



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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League Executive Board

23rd meeting – Monday 30 January 2023 – 7.00pm by Zoom

Note of meeting

Present: David Ward (chair), Terry Bateman, Chris Froggett, Mel Mahmood, Lindsay Pepper, Roger Pugh, Matt Summerhill, Steve Ward, Nelson Windle

Apologies: Ashley Boothman, Gareth Davis

1. **Welcome & apologies.** RP said that there had been apologies from AB (work) and GD (delayed in travel).
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** RP said that the action points from the last meeting had all been cleared.
3. **Reports from Members**
 - i. *Equity & Diversity Group representative's report*
 - NW said that the last E&DG meeting had to be cancelled and there was nothing to report.
 - The Group are still awaiting guidance from YCB on the advert for new members.
 - DW said that he and Jason Booth had met with Alex Diggles, latterly of Hampole & Skelbrook, and had invited him to join the group.
 - ii. *Safeguarding Managers' report*
 - LP said that following changes to the DBS electronic update system, all officials that have a DBS will be prompted to go into the system and confirm that their details are correct. This will take place over the next 12 months, as DBSs become due for renewal. **RP to put something in the bulletin to warn clubs.**
 - MM and LP asked if they could have some training on P-C and WTU. **DW to arrange.**
 - iii. *Participation Manager's report*
 - MM had provided a participation report in advance of the meeting – see appendix 1. She said that there was a clear growth in womens' and girls' cricket – both hard ball and soft ball.
 - MM said that she and DW had met with Dean Smith of the YCB, to discuss the YCSPL taking responsibility for womens' and girls' cricket in South Yorkshire. This was a very positive move for the League, which would become one of the first leagues in the country to encompass the women's game. DW said that he was keen to ensure that there was no additional work for YCSPL officials.
 - MM and LP asked if the clubs' directory in the league handbook and website could be expanded to include details of whether clubs had W&G and junior sections, and to give relevant contacts. RP said that he would be happy to do this, provided that clubs provided the relevant information. He said that anyone whose details were included in the hand book would be required to sign a GDPR consent form. **RP to arrange for clubs to be asked for the relevant information.**
 - iv. *Umpires' representative's report*
 - TB said that the first of the winter training sessions had been held at Wickersley OVCC and went very well. Further sessions are in the pipeline.

- DW recorded congratulations to Simon Widdup on his promotion to the first-class list; he said that he had done very well as only three new umpires had been taken onto the list this year. SW will continue as the chair of the YPLUA.
- DW raised his concerns about umpire numbers. Only two new umpires have been recruited for 2023 whilst several have been lost.
- DW is to ask AB to pay the £25 ex gratia payment to umpires who travelled to do games in YPLN last summer, recognising the increased cost of fuel (this was agreed at the August meeting).
- DW highlighted changes that are being made within ECB ACO, in particular that there will be only one course tutor for the North of England, which is a very large area for one person to cover.
- TB expressed concern that with courses taking place in March, that lefty much to be done before new umpires could umpire games, and very little time to do it. DW said that ECB had responded to feedback that if training takes place in the autumn, by the following season the impetus to umpire is often lost.

v. *Scoring update*

- SW said that this is his busiest time of year, as he is engaged in a programme of Roadshows, which occupies him most weekends.
- MM asked if women umpires could be involved. RP suggested that this could potentially help our recruitment issues if more women umpires could be found in this way. SW to talk to MM.

vi. *Treasurer's report*

- AB had provided the latest monthly summary account statement showing there is over £57k in the bank.
- DW said that there is over £6k in the Development Fund, and AB has transferred over £13k into the deposit account.
- DW said that balls were being acquired from Readers and Dukes for ball trials in the Premier Section. Readers have provided a better-quality ball than that currently used in the Senior Section. Dukes will provide balls for YPLN in 2023 but have not entered into any sponsorship deal with that league, and are charging YCSPL for the trial balls.
- MS asked if the Development Fund could be shown separately in the accounts, and RP said that he thought a simpler, one-page statement was needed for wider distribution with the notes of the meeting. **RP volunteered to adapt a form of statement he used, incorporating the Development Fund point, and DW would speak to AB about using it.**

vii. *Premier Section report*

- RP had reported that there had been a problem with a fixture on the first day of the season due to ground availability issues, but that it had been resolved with the co-operation of all concerned, and would be played on the scheduled date.
- RP said that he and SW would organise the ball trials in the first half of the season, if practical when there was the possibility of some rain, so that the ball could also be assessed in wet conditions.

viii. *Senior Section report.* DW had circulated the [notes of the last committee meeting](#) and there was nothing to add.

ix. *Compliance Manager's report.* CF said that he had received a number of enquiries about eligibility issues from the usual clubs. He had heard that there might be some guidance from ECB about leagues allowing a second overseas professional if that player was a woman, but nothing has been received.

x. *Competitions Manager's report.* MS said that with only a day to go to the deadline, there were 21 fixtures still to be rearranged. He was rather disappointed and frustrated with the lack of activity by some clubs. He noted a sharp rise in clubs refusing to move fixtures and insisting on playing on Saturdays. It was agreed that the cut-off date for rearrangements will be extended to the end of February. **RP will put this in the bulletin.**

xi. *YCB update.* No update available.

4. **Development Fund.** MS has produced a document about how the fund will be administered. Payment will be made after work completed, to ensure that the work is done and the money spent for the purpose intended. Up to 60% may be paid for bigger projects and the full cost of smaller ones. The Senior Section committee will consider and make decisions on applications, which will then be signed off by the LEB. Two applications have been received and are being considered.
5. **Womens' & girls' cricket.** Deal with under item 3.iii above.
6. **Payment of fees to Premier Division umpires.** Following requests by some clubs, the proposal is to make fee payments by BACS transfer. The umpires are currently being consulted about the proposal, and if the majority are in favour, RP will write to clubs to advise arrangements. TB said that he thought that it was an unnecessary complication but CF said that from a club perspective it would be very helpful in not having to find cash for umpires on matchdays.
7. **Application of admin rule 58, including outstanding 2022 levy**
 - MS said that the existing rule either needed to be applied or changed. RP said that the existing rule is fine, because it allows for the efforts made by a club to find umpires to be considered. He had no sympathy for a club who had made no efforts and offered no supporting evidence, but felt that where a club had tried without success to find umpires and offered supporting evidence, that they should be treated more leniently. This was agreed.
 - In the case of the outstanding Wakefield Thornes levy, RP proposed that their levy should be reduced by 50% to reflect efforts made and their support for officials training. This was agreed.
8. **Distribution of ECB monies**
 - The proposed allocations in RP's paper were agreed. **RP will write to all the clubs advising their allocation and how it has been calculated, after which AB will make payments.**
 - Given that only one club achieved their maximum possible allocation, the sub-group will meet to review the criteria. It was commented that these should be challenging but achievable. **RP to arrange meeting.**
9. **Communications sub-group.** RP said that he had a couple of volunteers and also wanted to include Melvyn Bond, as P-C is a big part of our communication strategy. He said that whilst he did not want the group to be top-heavy, he would welcome a further LEB member if anyone was interested. It was suggested that an EDG member should be included, and this was agreed. **RP to take forward.**
10. **Other business**
 - *Photo ID on Play-Cricket.* DW said that he had received a paper from Melvyn Bond on the P-C facility for photo ID to be uploaded. He said that the system was to be applied to all new registrations in the Pontefract & District League this season. Something similar had been tried in the Bradford League but not persevered with. **DW to circulate the paper and seek views.**
 - *Polo shirts.* DW said that following feedback from the disciplinary panel about clothing used at hearings, he had made enquiries about providing polo shirts for league officials. These would cost £20 each, plus the cost of adding the league logo. The total cost would be in the region of £500. This was agreed. **DW to take forward.**
 - *Meeting with Pontefract & District.* DW said that RP, MS and himself would be meeting with the P&DCL on Wednesday. The main purposes of the meeting are to review the MoU and seek agreement on the way forward on fixtures, given this season's issues.
 - *Ackworth hybrid pitches.* ACC have had three hybrid pitches laid, and have invited officials and clubs to inspect them. **RP to include in the bulletin.**
 - *Applications for 2024.* DW said that Brodsworth (P&DCL) had applied to bring two teams into the YCSPL, and there had been requests for additional teams from Parkhead (2nds) and Hallam (4ths).
 - *Umpires' courses.* TB thanked the League for the money for teas and coffees for the ongoing courses.
11. **Closure.** The meeting closed at 9.05pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 27 February by Zoom.

Participation report

The South Yorkshire Women's & Girls Cricket League has been rapidly expanding since the end of the pandemic. The 2022 season saw four divisions in Softball Cricket, a Hardball Cricket Cup and a number of clubs also playing Hardball league cricket, a total of 45 teams playing cricket last season.

The Indoor Game has also grown rapidly, with 49 W&G teams playing softball and hardball cricket over this 2022 winter period in South Yorkshire.

As the league has grown so fast in such a short space of time, certain policies and structure have been identified as needing to now be in place to help both the governance of the Women's game in South Yorkshire, hence Dean Smith and Gareth Davies of the YCB approaching YCSPL to assist in this matter.

After an initial meeting with myself and David this would mean the Women's and Girls League coming under the umbrella of our league in terms of governance, safeguarding and the disciplinary structure only and not in terms of the general running or organisation of fixtures etc.

This is a great opportunity, I feel, to strengthen and expand the YCSPL and I have expressed my interest to both Dean Smith and David Ward in chairing or potentially co-chairing, if required, this extension to our league. At the recent W&G's meeting, John Lazenby (Wickersley Old Village CC) expressed his interest to support in any way he can for the league. There are also a few others who have been around since the beginning of the Womens softball scene – Rachel Allen & Nicola Saunders (Tickhill CC), Tanya Wills (Millhouses Works CC), and Amanda Rice (Rockingham Colliery CC).

In terms of the coming season – registration for the new season has yet to happen and as such there is no data at this time in relation to 2023 Teams or Players for W&G or Juniors/All Stars. I will, of course, report in future meetings when the data becomes available.

Please see below a table of last years All Stars and Dynamos figures for clubs in South Yorkshire last season.

	<i>A/S Girls</i>	<i>Full A/S total</i>	<i>DC girls</i>	<i>Full DC total</i>	<i>A/S %girls</i>	<i>DC % girls</i>
Barnsley clubs	76	326	23	86	23%	27%
Sheffield clubs	189	694	65	312	27%	21%
Rotherham clubs	114	350	35	156	33%	22%
Doncaster clubs	44	254	10	56	17%	18%
Total	423	1626	133	610	26%	22%

Mel Mahmood
30 January