Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

www.ycspl.co.uk

League Executive Board

39th meeting – Monday 29 July 2024 – 7.00pm by Zoom

Note of meeting

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

1. **Welcome & apologies**. There were apologies tendered by Ashley Boothman.

2. **Matters arising and action points from last meeting**. All action points cleared. A handrail to the scorebox steps at RTCC has been fitted.

3. **Reports from Members**

   i. *Equity & Diversity Group report.* NW said that Jason Booth has been dealing with personal issues and had not been available for meetings. He sent a message to RP with a short report for the PS committee as follows:

   - the Group are being consulted by the League on all diversity issues, including disciplinary
   - meeting with Mo Hussain at YCB still pending
   - Recruitment advert published
   - the Group are looking at potential of club Equity & Diversity officers, using NW at WHCC as a model.

   LEB members liked the suggestion of club E&D officers. **RP to follow up on promoting the idea with JB.**

   ii. *Safeguarding Managers' report.*

   - LP said that she had been very busy, in particular with issues around HMCC. The chairman, who was also the safeguarding officer at the club, has resigned from all roles. YCC have asked LP to cover until a new safeguarding officer is appointed and trained. GD said that he would investigate whether a bespoke safeguarding course could be provided. **GD to follow up.**
   - DW said that MM, RP and himself had met with HMCC representatives, including the former chairman, on 9 July about a number of issues, one of which was the playing of an ineligible overseas player. The PS committee had decided on a sanction, which was not as severe as it could have been, but the club have appealed. DW is handing the appeal and has asked for a supporting document to be provided.
   - GD said that the club had been offered 23 funded All Stars and 23 funded Dynamo places, with a kitbag and funding for the club, but there had been no response.
   - It was noted that the club are no longer Clubmark compliant.
   - The club are meeting tonight about covering roles, including that of interim captain, as the 1st XI captain is injured.

   iii. *Treasurer's report*

   - AB had provided a financial report – attached at appendix 1.
   - DW said that there were still T20 ball costs to be added in, as well as some ball payments from clubs.
   - DW said that the SS would look at clear criteria for Development Fund money. **DW to follow up.**

- MS reiterated that the Fund was a good news story, and said that it should be celebrated at the AGM. RP said that it would go in the end-of-year ECB report. **RP to follow up.**

iv. *Participation manager's report.*

- MM had provided a report – attached at appendix 2.
- GD said that participation levels in both the junior and women's & girls' games were really high

v. *Umpires' representative's report*

- TB said the Australian guest umpire will have been allocated 47 games over the course of his stay, and that he had created a very good impression.
- DW was pleased to report that Duncan Jones had returned to our umpires' panel.
- There is an ongoing complaint from an umpire who was removed from the list for availability reasons.

vi. *Scoring Manager's report.* SW he is doing some 'one-to-one' training activity and is following up on a request to do some training courses in the autumn.

vii. *Premier Section report.* RP had provided a short report about the PS meeting last week – see appendix 3. He referred to the draft document on the distribution of ECB money, saying that he wanted to use the money as an incentive for clubs to improve grounds and facilities, increase participation, and field home-grown players. GD suggested that safeguarding and E&D work could also be criteria, and DW wanted rewards for finding new umpires**. RP to follow up with the PS committee**.

viii. *Senior Section report.* DW had provided a link to the notes of the last committee meeting and added that:

- the new date for the Wombell Main and Norton Woodseats hearing is 7 August
- Milton Samuels, Neil Vaughan, RP and himself had met with the South Yorkshire Police Hate Crime Co-ordinator, Lucy Ramsden, last week via Zoom. It was a useful meeting and Lucy had said that she was very impressed with the work we have done on E&D issues. He had agreed that she could deliver an awareness session at the AGM in November. **RP to follow-up**.

ix. *Compliance manager's report*. CF noted that the new rule introduced at the AGM last year, allowing for overseas professionals to be replaced if called home by their respective Boards, had been used once this season already, and a further three clubs are in discussions.

x. *Competitions Manager's report*

- MS said that the cup competition situation is improving, there are two outstanding K3 Dental quarter-finals, but otherwise the competitions are up-to-date. The finalists for the Whitworth and Billy Oates cups are now known.
- There are two outstanding league fixtures, including the return Norton Woodseats 2 v Wombwell Main 2 game that was postponed, and one Handsworth fixture, as a result of the ground issue there.
- The rearranged game from the first Saturday of the season, between Wakefield Thornes and Sheffield Collegiate, that was scheduled for August Bank Holiday Monday, clashes with the Crowther Cup final, which has been allocated to Thornes. It was agreed that it could be rearranged, and RP proposed 25 August. **SW to follow up with the clubs**.
- MS reiterated that Wadworth, who are joining us from the Bassetlaw League, finish in a relegation position in their current Bassetlaw division (1), they will be placed in Division 6, and the third-placed team in our Division 6 in 2024 will be promoted.

xi. *YCB update.* GD said that Sharon Butcher has now been appointed as the new YCB Development Manager for the Barnsley & Doncaster area and takes up her duties on 1 August.

xii. Chairmans'/ECB update

- The PLMB proposal paper has been sent to Paul Cummins and Alan Birkinshaw, but there has been no response yet. DW to follow up. CF said that the rumours were that a Black Sheep-style competition is to be reintroduced.
- DW is to join the Premier League chairmens' meeting by Teams on 8 August, and will raise the issue of fixed dates for the National competitions, which would make cup scheduling less of a headache not just for us, but for other leagues.

4. **Code of Sports Governance.** RP said that he had worked on a revised constitution and admin rules, making the required changes to make us compliant, and at the same time fully incorporate the W&GL into our structure. He was now incorporating feedback from MS and Brian Hepworth and planned to have documents for the next meeting. Two issues raised by BH were:
   - Possible renaming of our sections to 'Men's Premier Section' and 'Men's Senior section'. MS pointed out that this would not be correct, as both are open to men and women, and we already have several successful women players in the SS.
   - Use of 'chair' rather than 'chairman' – RP said he agreed that this should be done in the constitution and rules, and that it should then be up to the postholder at the time to decide how they wished to be described.

5. **Discipline.** DW said that DTCC had taken action following the recent incident at Field Lane. He said that he and Neil Vaughan had met with the chairman of DTCC earlier in the day and the question had arisen of whether the ban on the team manager/coach should extend to playing if he joined another club. The view of the LEB was that it should.

6. **Hall of Fame and Life Members**
   i. RP said that the number of Life Members had declined and that he proposed Richard Storer be elevated to life membership of the League, in recognition of all his services to junior cricket, Hallam CC and the SYSCL. This was agreed.
   ii. RP asked for nominations for inductees into the Hall of Fame at the 2024 dinner. He will put something in the bulletin. **RP to action.**

7. **Houghton Main CC**. This item to be carried forward to the next meeting.

8. **Rule changes**. RP said that two amendments had been discussed at the PS meeting:
   i. a revised amendment to cup & T20 rules to stop players who had just been signed immediately playing in the semi-final and finals stages, including any replacement overseas player
   ii. an adjustment to the losing bonus points to make them a bit more difficult to obtain, eg, for 5, 7 & 9 wickets rather than 4, 6 & 8 as at present; the current balance is felt to be not quite right

   RP to draft suitable proposals.

9. **Other business.**
   i. RP said that he is to produce an article for the website about the Wickersley Vixens, to promote the value of Women's & Girls' sections in clubs**.**
   ii. the LEB wished Ackworth, Doncaster Town and Wakefield Thornes all the very best of luck for their T20 Plate and Blast area finals and the Heavy Woollen Cup final respectively, this coming Sunday 4 August

10. **Close.** The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Treasurer's report

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Financial statement 26 July 2024

Year to date income & expenditure

Income	***£***	***Expenditure***	***£***
Ball sales	46,430.40	Ball costs	47,831.59
Clothing sales	0.00	Banking services	30.00
Disciplinary hearing costs	167.40	Clothing	803.00
ECB monies	15,883.00	Communications	707.90
Handbook adverts	250.00	Cup finals/finals days-Catering Costs	934.07
Interest at bank	259.10	Digital Laptop Scoring	100.00
Other Income	270.00	Disciplinary hearing costs	142.40
Penalties	5,917.00	Donation	0.00
Presentation evening tickets 2023	11,158.10	ECB monies to clubs	9,740.00
Sponsorship	5,958.00	Electronic media	1,800.00
Subscriptions	12,145.00	Entertaining at cup finals/finals days	120.00
		Honoraria	1,800.00
		Insurance	3,091.95
		Payment Refunds	329.00
		Phone & broadband costs	464.92
		Presentation evening 2023 costs	11,372.64
		Presentation evening 2024 costs	500.00
		Professional Services	200.00
		Representative Match(s) costs	965.00
		Room hire	25.00
		Stationery & printing	2,595.75
		SYCUA	885.00
		Training costs	690.00
		Travel costs	154.00
		Trophies & medals Annual Awards	5,438.91
		Trophies & Medals -Cup finals/finals day	0.00
		YCB fees	5,070.00
		YPLMB subscription	0.00
Total	**98,438.00**	**Total**	**95,791.13**

Excess income over expenditure **2,646.87**

Development Fund

Income	***£***	***Expenditure***	***£***
c/f	2,844.00	Brookhouse CC	400.00
ECB Money 26th March 2024	6,103.00	Fishlake CC	1,000.00
		Parkhead CC	500.00
		Penistone CC	900.00
		Stocksbridge CC	280.00
		Thorpe Hesley & High Green CC	900.00
		Warmsworth CC	1,000.00
less expenditure	5,880.00	Whiston Forge CC	900.00
Available balance	3,067.00	**Total**	**5,880.00**

Balance sheet

Current a/c at 30 September 2023	32,027.67
Deposit a/c at 30 September 2023	24,915.91
Excess income o/expend to date	2,646.87
Development Fund Expenditure	5,880.00
Total	**53,710.45**

Represented by

Current account	28,425.44
Savings account (Inc Dev't Fund)	25,258.79
Total	**53,710.45**

Ashley Boothman
Treasurer
27 July 2024

Appendix 2

Participation report

As you are aware, the W&G's League have been experiencing issues with regards to the 'Spirit of Cricket' and player behaviour on the field. Initially – in our first proper season as a league - we had issues with a couple of clubs and Safeguarding had to become involved due to verbal abuse of junior players at the inaugural finals' day.

As a league we put in place additional training on Safeguarding and "spirit of cricket" at the beginning of this season via our Safeguarding representative Eleanor Barber, YCC's Dean Smith and myself, at the general team meeting at the beginning of the season.

Despite this and to cut a very long story short – a particular club was not happy with the panel's decisions on the original matter/ investigation and sought counsel from elsewhere and outside the League (ie, Derbyshire) which then got the ECB involved – via which an edict came from above - see attached - stating that there should be no players under the age of 13 playing Softball or Hardball Cricket as the League is an adult league and not an open age one. As such and with immediate effect – no U13's were to be included in any upcoming matches.

This as you imagine has gone down like a Lead balloon and clubs have been struggling to put out teams midway through the season, have been blaming the League for the decision – despite numerous emails explaining that this has come directly from the ECB and I add without any clubs taking any responsibility for player behaviour having caused this ruckus in the first place.

There have been numerous emails from just about every club in the League to the ECB to try and resolve this matter and from a growth and Participation viewpoint, we as a League feel and indeed agree with the clubs that this is a step in the wrong direction, particularly for the Girl's ages groups.

There is a Safeguarding and ECB meeting this Friday to address the issue and I will update with the outcome as and when it is received.

In good news Winter Indoor season has opened and registration is ongoing – still to be held at S20. I will update next meeting as to the numbers etc.

We also have the very first SYWGCL Representative Hardball Cricket Match against West Yorkshire on Sunday the 25th August 2024 at 1pm at Treeton - if this could be put out on the main social media channels please, it would be much appreciated as we would like as much support as possible and I am reliably informed that the bar will be open.

We have another Representative game pencilled in for Sunday the 1st September – TBC details to follow.

Softball playoffs are to be held on Sunday the 8th September as follows:

Div 1 – top six playoffs at Elsecar – start 10am – finals at 1pm

Div 2 – top six playoffs at Doncaster Town – start 10am – finals at 1pm

Div 3 North & South top three playoffs at Frecheville – start 10am – finals at 1pm

Div 3 North & 3 South Plate – place 4-6 playoffs – at Wombwell Main – start 10am – finals at 1pm.

Mel Mahmood

Appendix 3

Premier Section report

There was a committee meeting on Wednesday 22 July that was not well-attended due to work commitments, holidays, etc. There was a short E&D update via Jason Booth; a competitions update; a Houghton Main update from RP; the umpires' grounds & facilities markings guidance and the distribution of ECB monies proposals (which will come to the next LEB); and potential rule changes.

Roger Pugh