



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

www.ycspl.co.uk

League Executive Board

55th meeting – Monday 27th April – 7.30pm by Teams

Notes of meeting

Attendees: Roger Pugh, Gareth Davis, Liz Harris, Andy Harrison, Richard North, Matt Summerhill, Richard Wilkinson

Apologies: Jonathan Crabtree, Alan Littlewood, Lindsey Pepper, Steve Ward

1. **Welcome.** RP opened the meeting, welcoming Richard Wilkinson, the new Head of Clubs & Leagues at YCF, who sat in on the meeting as an observer. RP passed on the apologies above.
2. **Actions from previous meeting.** See appendix 1 – no further issues arising.
3. **ECB/YCF update**
 - i. *RW role.* RW spoke about his new role in supporting leagues and development managers, saying that his main focus at present is on observation, understanding league operations, and enhancing support already provided by ECB/YCF staff. He will work closely with GD and League contacts. GD will remain the YCF LEB representative. Details of the new YCF structure can be found [here](#).
 - ii. *Club Accreditation.* GD provided an update on Club Accreditation, which replaces Clubmark.
 - A pilot scheme is underway with selected clubs, including Allama Iqbal, Green Moor, Pledwick, Sheffield Caribbean, Sheffield United, Sheffield University Staff, and Sprotbrough from the YCSPL.
 - The pilot clubs include those without previous Clubmark experience, in order to test accessibility.
 - Progress is around 70% complete; target completion is within weeks.
 - Feedback from the pilot will inform simplification and rollout for 2026–27.
 - Accreditation will be tiered (Tiers 1-3), based on what individual clubs offer (eg, number of teams, juniors, women & girls, facilities, etc).
 - Not all clubs will transition in 2027; rollout is expected to be phased.
 - RP & RN said that League rules are already being updated to reference *Club Accreditation* instead of *Clubmark*.
 - iii. *Facilities, grants & infrastructure.* GD summarised the current significant investment and support across South Yorkshire:
 - Askern Welfare – changing room upgrades
 - Green Moor – £10k for non-turf pitch
 - Millhouses Works – additional non-turf pitch due to fixture pressure
 - Norton Oakes – proposed non-turf pitch to expand junior and women's & girls' sections
 - Penistone – £15k for pavilion fittings (Section 106 funding)
 - Sheffield Collegiate – £15k for second pavilion
 - Shiregreen – major changing room upgrades completed
 - Upper Haugh – off-field practice nets and padel courts (to boost income generation)
 - Wickersley Old Village/Brookhouse – expansion site for overspill teams

GD said that a key theme was the severe shortage of playable grounds, especially on Sundays and for women's & girls' cricket. There is a strong focus on reclaiming dormant cricket sites using council, Sect 106, Sport England, and ECB funding.

iv. *Bursary and Women's & Girls' programmes*

- There is a strong focus on Roses programmes as the route into regular competition. Over 200 bursary places have been secured, targeting deprived wards and South Asian and BAME communities
- The expectation is that clubs supported by bursaries must enter teams into leagues after the programmes' end.
- A mid-June deadline is proposed for fixtures to be on Play-Cricket.
- There is an emphasis that women's & girls' cricket must be genuine development, not just compliance for league status.

RP said that he wanted to ensure that the early communications, established between the League and the YCF through GD, continued, in order that we can encourage clubs to take necessary actions and avoid sanctions.

4. **Equity & Diversity.** GD said that:

- i. the E&D group needs to be re-energised following recent structural and personnel changes
- ii. Mo Hussain is no longer in the YCF EDI role, and a meeting needs to be arranged with his successor
- iii. an umpire-related E&D case is ongoing
- iv. there is a clear view that EDI oversight remains critical, given the diversity of the League.

5. **Finances.** The financial report was approved with no concerns raised (see appendix 2). It was noted that the club subscriptions deadline is imminent (30 April) and that any non-payment issues will be followed up.

6. **Premier Section.** RP said that the points cap proposal is currently the main item of business, explaining that:

- i. the aims of the proposal are to discourage 'buying success' and encourage opportunities for junior players
- ii. a working group has been established (two committee members, three captains and himself)
- iii. the Working Group met last week, and a second meeting is scheduled for 5 May
- iv. there is strong support from most Premier clubs; only one club has indicated that they are strongly opposed
- v. the next steps are to:
 - produce figures to show how teams would score against the cap proposals over the next two weeks
 - refine the proposal in the Working Group
 - present to the Premier Section committee to seek support
 - if there is strong support for introduction in 2027, to seek LEB approval for an EGM of Premier Section clubs for a formal vote

In addition:

- vi. RP clarified that there will be a diminishing points value for long-serving players.
- vii. RN raised the issue of avoiding penalising players who are dropped purely to meet the cap under Admin Rule 16 (player selection) and it was agreed that we need to address any disparity implications.

7. **Senior Section**

- i. RN said that there had been early-season complaints mainly around ground fitness cancellations and late player registrations, and that there were no major disciplinary concerns at present.
- ii. There had been an incident on the first weekend whereby a new club in a lower division had been allocated umpires on the day before the game, were unaware, and the game was called off. One of the umpires then arrived on the ground. It was agreed that, in the future, where an umpire is allocated or changed during the week before a game, the home club should be advised by telephone, in order to avoid the risk of an email not being picked up.

- iii. The LEB also identified the risk of financial hardship for lower-division clubs when unexpected umpire costs arise in the days immediately before the game. It was agreed that the above phone call should initially establish whether the club want umpires to be allocated in these circumstances.
- iv. RN has ensured that new clubs are aware of the notification procedure, and in the case in question, a £30 ex-gratia goodwill payment from the League was proposed for the umpire who arrived on the ground.
- v. AH raised the issue of umpires arriving early at the ground. He felt that the rules should reflect that match fees would not be payable if umpires chose to arrive early on grounds. RP agreed to look at wording a rule.

8. **Women's & Girls Section**

- i. LH said that there had been concerns raised about insufficient umpires for the W&GL, in particular in the Premier Section. LH said that sometimes only one umpire can be sent to a game and sought guidance on that.
- ii. RP said that the YCSPL position is that one umpire is better than none, and they would have no issue with a single umpire being allocated to a game.
- iii. The SYCUA position is that they will not allocate a single umpire to a game (except where there are an odd number of umpires available and one is unallocated). This is for disciplinary and insurance reasons, following a couple of incidents in recent seasons.
- iv. RP said that ECB ACO have confirmed that there is no insurance implication for ACO members who stand on their own. If the umpire is not an ECB ACO member, then it would be prudent to check whether they are covered by club insurance.
- v. It was agreed that we would encourage umpires to stand in W&GL games through the YCSPL bulletin.

9. **Safeguarding issues.** LP had provided a report – see appendix 3. No issues arising.

10. **Scoring issues.** SW had provided a report – see appendix 4. It was agreed that:

- i. only three matches not being digitally scored across the league on the opening weekend was an outstanding success and should be actively publicised
- ii. Steve Ward's first-class contribution to scoring in the League was formally recognised.

11. **Governance**

- i. RP said that the Teams channels have now been set up by Becky Brook and are available for key League officials to store League documents that can be shared, or may need to be accessed by other officials in the case of emergency. RP will issue a link to the relevant officials
- ii. MS warned that officials need to be aware that editing files directly in Teams permanently alters them.

12. **Other business.** RP said that he would be issuing a Bulletin this week, and asked for any items for inclusion. It was agreed that the following should be highlighted:

- i. funded facility improvements
- ii. digital scoring achievement, recognising SW's contribution
- iii. the 'Team of the Week' initiative
- iv. the need for umpires in W&GL.

13. **Close.** The meeting closed at 8.40pm. The next meeting will be face-to-face at Whiston Forge CC on Monday 8 June.

Action Points

1. RN to pursue the above action on late umpire allocations through the Senior Section committee.
2. RP to include the following in the Bulletin; funded facility improvements, digital scoring achievement, need for umpires in W&GL and the 'Team of the Week' initiative.
3. RP to share Teams upload link, reinforcing version-control guidance and ensuring that key officials upload relevant documentation.
4. RP to consider wording of rules in respect of payment of match fees where umpires choose to arrive early at grounds.

Appendix 1

Action points from last meeting

- *Air Ambulance donation* - no objections raised; RP has asked AB to make the payment.
- *Points quota system* – to be covered in Premier Section issues.
- *Boundary safety guidance* – included in bulletin.
- *Overseas players in Senior Section* – to be covered under Senior Section issues.
- *Teas provision at new clubs*. RN has dealt with the issue.

Appendix 2

Financial report

See next page.

Appendix 3

Safeguarding report

- LP has attended the online meeting with YCF for League Safeguarding Managers.
- The DBS application verification is no longer free at present; it is only available digitally with a charge.
- LP has started visiting grounds and checking Safeguarding is in place.
- All face-to-face safeguarding courses are now completed.

Lindsay Pepper
Safeguarding Manager

Appendix 4

Scoring report

- A busy training period has realised 12 sessions of training, including laptop, tablet and DLS training, and a talk to our Umpires on DLS, as well as a host of phone calls, Teams meetings and one-to-ones to set up laptops, etc.
- Well over 140 attendees at these sessions means that clubs are very keen to ensure that their scorers are trained, and the League must be praised for facilitating this training. We are well ahead of the game with this.
- The ECB will take into account the above when considering our performance against our Premier League accreditation criteria.
- Only three games on the first weekend were scored manually, and I have written to all six clubs involved to offer help and/or training.

Steve Ward
Scoring Manager



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Financial statement - April 2026

Year to date income & expenditure

<i>Income</i>	£	<i>Expenditure</i>	£
Ball sales	-	Auditor fee	100.00
Clothing sales	84.00	Ball costs	5,984.24
Disciplinary hearing costs	-	Banking services	40.23
ECB monies	4,542.84	Clothing	224.00
Handbook adverts	240.00	Communications	420.00
Interest at bank	60.42	Cup finals/final days - catering	-
New Club Entry Fee	-	Digital laptop scoring	1,100.00
Other Income	-	Disciplinary hearing costs	-
Penalties (umpires levy)	2,815.00	Donation	500.00
Penalties (fines)	170.00	ECB monies to clubs	-
Presentation evening tickets 2025	11,814.00	Electronic media	125.00
Sponsorship	-	Honoraria	2,150.00
Subscriptions	13,230.00	Insurance	3,189.24
		K3 Dental Cup final	-
		Meeting refreshments	270.00
		Officials training	1,155.00
		Payment refunds	151.98
		Payments for 'new umpires'	-
		Phone & broadband costs	150.00
		Presentation evening 2026 costs	-
		Presentation evening 2025 costs	12,244.88
		Representative match costs	-
		Room hire	100.00
		Stationery & printing	1,720.00
		Training costs	740.00
		Travel costs	568.35
		Trophies & medals - annual awards	2,145.23
		Trophies & medals - finals	311.50
		YCB fees	4,680.00
Total	32,956.26	Total	38,069.65
Excess income over expenditure	(5,113.39)		

Development Fund

<i>Income</i>	£	<i>Expenditure</i>	£
c/f	2,340.40	Hatfield Town CC	500.00

less expenditure	500.00
Available balance	1,840.40

Total **500.00**

Balance sheet

Current a/c at 30 September 2025	26,303.17
Deposit a/c at 30 September 2025	21,235.83
Excess income o/expend to date	(5,113.39)
Development Fund expenditure	500.00
Total	42,134.63
<i>Represented by</i>	
Current account	21,329.36
Savings account (inc Dev't Fund)	20,805.27
Total	42,134.63

Ashley Boothman
Treasurer
27 April 2026