



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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League Executive Board

33rd meeting – Monday 29 January 2024 – 7.00pm by Zoom

Note of meeting

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

Apologies: Steve Ward

1. **Welcome & apologies.** RP said that there had been apologies from SW (running a scorers' course).
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** No matters arising that were not on the agenda.
3. **Reports from Members**
 - i. *Equity & Diversity Group representative's report.* NW referred to the update in Premier Section meeting notes attached (appendix 1), and there were no matters arising. GD complimented the project at Caribbean Sports to improve the facilities.
 - ii. *Safeguarding Managers' report*
 - LP voiced concerns, on behalf of SW and herself, about the decision to remove the need for scorers to have DBS checks. After discussion, it was agreed that it was clubs' responsibility to manage the situation, and that the League would provide as much guidance to clubs as possible. The issue of policing the rules would be discussed at the next meeting. **RP to include the ECB guidance in the next bulletin.**
 - LP said that the close season Safeguarding courses are now well underway.
 - iii. *Treasurer's report*
 - AB had provided a financial report – attached at appendix 2.
 - GD asked if AB had received any information on YCB subs. AB said not, and GD said he would follow up. **GD to ensure that AB is sent the necessary information.**
 - DW said that enquiries about the ECB performance-related payment had ascertained that the payment has been made, but not to the right account. ECB are following up.
 - iv. *Participation Manager's report.* MM had provided a report – attached at appendix 3. GD commented on how well women's and girls' cricket is going in South Yorkshire.
 - v. *Umpires' representative's report.* TB said that three umpires' refresher courses had been arranged and the first went very well. He complimented Philip Hulme, who was the course trainer.
 - vi. *Scoring Manager's report.* SW had provided a report – attached at appendix 4. There were no matters arising.
 - vii. *Premier Section report.* RP had provided the notes of the PSC meeting the week before – attached at appendix 1. He said there were no matters he wanted to discuss that were not on the agenda.
 - viii. *Senior Section report.* DW had provided the notes of the meeting from the week before – attached at appendix 5. There were no matters arising.

- ix. *Compliance Manager's report.* CF referred to the fine-tuning of the admin rule relating to refugees and asylum seekers, to reflect the new ECB guidance that an asylum seeker who had played as a professional within the previous four years could now be treated as an amateur. He was currently dealing with the usual club queries at this time of year, about the qualification and status of overseas players.
- x. *Competitions Manager's report.* MS said that there were seven outstanding fixture rearrangements, and reminders had been issued to the clubs
- xi. *Chairmans'/ECB update.* DW said that he had attended the PLMB AGM at Headingley on 18 January and reported back on two issues in particular:
 - It had been decided that the PLMB would be disbanded as it was no longer serving a purpose; the YCB would rule on club movement issues;
 - the future of the play-offs had been discussed, and delegates had been asked to feedback to Alan Birkinshaw whether their clubs wanted these to continue; RP said that clubs had been asked this question a year ago, and they wanted the play-offs to continue then, and that the PS committee remained of that of the same view;
 - RP also said that the committee were also of the view that if the play-offs continue, as the PLMB was being disbanded, a small committee should be set up to organise them, comprising one representative from each league;
 - DW added that, subsequent to the meeting, GD was confirmed as being the YCB representative on our LEB, as Ian Cotterhill is now the chairman of the YCB.
- xii. *YCB update.* GD reported on two main items:
 - A serious situation has arisen at Handsworth JSC, where the groundsman has sprayed the ground with the wrong kind of weedkiller, and has killed all the grass. It is very doubtful whether cricket will be played on the ground in 2024. GD has met with the council to look for alternative venues, but it is unlikely that anywhere can be found that will meet the required standard. ECB are sending a pitch inspector to advise on possible action. GD referred to the good work that the club are doing with All Stars and juniors, and did not want to see this lost.
 - Clubs with Clubmark will have four areas that need addressing by 30 April to fulfil the club mark and he was very pleased with progress so far. The areas are;
 - the Safe Hands Management System is a fair and accurate reflection of the size of the club
 - AGM Minutes from October 2023 onwards to be uploaded
 - evidence of valid and up to date insurance (Public/Employee Liability) – if the club is not on the ECB Central Scheme with Howdens insurance
 - upload a signed safeguarding policy for club's statement.

4. **Club communications.** RP said that the 2024 club information sheets had been issued. The clubs were being asked whom they wanted communications sending to, and the generic email and bulletin lists would be updated.
5. **Code of Sports Governance.** RP clarified that the nine-year restriction on time in office applied to members of a league's main decision-making body, in our case, the LEB. He said that the nine-year term started from when the individual the initially took up their role, and that they could not simply take a year's break and return in a different role. He emphasised that whilst the ECB had decided that Premier League clubs must sign up to the Code as a condition of receiving funding, they had not set the specific requirements, such as the 'nine-year' rule.

RP said that he thought there were a number of things that we now need to do:

- look critically at the roles currently on the LEB and decide whether they actually need to be LEB roles – if not, they can be removed and thus allow the position-holder to continue to serve the League in that capacity
- for the roles that must be on the LEB, for example, the two Section heads, we need to pro-actively look at succession planning, so that when an officer had to stand down from the LEB, we have a suitable candidate primed to take over

MS said that we need a small working party to look at the issue and make proposals. This was agreed. **DW/RP to take forward.**

6. **Cup draws.** MS said that following feedback from a small number of clubs about the need to advise ground availability to other leagues, he proposed that the cup draws should be done at the AGM. It was agreed that these would be done prior to the AGM starting, so that if people were interested in seeing the draws done, they could arrive early. RP offered to assist MS with the organisation.
7. **Delegates to the YCB Committee of Representatives.** Following Maurice Gilliatt's decision to stand down from this role, DW proposed that AB should take his place, alongside Melvyn Bond. AB agreed to fill the vacancy on an interim basis.
8. **Match photography.** RP said that John Hobson, who did the photography for the umpiring video and the presentation dinner, has asked if he could be recognised as the League's official photographer and do matchday photography for us. RP said that he had a vested interest in this, because Kirsty and he enjoy doing Saturday matchday photography and posting the results on the league website. He did, however, feel that John Hobson could be engaged to do all cup finals and the T20 finals day, that Kirsty and he could not commit to. John Hobson said that his normal rate for this work would be £150, but that he could offer a discounted rate to the League. It was agreed that the existing Saturday arrangements should continue, but that it could be beneficial to engage a photographer for cup finals. CF suggested that we need to investigate what the going rate would be, before signing up with John Hobson. **RP to take forward.**
9. **Other business**
 - i. *Sponsorship*
 - RP said that Jimmy Pearson at S20 The Boundary had asked if he could sponsor a cup or division in the League, and had offered £250. It was agreed that he could be offered the President's Cup on a short-term deal. **RP to take forward.**
 - MS said that he thought that the league was underselling itself and that we need to try and get as much money in from sponsorship as possible to minimise what clubs need to pay in subs. He said that he thought we need to form a small sub-committee to take forward and that there must be people in the League who have sales or promotional backgrounds who may be able to help or advise. **RP to arrange a bulletin item to ask for volunteers.**
 - ii. *Cup-ties interrupted by weather.* DW & RP proposed that the cup rules be changed to allow the same rules used in league games to be used to determine the number of overs lost in cup-ties. This simplification will go some way towards addressing concerns expressed by umpires about rules complexity. This was agreed. RP to amend.
 - iii. *T20 Charity Challenge game.* Andrew Ivill at Elsecar has asked the League to endorse a charity T20 game to be played at Elsecar CC for the benefit of the Weston Park Hospital. He would like the game to be between a YCSPL XI and a Bradford League XI, and has already negotiated for coloured kits to be provided. This was agreed; the League will also provide match balls and pay for umpires. **RP to advise Andrew and be the point of contact in the YCSPL.**
 - iv. *Vice-chairman.* DW said that he did not currently have a deputy, and nominated RP as League vice-chairman. This was agreed.
 - v. *Wadworth CC.* MS said that the club had agreed at an emergency meeting to put in an application to join the YCSPL.
 - vi. *Newbery cricket balls.* DW said that he had been sent some trial balls by Newbery which we will try out in the coming season.
 - vii. *Administration.* DW referred to two further instances of poor administration at one club, and said that he was losing patience. A points deduction might have to be considered. **RP said that he would speak to the vice-chairman at the club.**
10. **Closure.** The meeting closed at 8.40pm. The next meeting will be by Zoom on Monday 26 February (7.00pm).