



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

www.ycspl.co.uk

2nd Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 16 November 2022 – Phoenix Sports & Social Club, Rotherham – 7.00pm

Notes of meeting

1. **Welcome.** David Ward (DW) welcomed all delegates, following with a minute's silence for those people connected with the League who have passed away during the last 12 months.
2. **Reports**
 - i. *Chairman's report* – see attached. DW apologised for the failure to mention Darfield and Sheffield Collegiate in the thanks to clubs who had hosted prestige games in 2022. This is corrected in the revised version attached.
 - ii. *Equity & Diversity Group report* – see attached. There were no issues arising.
 - iii. *Competitions Manager's report.* Matt Summerhill (MS) said that it was the best season on record in terms of weather, but that there had still been 60 games rearranged due to ground issues. He made a plea to clubs for the future to respond to correspondence on rearrangements as soon as possible, in order that rearrangements can be included in the handbook.
 - iv. *Head of Premier Section's report* – see attached. There were no issues arising.
 - v. *Head of Senior Senior's report.* DW said that there were no issues not already covered in the Chairman's report. There were no issues arising.
 - vi. *Treasurers's report* – see attached accounts. There were no issues arising.
 - vii. *Safeguarding officer's report* – see attached. There were no issues arising.
 - viii. *Disciplinary manager's report.* DW said that Neil Vaughan (NV) was unable to attend, and in his absence commented on the disruption caused by the enforcement of the new General Conduct Regulations at the start of the season. He said that this change had been well-handled by NV and Mick Bocking. DW said that there had been roughly the same number of incidents reported overall as in last season. He said that better on-field disciplinary standards and better disciplinary reporting should be priorities in the future.
 - ix. *YCB report.* DW said that Gareth Davis was unable to attend due to the clash with a YCB event. He passed on a big thanks to all the clubs who have organised successful All Starts and Dynamos programmes.
3. **Adoption of Financial Accounts**
 - It was proposed by Jim Taylor and seconded by Peter Humphries that the accounts were adopted. This was passed unanimously.
 - Ashley Boothman thanked the auditor John Wilson and said that the League were in a healthy position financially.
 - DW said that the League did not want to sit on £50k plus in the bank, and that a Development Fund was to be set up to help clubs fund small projects that they might otherwise be unable to carry out.

4. Finances 2023

- i. DW explained that *Tiflex* had announced an increase in the cost of the Premier Section balls, hence the increased cost to clubs; he said that the Premier section would review ball provision, including trialling alternatives, for 2024
- ii. DW referred to the small increase in umpires' fees for 2023; there was some debate about this, in which the following concerns were expressed:
 - the increased cost of umpires and teas would increase financial pressure on smaller clubs
 - for some lower division clubs, there would be increased costs of umpires, plus a 'fine' for not providing umpires for the pool
 - it was questioned whether the 'fine' system was actually working in providing more umpires – smaller clubs either provide umpires for the pool but are not allocated any, or don't provide them and are fined
- iii. in response to the above, the following points were made:
 - we need umpires of good quality and they must be remunerated properly
 - some of the increase is to compensate for increased travelling costs, particularly where long journeys are necessary – DW rejected suggestions that a mileage reimbursement system could be used, due to the administrative burden involved
 - the League was doing its best to keep costs down, through low subscriptions for example, which was possible only due to the sponsorship received
 - there has been no increase in fees since 2017
- iv. it was suggested that:
 - to compensate for umpire shortages, they should be spread more widely, with only games allocated one only, who could be paid at a higher rate, but still save clubs money – DW said that a lot of umpires did not want to stand alone, and this could be counter-productive
 - umpires should be provided only to those clubs that put umpires into the system
- v. DW said that the points had been noted and would be discussed by LEB

5. Changes to Constitution & Rules

- i. *Administrative rules.* DW referred to the changes that had been circulated to clubs, but on which no vote was needed.
- ii. *Playing conditions*
 - The proposal that teas must be provided at all games was passed by a majority of 39-11. Adwick-le-Street represented that, due to their building works, teas could not be provided in 2023, and DW agreed that an exception could be made in the circumstances.
 - There were two proposals on bowlers' overs restrictions. The first proposal, of a maximum of 15 overs for two bowlers and eight for any others, was defeated by Premier Section clubs 14-3. The second proposal, that all bowlers were limited to ten overs, was defeated by 10-7. This being the case, the proposals were not put to Senior Section clubs. The restrictions on bowlers' overs will, therefore, remain as in 2022.
 - The proposal that the first method of differentiation between clubs on the same points in league tables would be the number of wins, was accepted unanimously.
 - MS spoke briefly on the proposal for the two T20 competitions, which is for one group stage day in each, a semi-finals day in each, and a finals day with the finals in both competitions being played on the same day on the same ground. The proposals were accepted by clubs.
 - MS added that the draws for the cup competitions will take place on 22nd November; in the case of the Whitworth Cup, this will be for the first round only (the draw for the former Viking Cricket Cup will take place on a date to be announced, alongside new sponsorship arrangements).

6. Election of League officials for 2023

i. LEB

- The Head of Premier Section, Mark Beardshall, has elected to stand down from the role but wishes to remain on the Premier Section committee; Roger Pugh (RP) has been nominated by Barnsley Woolley Miners and seconded by Wickersley Old Village to replace him – this was agreed without dissent.
- Maurice Gilliatt has decided to retire from the role of Safeguarding Manager and Lindsay Pepper has been nominated (DW) and seconded (Steve Ward) to replace him – this was agreed without dissent.
- Liz Lazenby has decided to stand down from her role as Participation Manager; Mel Mahmood has been nominated (DW) and seconded (MS) to replace her – this was agreed without dissent.

ii. *Premier Section committee.* RP said that Chris Cobb had told him before the meeting that he had decided to stand down due to his new commitments at Treeton. There was therefore a vacancy which could be filled by co-opting another committee member. Due to an imbalance, whereby there are significantly more representatives on the committee from Premier Division clubs than those from the Championship, he would like to actively seek another Championship club representative and would advertise this.

iii. *Senior Section committee.* DW confirmed that all members were willing to serve again next year.

7. Communications

- DW said that, following comments made in the player survey, it had been agreed to set up a small working group to look at league communications in general. RP said that it was inevitable that bringing together two leagues with a large number of clubs would result in some communication issues, but he wanted to get to grips with what they were and resolve how to tackle them, in order to ensure that information gets to those who need it as efficiently as possible. He asked that anyone interested in being involved should contact him.
- RP also asked that any club who wanted some publicity on the website in the Around our Clubs feature that ran on the website last winter, should contact him.
- RP agreed that the aims and parameters of the Development Fund should be publicised, and agreed to talk to MS about this.

8. Other business

- a delegate complained that his team had been charged at the maximum rate for a very poor tea last season – DW said that such cases should be reported
- the 12 noon start in Sunday cup-ties was questioned due to the possible impact on junior/womens' & girls' games; DW said the change had been made in response to significant player feedback, but that starts could be delayed if there were clashes
- a delegate asked, with reference to the revised admin rule 13.iv, if clubs could be advised of the reason for fines being imposed

9. **Roll call.** At the end of meeting, Lindsay Pepper checked attendees and confirmed that Appleby Frodingham, Brookhouse, Frecheville Community, Handsworth JSC, Millhouses Works, Scholes Stocksbridge, Thorncliffe & Wentworth and Wickersley Old Village were not in attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

Reports to the AGM

1 League chairman's report

The second season of the Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League was a quite remarkable one in terms of weather – with only less than 10 games out of over 1,500 games lost as a result of weather.

Some outstanding individual and team performances underlined the quality of the playing strength in League and the overall standard of our grounds and facilities is high.

Millhouses Works opened a magnificent new pavilion, and new facilities are in the pipeline for Adwick-le-Street and Norton Woodseats. But the dearth of cricket grounds in South Yorkshire is a real issue, resulting in some clubs needing to play on Sundays, which is not an ideal solution.

We welcome new club Barnby Dun into our League for 2023, and wish them a long and successful stay with us, as well as an additional team at Norton Woodseats. South Kirkby return to the Pontefract League under the terms of the pyramid agreement– but there is no team coming in the opposite direction.

Our Equity & Diversity Group has become established, and is making significant input into the running of the League. I look forward to working with them in the future as they develop their action plan based on their survey results. Key League officials have also completed equity & diversity training. The League's player survey also gave us some invaluable feedback, and it was pleasing to see that in most respects, players were content with the organisation of cricket in the League. I understand the importance of listening to our players, and feedback from the survey has been invaluable in looking at areas where we can make changes to ensure that we provide the cricket that players want.

Before the start of the season, we had to adopt the new General Conduct Regulations for dealing with disciplinary incidents.

This was a significant challenge, but it was well managed by Neil Vaughan and Mick Bocking. The majority of our clubs supported the disciplinary panel by taking appropriate action where necessary and, from 56 reported offences, we only needed four disciplinary hearings all season. There were fewer reports received in the Premier Section than in 2021, and I hope to see a similar improvement in the Senior Section in 2023.

Whatever our successes, there are always challenges. One area of particular, and ongoing, concern to me is the shortage of umpires and scorers. To cover all our games, we would need around 126 umpires every Saturday – but typically we have only around 50-60. We desperately need more former players to take up these roles. We pay all the training costs for umpires and scorers; there is a 'one-off' £100 bounty for any club that puts a new umpire into the system. Umpires' fees are being increased for 2023, and we are recommending a minimum fee for scorers. We are actively seeking ideas to encourage more people to take up umpiring and scoring – but we need a lot more.

Junior cricket represents our future, and the growth of women's' and girls' cricket is an equally important area, and we want to do whatever we can to support their growth in our League. In 2022, the League sponsored junior cricket balls to the tune of £800 and Readers sponsored 36 pink balls for women's' and girls' cricket.

Whilst the overall picture is pleasing, we cannot rest on our laurels, and one priority is the need to encourage the improvement of grounds and facilities at our clubs to the standards of the best. We are still a new league, we are still finding things in our rules that need to be tweaked. Two areas that have addressed are the rules about playing higher division players in lower division teams and guidance on overseas players.

One area where clubs could make a difference is in improving their administration, in particular on Play-Cricket, for example, in registering all junior players before the start of the season; and in ensuring timely submission of match reports.

There are a number of people whom I would like to thank. Firstly, our sponsors, Nicholas Associates, ExtraCover Insurance, Tiflex and Readers for their generosity in sponsoring our League; and Viking Cricket for sponsoring the joint Premier knock-out cup over the last few seasons. This support has helped to put us in a strong financial position.

Secondly, I thank Gareth Davis at the YCB, who has provided a great deal of advice and support to the League over the last 12 months.

Thirdly, a big thank-you to all the league officials who work tirelessly behind the scenes to do all the work that is necessary to keep the League running as efficiently as possible. They are too many to mention, but they know who they are, and I never cease to appreciate their often-unsung efforts.

Fourthly, our grateful thanks to the seven clubs who did such a great job in hosting our finals days in 2022 – Cawthorne, Darfield, Elsecar, Fishlake, Sheffield Collegiate, Wakefield Thornes and Wickersley.

Finally, I thank all our clubs, their players, officials and followers, who make our League what it is. I congratulate all our award winners in 2022; I wish everyone a good winter; and I look forward to seeing everyone next Season.

David Ward
13 November 2022

2 Equity & Diversity Group report

Now into the second year the E&D have achieved the following:

- representatives on the League Executive Board and both Section committees
- developed a diverse E&D team who meet monthly in the off season and twice during the season
- include representatives from the YCB
- distributed the survey around racism and inclusion twice in order to track and benchmark
- dealt with League issues and challenges where required, relevant and asked
- provided assistance and feedback in and around disciplinary cases and issues
- provided assistance and engaged along with other league and club representatives on a Diversity & Inclusion course

Areas that the E&D Group will now focus on are:

- recruitment of other representatives onto the E&D Group so that it can truly represent all backgrounds and beliefs
- developing and designing an E&D action plan taking into account the previous surveys carried out and with assistance and input from the YCB.
- identifying areas that the League and clubs can benefit from, regarding potential implementation of guidance and/or position or people.

It is important that the group remain flexible and agile enough to be proactive and continue the great relationships that it has with all League and Section delegates.

The E&D group would like to thank all the League and Section officials for their input, understanding and the openness and welcome that they have shown to the E&D.

Jason Booth
October 2022

3 Head of Premier Section's report

In what has been an unbelievable summer weather-wise, we have seen some excellent cricket. The Premier Division title was settled only at the end of August, and the final relegation spot was decided on the final day. I congratulate Appleby Frodingham on succeeding in the always really difficult task of retaining their title, despite losing two key players for almost the whole season; and commend Tickhill on their excellent season, pushing the Steelmen all the way before becoming worthy runners-up. I am sorry to see Cawthorne and Whiston Parish Church relegated to the Championship, but I am sure their time will come again.

In the Championship, Aston Hall had a remarkable season, with only two defeats, and I welcome them, and runners-up Hallam, back into the Premier Division. My commiserations go to Green Moor and Rockingham Colliery on their relegation, but am sure that both clubs will return stronger. In the meantime, one famous old club, Darfield, will bid to return to former glories as they join the Premier Section, and I am sure that they, along with Doncaster Town 2nds, with their very talented young players, will add more quality to what will be a very competitive Championship next year.

There has been a clear improvement in discipline and have had only a small number of issues to deal with. Our clubs have responded positively when asked to deal with issues reported, and for that I thank them.

At the AGM, clubs will vote on the issue of the bowlers' over restrictions. I understand the need to increase participation, that drives a wish by some to have a ten-over maximum, but my concern is that only being able to bowl ten overs would make our league less attractive to specialist bowlers, who may opt to play elsewhere, and thereby diminish the quality of our playing standards. That is why I commend the option of a 15-over maximum for two bowlers, and an eight-over maximum for the rest, which will still ensure a meaningful contribution from five bowlers.

For the future, I believe that there are three priorities for the Premier Section. Echoing the points David has made, we firstly need to encourage all our clubs to ensure that their grounds and facilities are as good as they can be – befitting a

Premier League. Secondly, we need to play our part in the recruitment of umpires. Clubs in the Premier Section will always get two umpires each week, but some contribute none to the umpires' pool, meaning that some Senior Section clubs, who do contribute, sometimes end up with only one, or no umpires at all. This is hardly fair, and we need to help our clubs address it. Thirdly, we need to ensure that our clubs continue to do all they can to encourage and nurture young players, and contribute to the ever-increasing development of the women's game.

Finally, I would like to thank our committee for the great support they have given me over the last two years and the advice and support offered by David during this time. It has been a privilege to be in at the start of a new league – it has been a challenge, but one I have enjoyed. We have some very able and committed administrators in our League, and I look forward to playing my part with them in the future.

Mark Beardshall
November 2022

4 Safeguarding manager's report

Safeguarding is a priority of the YSPCL, in these ever changing and unprecedented times. Safeguarding officers are in place at all our clubs and work continually hard to keep everyone safe. Last season, we dealt with three reported safeguarding courses.

Education of volunteers continues with safeguarding courses returning to 'face-to-face' after being delivered virtually over the Covid period. Face-to-face ECB safe hands courses are valid for three years and need to be refreshed accordingly. Ray and Sue Knowles have continued to deliver this year's courses. We all wish Ray a speedy recovery after his recent operation.

Safe hands courses will be delivered in early 2023. There will be welcomed new additions to the YCB safeguarding team who will be available to deliver courses once they have completed their train the trainer training in our region. Safeguarding is now a major part of Clubmark and safeguarding information has to be updated and uploaded by Clubs to achieve the accreditation. It is essential records are kept up to date to support the process.

Maurice Gilliatt retired from his role as Lead Safeguarding Officer on the League Executive Board. We thank him for huge contribution to keeping cricket safe in South Yorkshire.

Safeguarding is everyone's business and we all have a responsibility to keep everyone involved safe. Whilst the Safe Hands courses are a must for all Safeguarding officers in clubs, it is good practice for all those involved with games and practice to be trained, and I encourage clubs to ensure this happens.

Lindsay Pepper
November 2022

Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

**Income and Expenditure Account
Year Ended 30 September 2022**

	2020/21		2021/22	
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Income:				
Cricket ball orders:				
Order 1	36,790		40,185	
Order 2	10,689		9,870	
Pink	2,166	49,645	3,814	53,869
ECB Donation		11,621		12,334
Sponsorship		6,500		5,124
Subscriptions		13,385		12,065
Penalties		3,514		3,406
Handbook advertising		150		
Merchandise				5
Presentation Evening 2021		30		8,400
Bank interest		2		2
Total income		84,847		95,205
Expenditure:				
Cricket ball purchases (See Note 1 below)		44,628		49,937
YCB affiliation fees		5,390		3,160
ECB Club Funding				8,500
Presentation Evening 2021		600		8,496
Awards and Trophies				1,347
Presentation Evening 2022 - advance payment				1,625
Cup final expenses		2,568		3,259
Cup final medals		2,640		2,462
League expenses		4,072		5,447
Officials expenses		1,884		2,240
Honoraria				1,500
Donation to SY Umpires Ass'n		150		240
Website / Zoom		712		851
Administration		430		362
Total expenditure		63,074		89,426
Surplus of income over expenditure		21,773		5,779
2021/22 Summary:				
Lloyds Bank - Opening balances 1 Oct 2021				
Current account			26,925	
Deposit account			14,755	41,680
Surplus of income over expenditure (above)				5,779
				47,459
Lloyds Bank - Closing balances 30 Sep 2022:				
Current account				32,702
Deposit account				14,757
				47,459

Note 1 - Stock of cricket balls as at 30 Sep 2022 is valued at £362. The expenditure figure shown above has not been adjusted for this.

Checked and found correct
John Wilson ACMA,CGMA, FinstLM