



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

www.ycspl.co.uk

Premier Section Cricket Committee

11th meeting – Wednesday 15 March 2023 – 7.30pm by Zoom

Note of Meeting

Present: Roger Pugh (chair), Mick Forrester, Chris Froggett, Andy Harrison, Nick Kendall, Bryan Lowe

Apologies: Alex Fletcher, Steve Ward

1. **Welcome & apologies.** Apologies were received from Alex Fletcher and Steve Ward; Mark Beardshall and Jason Booth apologised subsequently for being unable to attend. RP welcomed Nick Kendall of Treeton, who had expressed interest in the committee vacancy, and had been invited to attend the meeting with a view to co-option onto the committee.
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** RP updated members on actions from the December meeting:
 - i. SW has arranged with Aston Hall additional parking in an adjacent field for the T20 Blast & Plate finals day
 - ii. SW has met with Beverley Town about arrangements for the *K3 Dental* final, but a meeting with Tickhill about the Whitworth final has had to be rearranged
 - iii. the draws for the *K3 Dental* and Whitworth finals have been conducted as discussed at the last meeting – the *K3 Dental* has been drawn through to the final with no zoning; the Whitworth first round draw has been made and subsequent draws will be made after one of the games
3. **Equity & Diversity update.** No report.
4. **Overseas players.** CF updated the meeting on overseas students. Following verbal clarification from ECB, the Senior Section committee is looking at an amendment to the Admin Rules to allow bona fide overseas students to play in the Senior Section, irrespective of whether they have completed the 210-day residence qualification period in the year up to the preceding 31st March that is necessary to be registered as Category 1 players. CF said that it will be necessary to keep a register to keep track of such players, and that it must be made clear that they will not be allowed to play in the Premier Section until they have completed the required residence qualification in a subsequent season. **CF and RP to emphasise these points at LEB.**

Otherwise, CF continues to give advice to clubs on overseas registrations in the usual way.
5. **ECB funding.** A sub-group consisting of CF, Matt Summerhill and RP will be meeting next Monday to review the criteria for distribution of ECB monies for the 2023 season. RP will recommend that the criteria reflect current ECB priorities, including:
 - junior hardball teams
 - programmes for u9s-u12s - All Stars, Dynamos or clubs' own programme
 - use of the injury surveillance reporting tool
 - completion of ECB anti-discrimination training

AH queried the injury reporting tool, asking how difficult it was to complete, what the purpose was, and how the information would be used. RP said that he was assured by Melvyn Bond that it was simple to use, and would take only a couple of minutes – screenshot attached. **RP agreed to seek clarification on the purpose and use of the information collected.**

RP said that he would also recommend that the umpire recruitment criteria was removed, as clubs were already subject to a levy for non-compliance. He wanted to address the umpire shortage at item 11.

Proposals from the sub-group will go to LEB for agreement.

6. **Anti-Discrimination training.** RP said that a pilot three-hour face-to-face course was being run by ECB this week, and is to be rolled out nationally. It is aimed at league officials, particularly disciplinary officials, and club officials who may have to deal with complaints of discrimination. In addition, an ECB online course is now available. **The League encourages all league and club officials to undertake this.**
7. **Ball trials.** Following the price increase by Tiflex/Oxbridge, a supply of two comparable balls, the *Dukes County International* and *Reader Buckingham*, have been obtained for trial purposes. Readers have supplied trial balls free of charge. **SW to organise the trials – information to be circulated in due course.**
8. **Live-Streaming.** It has been proposed that all clubs should be asked in advance of the season starting (a) whether they intend to conduct live-streaming of home games and (b) whether they are content for their away games to be live-streamed; umpires to be asked whether they are content, and the information tabulated and published. This will alleviate the need for advance communication with visiting teams and umpires on a match-by-match basis. A final check will be made at the pre-match meeting, which will cover any last-minute changes. The committee supported this proposal, and **RP will put to LEB.**
9. **Pre-season captains' meeting.** Neil Vaughan, the YCSPL Disciplinary Adjudicator, and RP had discussed arranging a captains meeting before the season, to emphasise the importance of match reports, anti-discrimination training, update on disciplinary issues and ensure captains are fully aware of issues such as ball trials, live-streaming arrangements and how the saliva law will be interpreted. RP said that this would take place in April by Zoom, and it was agreed that the best day of the week would be a Monday. *[Meeting now arranged for Monday 3 April]*
10. **Saliva on the ball.** BL and RP clarified the new law requiring penalty runs to be awarded and the ball changed on the first occurrence of saliva being used on the ball, and on the second occurrence, in addition to the above, the bowler bowling at the time to be removed from the attack. Some umpires have proposed that a 'first and final warning' be issued before this action was taken. The committee unanimously supported this proposal being adopted in the Premier Section. BL mentioned that some umpires had suggested going into dressing rooms before games to ensure that all players were aware of the new law, but David Ward had said that he was not in favour of this. RP agreed with DW, and said that he thought that a publicly-given final warning on the field would be more effective anyway. **RP to raise at the LEB, to ascertain whether members felt the warning procedure should be adopted across the whole league.**
11. **Umpire shortage.** RP said that DW had told him that there were only four new umpires in 2023 and that the YCSPL is well short of the numbers required each weekend – he had referred to the situation as 'dire'. RP said that there was a view widely held in the Senior Section that the Premier Section were not pulling their weight in the efforts to recruit umpires because the Premier Section games would be allocated umpires anyway. He said that we need to show that we are taking the issue seriously.

There was some discussion about why people are less keen to take up umpiring now, and the following key points were made:

- too many rules and restrictions for umpires to administer, and little room for common sense, flexibility and individuality
- the sheer time and commitment necessary

The following ideas were raised in discussion:

- greater subsidy for new umpires, for example, kit provision

- an active programme to encourage youngsters who may not have the ability to play, to take up umpiring; NK said that the Ben Jessop League had introduced a rule prohibiting anyone under 16 from umpiring, due to poor behaviour by players and coaches – it was felt that this was unhelpful and that the poor behaviour should be addressed in a different way
- efforts should be made to recruit more women and girls into umpiring, perhaps through initial experience in the SYW&GCL

AF has said that he will take the lead in producing a promotional presentation featuring South Yorkshire ex-cricketers who have progressed in umpiring to target young non-playing cricket enthusiasts and retiring players, with a link for clubs to access and use. RP applauded the initiative and said that he was keen to involve at least one female umpire.

12. Other business

- Trophies.* RP raised the issue of the League championship trophy. Members were agreed that there should be a suitable trophy to pass on from year-to-year, with all winners engraved on it, and a smaller glass replica or similar to keep.
- Yorkshire Premier Leagues Management Board.* RP advised that the YPLMB have said that he cannot be allowed to be member of the Board at this time, and that MB has agreed, despite his disappointment with the decision, to continue to represent the Premier Section at YPLMB until RP is allowed to do so. AH supported MB's view.
- Meetings.* Members were in favour of continuing to meet by Zoom in the future.

13. **Close.** The meeting closed at 9.05pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17 May by Zoom.