 are to be congratulated on the way that they embraced DLS with very few issues. I will, of course, continue the training sessions for all parties nearer the season. All clubs should send their scorer/captain to these sessions. I am compiling a schedule of scorer training for the autumn/winter, and will publish it as soon as possible.

Whilst there are a great many positives to report, some of our clubs, even more senior ones, are not taking scoring as seriously as they should. There are still instances where teams have no scorer or provide a scorer with no experience or training. This is unacceptable, particularly at Premier Section level. It is very important that your scorers are trained to the highest standards.

I thank all scorers for their continued hard work. If clubs need any advice, help or training, please contact me on 07919 241148 or [steward62@hotmail.com](mailto:steward62@hotmail.com).

**Steve Ward**

## Item 3: Financial accounts 2024

### Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

#### Income and Expenditure Account Year Ended 30 September 2024

	2022/23 (£)	2023/24 (£)
<b>Income:</b>		
Cricket ball orders	56,509	49,188
ECB Donation	16,087	15,883
Sponsorship	7,975	9,458
Subscriptions	12,065	12,445
Penalties	7,050	6,679
Handbook advertising	825	375
Disciplinary hearings		339
Presentation Evening	9,303	11,158
Other income		370
Bank interest	132	306
<b>Total income</b>	<b>109,946</b>	<b>106,200</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Cricket ball purchases (See Note 1 below)	56,047	47,832
YCB affiliation fees	3,140	5,070
ECB Club Funding	10,211	9,740
Disciplinary	493	368
Presentation Evening 2022	7,966	
Presentation Evening 2023	500	11,373
Presentation Evening 2024		500
Awards and Trophies	1,164	5,439
Merchandise	680	
Development Grants Awarded	3,250	5,880
Cup final expenses	3,158	3,463
Cup final medals (See Note 2 below)	1,626	
Travel costs	1,605	415
Representative matches	540	1,430
Entertaining		153
Training	1,450	690
Honoraria	1,700	1,800
Professional services - Audit (2 years)		200
Clothing		933
Donation to SY Umpires Ass'n	750	1,035
Communications inc Website & Zoom	833	849
Electronic media		1,800
Telephone & Broadband	595	465
Laptop - Digital scoring	400	100
Insurance	2,942	3,092
Administration	1,551	2,632
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>100,601</b>	<b>105,258</b>
<b>Surplus of income over expenditure</b>	<b>9,346</b>	<b>942</b>
<b>2023/24 Summary:</b>		
Opening bank balances 1 Oct 2023		56,804
Surplus of income over expenditure (above)		942
		<b>57,746</b>
Closing bank balances 30 Sep 2024:		
Current account		32,441
Deposit account:		
Development Fund		3,067
Contingency Fund		22,238
		<b>57,746</b>

Note 1 - Stock of cricket balls as at 30 Sep 2024 is valued at £647. The expenditure figure shown above has not been adjusted for this.

Note 2 - 2024 final deferred to 2025 due to bad weather. Estimated cost £980.

**Checked and found correct**

**John Wilson ACMA,CGMA, FInstLM**

## **Treasurer's report**

The accounts show a healthy position despite the surplus of income over expenditure being well below the previous year, for which there are many reasons.

Cricket Ball Sales are down by nearly £4k, this is mainly due to clubs ordering less, and consequently sponsorship is slightly down. However, this year's figures are inflated as there are two years payments received from Readers.

We thank our sponsors, without whose support we would see a significant increase in subscriptions. Over our first three seasons we stabilised the level of subscriptions to all clubs, however a small increase for 2024 was necessary to keep pace with the rising costs of managing the League finances.

Costs fluctuate, year on year, and there are areas where they have increased and others that have not. One significant increase is in YCB Affiliation Fees, where for 2024 we paid for the Women's & Girls League after YCB support ended.

David has already referred to the Development Fund, where ECB Funding has helped several senior section clubs with small projects.

I thank John Wilson for once again auditing the League's accounts; and all League officials for their support, in particular, David Ward for his help and guidance throughout his term of office.

**Ashley Boothman**

## Item 4: Finances 2025

### 1. Subscriptions per team for 2025 (excluding YCB fees which are not yet known):

- Premier & Championship - £80 per team
- Divisions 1 & 2 - £75 per team
- Divisions 3 to 6 - £70 per team
- Divisions 7 to 9 - £65 per team

### 2. Cricket ball costs 2025:

#### *Tiflex:*

- Red Windsor - £19.00
- Pink Magna - £13.00

#### *Dukes:*

- Pink ball - £28.50

#### *Readers:*

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

### 3. The 2023 AGM approved £1,750 in honoraria. For 2024, we propose the following:

• Mick Bocking	Disciplinary officer	£200
• Melvyn Bond	Play-Cricket manager	£400
• Ashley Boothman	Treasurer	£250
• Lindsay Pepper	Safeguarding officer	<b>£300</b> (increase from £200)
• Linzey Scothern	Trophy steward	£200
• Steve Taylor	IT support manager	£200
• Neil Vaughan	Disciplinary adjudicator	£300
<hr/>		
	Total	<b>£1,850</b>

### 4. Umpires' fees 2025:

- Premier Division and Yorkshire Leagues Knock-Out Cup: increase from £70 to **£75**
- T20 Blast matchdays:
  - one match £45 each (two umpires)
  - two matches £60 each (two umpires)
  - three matches £75 each (three umpires)
- Championship, Whitworth Cup & T20 Plate: increase from £55 to **£60**
- T20 Plate matchdays:
  - one match £35 each (two umpires)
  - two matches £50 each (two umpires)
  - three matches £65 each (three umpires)
- Divisions 1 & 2 & Mick Savage Cup: increase from £50 to **£60**
- All other divisions, Presidents Trophy & Billy Oates Cup: increase from £45 to **£50**

## Item 5: Changes to rules

- 1 **Constitution** – The LEB proposes changes required to conform with the Code of Sports Governance, as required by the ECB, and the formal incorporation of the Women’s & Girls’ League into the YCSPL. See revised constitution document at the end of this document – changes in yellow.
- 2 **Playing conditions.** *Please note that our Playing Conditions are currently being rewritten to make them clearer and easier to follow, in addition to ordering them in line with the Laws of the Game, therefore the numberings and wordings may be slightly different in the new document, but they will accurately reflect our current intentions except where changes are agreed at this AGM.*

### Proposals made by the LEB

- i The next three amendments are proposed to three rules concerning weather-affected games in the Senior Section Divisions 3-9, which will be voted on as a single package by Senior Section clubs.

#### **Duration of play**

Existing rule 5.v (cut-off times) to be deleted.

#### **Time lost before and during a game**

Existing rules 13.iv & v to be amended to provide that:

- if time is lost due to adverse ground or weather conditions, the first 30 minutes of any time lost will be ignored, after which four overs will be deducted for every full 15 minutes lost
- half the deduction will be made from each innings, unless there are insufficient overs remaining in the first innings, in which case the overs remaining in that innings will be lost, and the balance deducted from the second innings
- if the stoppage occurs in the second innings, the full deduction will be made from that innings
- any incomplete over in the first innings will be counted as a full over

Note: the provision to allow captains to reduce overs before the start will remain as is.

**Results and point-scoring.** An amendment to existing rule 19.ii as follows:

In the Senior Section Divisions 3 to 9, where the full 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 with the score at the end of the same number of overs in the first innings. If the scores are equal at that point, the result will be a tie.

*Reasons for change.* The proposed new rules are intended to:

- achieve results wherever possible
- remove the situation where a game is arbitrarily ended by a cut-off time, and the resulting ensuing confusion

*If the above amendments are not carried, it will be necessary to revert to the previous rule on results and point scoring, whereby if the allocated number of overs are not bowled in the second innings, four points will be awarded to each side as an abandoned game, plus any second innings bonus points that have already been accrued by both sides.*

- ii **Results and points scoring.** A further amendment is proposed for vote by all clubs. Two changes are proposed:

- a. It is proposed that losing bowling bonus points are awarded as follows:

5 wickets: 2 points

7 wickets: 4 points

9 wickets: 6 points

*Reason for change.* It is felt that it is too easy to get bowling bonus points – a team can be soundly beaten but still get two points for taking four wickets.

- b. *Points awarded in games where a result cannot be achieved* – an amendment is proposed as follows:
- where play takes place, four points to be awarded to each side
  - where no play takes place, two points to be awarded to each side, except if the umpires state in their report that the home club have not made reasonable efforts to get the game on, or have not followed reasonable requests by the umpires to get the ground fit for play, in which case, the home side will be awarded no points

*Reason for change.* This proposal is aimed at increasing incentives to play.

- 3 **Cup rules** (Whitworth, Mick Savage, President's, Billy Oates) *Please note that our Cup & T20 rules are currently being rewritten to make them clearer and easier to follow, in addition to ordering them in line with the Laws of the Game and the ECB Generic Rules, therefore the numberings and wordings may be slightly different in the new document, but they will accurately reflect our current intentions except where changes are agreed at this AGM.*

*Three separate proposals are made by the LEB for vote by all clubs:*

- i *Start times.* It is proposed that all games, including finals, will start at 12.30pm (except where a delayed start is made to accommodate a W&G section game).

*Reason for change.* To provide a consistent approach across all cup-ties and to facilitate the playing of W&GL games.

- ii *Player eligibility rules.* Amendments are proposed to clarify eligibility rules; proposed changes in italics below:

- a. Players will only be eligible to play in the cup competitions *if, as bona fide registered members of their club, they were eligible to play in the YCSPL by 30 June in that season.*
- c. Overseas players and contracted county staff are eligible to play in the competition, provided that they comply with the above *and have already appeared in at least one league game for their club before playing in the cup competition.*

*Reason for change.* The main change is aimed at preventing players being recruited for the later stages of the cup competitions.

- iii Reducing overs before the start. A new rule is proposed as follows:

Where bad weather is anticipated later in the day, duration of the game may be reduced, if both captains so agree, before the toss is made. Both captains must agree on the new number of overs to be played, otherwise the full allocated overs must be bowled. For a result to be achieved, both sides must have had the opportunity of batting for a minimum of 10 overs.

*Reason for change.* To bring cups in line with league matches in allowing overs to be reduced, and to facilitate results being achieved.

- 4 **Administrative rules** – *proposed changes to be made by the LEB.*

- i *As part of the League Admin Rules, this is not required to be voted on at the AGM but, taking into account the effect it will have on clubs, we have decided that there should be a vote:*

**Teas.** It is proposed that teas should be provided on a voluntary basis, and that:

- the clubs that will provide teas must notify the League at the start of each season, and
- where teas are provided visiting clubs will be required to pay for 12 teas
- in all cases, teas must be provided for match officials

*Club views on this issue have been canvassed previously, and there has been a narrow majority in favour of tea provision being mandatory, but there is significant feedback that this should be changed, and that we are out of step with many other leagues.*

- ii *The following rule is proposed for replacement of overseas players in 2025 onwards. As part of the League Admin Rules, it is not required to be voted on at the AGM, but we will take into account any feedback at the meeting and decide whether it needs amending in any way before being incorporated into the Admin Rules.*

**Replacement overseas players.** A replacement overseas player shall only be permitted once only in a season, where:

- a. the replacement player is registered by 31 July, *and*
- b. the originally-registered overseas player is unable to play cricket through genuine injury or illness confirmed by a medical certificate *or*
- c. returns home for the remainder of the season due to selection at international level or equivalent and has not been selected at that level within the previous five years; such selection to be confirmed in writing by the appropriate body.

*This rule amendment has been produced by the Premier Section committee, taking into account views of clubs, committee members, and other leagues' rules. It simplifies the current provisions and brings the replacement date into line with the transfer deadline.*

- iii *The following changes are notified to the AGM for information only (as changes will inevitably cause renumbering of rules, the existing rule number is shown in brackets for ease of reference):*

**Code of Sports Governance and incorporation of the Women's & Girls' League** (rules 2-9). If the constitutional changes above are agreed, necessary consequential changes will be made to the Administrative Rules.

**Breaches by clubs of League rules** (rule 13). Rule to be amended to read as follows (changes in italic)

- i. **General.** Failure to comply with any League rules will render a club liable to a penalty. Breaches of rules may be dealt with by the LEB by means of a warning, a fine, or deduction of league points. In the case of persistent and serious failures, membership of the League may be at risk. Examples of failures, in addition to others specified in League rules, will include:
  - failure to fulfil a fixture or fielding a side with less than 11 players
  - fielding an unregistered player or incorrectly notifying umpires of any player in the match XI
  - late starts or delays in re-starting after any interval
  - failure to provide a scorer
  - failure to follow safeguarding policies
  - failure to meet relevant ground and facilities guidance
  - failure to attend AGMs and EGMs
- ii. **Administrative failures.** Failure to complete, within the relevant specified period, *and without good reason*, captains' reports, play-cricket actions, and requests for information by the League will, in the first instance, result in a formal warning by email, clearly stating the nature of the failure. On the second instance; a final warning by email, advising that on the next occasion a two-league point deduction may be applied. On the third, and each subsequent, instance; a two-league point deduction may be applied. *Points deductions must be endorsed by the relevant Section Committee at their next meeting.*
- iii. **Points deductions for other breaches.** *Decisions on all other points deductions may be made by the relevant Section Committee; will take into account any extenuating circumstances and the club's previous record; and must be approved by the LEB.*
- iv. **Unpaid monies.** All fines, invoices, subscriptions and any other monies due to the League should be paid within 14 days of the date of the invoice. If any such monies are not paid within this period, an additional 20% surcharge will be applied. If after a further 14 days, payment has still not been made, *a 12-league point deduction will be made.* Any further failure will be dealt with *by further points deductions, and/or other sanctions*, at the discretion of the LEB.

- v. **Procedure for all points deductions.** *Points deductions will be:*
- a. applied in the season when the breach occurred, unless their application makes no material difference to whether a team wins the divisional championship, is promoted, or is relegated in the current season, in which case the penalty will apply in the following season
  - b. *notified to clubs once any points deduction is approved, and the decision about when these deductions will be applied will be made by the relevant Section committee at the end of the season*
  - c. *applied at the start of the following season in the case of deductions for breaches in the close season.*

**Rearrangements** (rule 19). To be amended as follows:

- i To provide that sub-para v.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) *will apply to all rearranged games, not just those rearranged due to religious festivals*
- ii To provide that, where a full rearranged programme is agreed for the Premier Section, *Senior Section teams may be allowed the option of rearrangement, at the discretion of the Senior Section committee.*

**Clubs failing to fulfil fixtures** (rule 20). An additional paragraph to provide that where a specific club team concedes more than three fixtures in any one season, *they will be asked to explain the reasons, what measures will be put in place to avoid a repeat of the situation, and will be required to seek the re-election of that team to the League at the AGM.*

**Clarification of registration and transfers procedures** (rules 31 & 43). To be amended as follows:

- i. Players may register for any YCSPL cricket club at any time in or out of the season, providing they have not played in any other ECB-affiliated Saturday league, *or in a comparable or higher standard of cricket*, in the current or previous season. A player who has played in any other ECB-affiliated Saturday league in the current or previous season must be transferred from their previous club in accordance with paras 46-48 below. *Any player who has not played in an ECB-affiliated league, but has played in a comparable or higher standard of cricket in the current or previous season, may only be registered before 31 July.*
- ii. *No registration of players into the YCSPL from ECB-affiliated leagues, or a comparable or higher standard of cricket, will be allowed between 1 August and 30 September in any year.*

**Clarification of overseas player registration requirements.** (rule 38). Changes relating to asylum seekers and students in particular:

In respect of overseas player registration, the following conditions will also apply.

- i. Clubs will be allowed to register up to two overseas players on the basis of one per team for teams in the Premier Section ~~and Senior Section Division 2 upwards~~. The team for whom the player is registered must be specified. Overseas players may be either a professional or an amateur, *and the latter category may include either an asylum seeker or overseas student.*
- ii. No overseas player may be registered after 30 June, except as in 43.iv.b below.
- iii. *In the Senior Section, overseas players, including students and asylum seekers, may only be registered with the permission of the Senior Section Cricket Committee, who will take into consideration the standard at which the player has previously played.*

**Dual registration of students** (new rule to follow rule 43)

*Category 1 registration students whose home and their higher education establishment are in different parts of the UK may be allowed to dual register with two clubs, subject to the agreement of both clubs, and verification of their student status, as follows:*

- i. *students who are registered to YCSPL clubs but are living away from home to attend a higher education establishment, will be allowed to dual register in order to play for a club nearer to where they are studying, or*



- ii. *students who normally live elsewhere but are attending a higher education establishment in the area covered by the YCSPL, will be allowed to dual register and play for a YCSPL club whilst they are attending that establishment, provided they are registered by 31 July*

**Players' attire** (rule 49). To add a new bullet as follows:

- *headgear – caps or hats may be coloured, but beanies or bobble hats are not permitted*

**Qualification for nominated umpires** (rule 58).

To clarify that to qualify under this rule, *'a club can put forward any new umpire, but not an umpire from the existing pool'*

**Scorers** (rule 62.v) To add a new sub-para about junior scorers as follows:

*Clubs must ensure that they meet their safeguarding responsibilities in terms of junior scorers, paying particular attention to the following:*

- a. there is no lower age limit for scorers, but clubs must be completely satisfied about the ability and concentration span of junior scorers, particularly if under 13*
- b. where there are two juniors in the box, a welfare check should be made at least twice in each innings*
- c. it is strongly recommended that juniors score on a laptop or tablet rather than a mobile phone.*

**Individual awards** (rule 67). To amend sub-paras iii and v to read:

*All-rounders. An award for the best all-rounder will be given in each of the Premier Section divisions and Divisions 1 & 2. The award will be based on points awarded for performances as follows:*

- *1 for each run*
- *12 for each wicket*
- *8 for each catch, stumping or run out.*

*Fielding. An award for the player with the most fielding wickets will be given in each of the Premier Section divisions and Divisions 1 & 2. If two players tie for first place the winner will be the one who has most run outs.*

## **Item 6: Election of league officials for 2023/24**

### **1. League Executive Board**

The following have been proposed by the existing LEB:

Premier Section representatives:	Chris Froggett, Andy Harrison, Roger Pugh
Senior Section representatives:	Richard North, Matt Summerhill, Jonathan Crabtree
Women's & Girls section representatives:	Liz Harris, Mel Mahmood, Sarah Wood
Safeguarding Manager:	Lindsay Pepper

Roger Pugh has been proposed as chair of the LEB by Barnsley Woolley Miners CC and seconded by Wickersley Old Village CC.

*In addition, the Equity & Diversity Group and the YCB will nominate non-Executive members of the Board.*

### **2. Premier Section committee**

All current committee members have confirmed that they are willing to continue to serve as follows:

Roger Pugh (Head of Section), Mark Beardshall, Alex Fletcher, Mick Forrester, Chris Froggett, Andy Harrison, Nick Kendall and Steve Ward.

*In addition, there will be one representative each nominated by the Equity & Diversity Group and the Yorkshire Premier Leagues Umpires Association.*

### **3. Senior Section committee**

All current committee members, with the exception of David Ward, have confirmed that they are willing to continue to serve as follows:

Melvyn Bond, Richard Fidler, Bryan Lowe, Richard North, Lindsay Pepper, Linzey Scothern and Matt Summerhill.

Richard North has been proposed by the LEB as the Head of Senior Section

Jonathan Crabtree has been proposed by the LEB as the secretary of the Senior Section.

*In addition, there will be one representative each nominated by the Equity & Diversity Group and the South Yorkshire Umpires Association.*

*There is also one committee vacancy, which may be filled by co-option at the discretion of the Senior Section committee, and subject to confirmation at the next AGM.*

### **4. Women & girls Section committee**

All current committee members, with the exception of David Ward, have confirmed that they are willing to continue to serve as follows:

Chair – Liz Harris (chair), Tracey Helliwell, Wendy Crabtree, Brian Hepworth, Eleanor Barber, Ros Miller, Alex Littlewood, Sarah Wood

## Item 7

### Proposal for distribution of 2024 ECB funding

#### Background

When the working group on this subject met in 2022, the following main principles were agreed:

- i. the rationale for clubs being given ECB money is to make a financial contribution towards the costs of achieving ECB criteria and working towards ECB priorities
- ii. money allocated to Premier Section clubs should be dependent upon them achieving published criteria that reflect ECB criteria and priorities
- iii. the published criteria should not only explain the criteria, but why the particular criteria is important
- iv. even if the 'pecuniary reward' for achieving a particular criterion is not great and does not act as a strong incentive, it is important in that it sets out what we expect and helps establish the ethos and vision of the League – we expect Premier Section clubs to embrace ECB and League priorities, and set an example to Senior Section clubs
- v. money allocated to Premier Section clubs should be for first XIs only, to deter an 'arms race' and the Championship becoming dominated by 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs
- vi. money should be distributed on a percentage basis, rather than fixed amounts, as amounts received from ECB vary 'year on year'
- vii. money for Senior Section clubs should be put into a Senior Section Development Fund to support small requests for support, the criteria for payments from which, and its administration, would be controlled by the Senior Section committee as one of the tools for supporting clubs, but with the proviso that it should be for specific initiatives, rather than funding 'day-to-day' activities
- viii. the basic principle for forward distribution will be 60% to Premier Division clubs (5% share each); 30% to Championship Division clubs (2.5% share each) and 10% to League funds for administration of accreditation priorities; where funding is not allocated to clubs, ie, due to failure to meet all criteria or where 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs are in the Championship and do not qualify, that money will go to the Senior Section Development Fund.

Since then, a number of points have been made:

- the amounts of the funding being allocated are in many instances so small that they are insignificant and do not provide incentives
- we should not be rewarding clubs for simply meeting expected criteria – we should be rewarding excellence
- the Development Fund is a success story – so far, £9,130 has been paid to eleven clubs with a balance currently available of £3,067.40 – should we ringfence an agreed increased percentage for the Fund so that it is not dependent on failures in the Premier Section?
- we need to focus more on participation priorities
- should we consider a way of making money available to Premier Section clubs to help or incentivise them to improve facilities, acknowledging that many PS clubs could do that anyway if they spent less on players – is there a fair way of assessing whether a particular club should be eligible for help?

## Proposal for distribution of 2024 funding

- 1 Allocate 70% of the funding for PS clubs (45% Premier division; 25% Championship) and 30% for Development Fund
- 2 Ringfence 25% of the PS allocation for agreed projects and make the remainder available to reward top ground markings and participation initiatives, half to each:
  - i. for ground markings, make payments to reward the clubs with top three combined pitch & outfield marks
  - ii. for participation, invite clubs to make a case covering numbers of juniors and women's and girls' participants, and activity undertaken; judge a top three against agreed criteria (it will be a subjective judgement, potentially also rewarding significant improvement)
- 3 Agreed projects. Money to be allocated to specific Premier Section clubs towards agreed projects that will either improve grounds and facilities or increase participation.

## What would that mean for 2024 funding?

Based on the 2023 funding of £15,883:

	<i>Premier Division</i>	<i>Championship</i>	<i>Development Fund</i>
<b>Overall share</b>	<b>£7,147</b>	<b>£3,971</b>	<b>£4,765</b>
Ground markings	£2,680 (£1,340, £893, £447)	£1,489 (£745, £486, £248)	
Participation	£2,680 (£1,340, £893, £447)	£1,489 (£745, £486, £248)	
Agreed projects	£2,780		

## Item 8

### Premier Section Ground & Facility Standards 2025

#### *Introduction*

These guidelines describe playing area, playing facility and ground & clubhouse standards required at Premier Section clubs from the start of the 2025 season. The standards are mandatory for Premier Division clubs, unless an exemption from a particular criterion is agreed, or the club is already working towards achieving compliance with the criteria on an agreed timescale. Championship Division clubs who aim to achieve promotion are expected to have an agreed three-year plan in place, where necessary, in advance of being promoted.

The Premier Section committee will monitor these standards on an ongoing basis and they will notify clubs of any areas where they do not meet the necessary standards. Umpires will mark the ground and facilities after each game and they will be asked to comment on any on-field or off-field deficiencies in their online match report.

#### **Required standards**

##### *Playing area*

- **The square** should be well maintained and in good condition with the whole of it being cut within two days of the start of each match. The pitch should be clearly distinguishable from the remainder of the square and shall be marked and rolled no later than 30 minutes before play commences. The pitch should be suitable for matches of 100 overs. The bounce of the pitch should be true and predictable throughout the match and should not produce excessive spin or movement off the seam. It should not have been artificially watered within 48 hours of the scheduled start of the match.
- **Umpires' marks.** At the end of every League match, the umpires are required to report on the quality of the pitch and the outfield. Pitches are assessed on; unevenness of bounce, seam movement, carry and bounce, and turn from the protected area. A maximum of five marks are given by the umpires in each category, and the scores are added together to provide the total pitch score. Scores are only awarded where the first innings is completed. The club's average total pitch score awarded by the umpires over the season must reach a minimum of 14. The umpires will also award a maximum of five marks for the outfield, based on; boundary markings, mowing, freedom from ruts or holes, ungrassed, muddy or undrained areas, and weeds. The club's average outfield score awarded by the umpires over the season must reach a minimum of 3.5. Any club not achieving these minimum marks by the half-way stage in the season will be notified accordingly.
- **Pitch markings.** The popping crease shall be marked for a minimum of 12 feet in accordance with Law 7.3 and the restricted area for the bowlers' follow-through (Law 41.11) shall be indicated with markings five feet in front of the popping crease and one foot on either side of the middle stump on the bowling crease. For cup and T20 games, as a guideline to the umpires for the calling of wides on the offside, a line shall be marked in blue on both sides of the wicket at both ends of the pitch. The lines should be marked 17" in from the return crease and they should be marked between the popping crease and the bowling crease.
- **Stumps** which should be properly matched sets in good condition and with matching bails, shall be pitched by the groundsman with holes adequately watered to allow easy re-setting by the umpires.
- **Pitch maintenance during the game.** The pitch shall be brushed and re-marked (and rolled if required) during the interval between innings. At least one roller must be available for use during the match. Any holes or ruts on the square caused by previous matches must be levelled, filled and firmed before each game.
- **The outfield** should be well maintained and adequately drained. It should be closely mown with no noticeable grass cuttings. Balls should be able to run true and the outfield should be free of weeds, ruts and holes or other obstructions.
- **The boundary** should be clearly marked by a rope or a white line with markers approximately 20 yards apart. If a picket fence or advertising boards form part or all of the boundary they shall be secure and in good condition. No boundary shall be less than 45 yards or more than 90 yards from the centre of the match pitch.

## *Playing facilities*

- **Sightscreens.** The structure and non-reflective paintwork of the sightscreens should be in good condition. Two screens must be provided at both ends and cover a minimum width of 24 feet. They must be of an adequate height for the ground and should be situated completely outside the playing area. Where this is not possible, a rope shall be placed in front of the screens to form a boundary during the game; this should allow adequate movement of the screens during the game to accommodate bowling from either side of the wicket without being moved during the game. Screens should be properly positioned before the commencement of play.
- **Covers** must be available to protect the pitch, the bowlers' run-ups and the pitches either side of the match pitch from rain both during the match and in the preceding days as appropriate. Arrangements should be made for the groundstaff, players or other helpers to put the covers in place as quickly as possible in the event of rain during the game. Roll-on wheeled covers are mandatory for the match pitch, but plastic sheets/tarpaulins can be used for the bowlers' run-ups and the pitches either side of the match pitch. Clubs with grounds that slope from one side to the other may request permission to double cover the top side of the pitch and leave the bottom side uncovered or apply other combinations that have proved to be efficient in the past. In the interests of time-saving, it is permissible to use flat sheets to cover the pitch during the match at the discretion of the umpires but, if the break in play is likely to be for an extended period, the roll-on wheeled covers, covers for the bowlers' run-ups and side sheets for the pitches either side of the match pitch must be applied. Clubs will be required to demonstrate that their covering arrangements are adequate to protect the pitch and the immediate areas surrounding the pitch (bowlers' run-ups and side sheets) taking into account the contours and draining characteristics of the ground.
- **Drying materials.** A sufficient supply of sawdust and cloths should be available to minimise lost playing time due to wet ground conditions. Additional covering for areas likely to cause a delay in play (for example, the ends of previously used pitches) should be provided whenever possible. The presence of a working water-hog is mandatory and other drying facilities including brushes and forks should be available. Light (250 kilos to 50 kilos) and heavy (minimum 1500 kilos) rollers should be available for use on the pitch and, at least, one roller must be available for use during the match.
- **Practice facilities.** Net practice facilities, either grass or artificial, should be available for use by both sides (a minimum of two nets) before matches whenever possible. Grass nets must be in good condition with true and predictable bounce. Artificial net pitches should be maintained and rolled regularly when appropriate to maintain true and predictable bounce.
- **Scoreboard.** An electronic scoreboard must be in place, showing; the innings total, wickets lost, Individual score of each batsman, overs bowled, first innings total, last individual score, and, when appropriate, the DLS par score at the end of each over in the second innings. It must be of adequate size to be visible from the far side of the ground and should be visible from the pavilion and the players' viewing area.
- **Scorebox.** Scorers should be able to see the whole of the playing area and there should be a light to acknowledge umpires' signals clearly. The scorebox should be clean, tidy and reasonably comfortable with adequate tables and chairs and full protection from the weather. The system for changing the numbers should be easily accessible to the scorers, simple to operate and in full working order.
- **Ground surrounds,** including hedges, fences and walls should be well maintained, and suitable measures must be in place to ensure that the retrieval of lost balls causes minimum delay.
- **Dressing rooms** should be clean, well-ventilated and well-lit, with heating wherever possible. Separate changing facilities should be provided for both teams and for the umpires. The changing rooms should be of a minimum size of 15 square metres, excluding toilet and shower areas, with suitable seating, tables or shelving for bags and equipment, a mirror and at least one hook per player for clothes. Changing rooms should be easily accessible from the playing area whilst preserving the privacy of the players and the visitors' dressing room should allow viewing of the playing area. If spectators can see directly into the dressing rooms, blinds or a translucent screen must be provided to maintain the privacy of players. Flooring should be suitable for bare feet. The changing rooms should be clean and safe with adequate facilities to ensure the security of equipment and possessions.
- **Showers and toilets.** Three showers and two toilets must be provided in or adjacent to each dressing room. They must be clean, hygienic and in full working order.

- **Seating.** A seating area, clearly separated from general spectators, must be provided for the batting side to view the match.
- **Umpires' room.** Separate and secure accommodation should be provided for the umpires of a similar standard to the players, be of sufficient size for two umpires with suitable seating, tables or shelving for bags and equipment, a mirror and at least two hooks per umpire for clothes. The room should be clean and tidy and, if the room is used for other purposes, any equipment must be stored in such a way that it does not prevent the umpires using the seating and must allow adequate space for clothing and equipment. Bowlers' markers, drying cloths, spare stumps and ordinary and heavy bails should be available before the start of the match. Toilet facilities should be available and conveniently located to allow private access by officials.

#### *Ground and clubhouse*

- **The entrance** to the ground should be clearly signed, showing the name of the club. There must be suitable provision for disabled access to the ground and social areas. Seating for spectators should be in good condition
- **Car Parking.** There must be safe car parking for players, officials and spectators either within the ground or immediately adjacent to the ground. The approaches to the car park and the car park area itself should be suitably surfaced without potholes or other hazards.
- **Clock and bell.** A large working clock should be sited so it can be seen from the playing area.
- **Public toilets.** Clean and hygienic toilet, washing and hand-drying facilities (including mirrors) must be available for both males and females. Access for spectators must be consistent with the security and privacy requirements of players and umpires. All facilities must be properly equipped and serviced, must meet all legal requirements and should provide for the needs of the disabled people.
- **The kitchen** should provide hot and cold water, washing facilities, sufficient worktops, suitable storage space including a refrigerator, and appropriate crockery and cutlery, all in clean and hygienic condition throughout.
- **Social area.** There should be a bar and surrounding area with suitable facilities for players, supporters and families, including proper heating and seating arrangements. The bar should be staffed and open during the hours of play, whenever possible, and at the end of the game.
- **First aid.** An appropriately stocked first aid box must always be available for the treatment of minor injuries. A person qualified in first aid should be available whenever possible. A defibrillator should be provided wherever possible.

#### **Exemptions**

Where, for unavoidable reasons, it is not possible for a club to meet any of the above standards, they must seek written permission from the Premier Section committee to be exempted from the relevant standard. If a club in the Premier Division does not meet any of the standards they must, unless so exempt, have in place an agreed three-year plan to do so.

#### **Monitoring**

- Umpires and visiting captains will also be asked to include, in their match reports, any identified failures to comply with these standards.
- Premier Section committee members will be asked to look critically at grounds when they visit them, and bring the committee's attention to any identified failures to comply with these standards.
- Any failures notified to the committee will then be informally brought to the attention of clubs, in order that remedial action can be taken.
- If, at the end of the season, any club finishes with an average pitch mark below 14, or outfield mark below 3.5 the club will be advised to liaise with an ECB Pitch Adviser to develop an Action Plan for Improvement for the following season. The Action Plan for Improvement should include a full PQS (Performance Quality Standard) report on the main square.
- A small grounds and facilities inspection sub-committee, of no fewer than four persons, will be nominated by the Premier Section committee. Formal inspections will be made by three of this sub-committee.

- The Premier Section committee, taking into account all available evidence and the club's response to it, will identify any clubs where they consider that a full formal inspection of the ground and facilities is required. This will take place before the start of the following season.
- Upon receiving the report of the inspection committee, the Premier Section committee will ask the club to submit a formal action plan, including timescales, to address any failures identified at the inspection.
- Where an action plan is submitted, the inspection committee will conduct a further visit in an agreed timescale, to assess whether the identified failures have been addressed.

### **Non-compliance**

Where failures identified at a club have not, after the formal process described above, been satisfactorily addressed, the Premier Section committee will be empowered to take sanctions against the club, depending on the seriousness of the failure, including:

- fine
- points deduction (immediate and/or suspended)
- relegation of the club's highest team

**The proposed revised constitution, with the changes referred to in item 5 (1), follows:**