



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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Premier Section Cricket Committee

13th meeting – Wednesday 17 May 2023 – 7.30pm by Zoom

Note of Meeting

Present: Roger Pugh (chair), Mark Beardshall, Jason Booth, Mick Forrester, Chris Froggett, Nick Kendall, Bryan Lowe, Steve Ward

Apologies: Alex Fletcher, Andy Harrison

1. **Welcome & apologies.** Apologies were received from Alex Fletcher, who was with the WHCC juniors, and Andy Harrison, who had only just left work.
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** RP said that the actions from the March meeting had been cleared, and they are summarised below:
 - i. The overseas student issue has been resolved (see 4 below).
 - ii. RP has sought clarification about the injury reporting tool. It is a simple online report, using drop-down menus, which is easy to complete, and is used solely by ECB to assess the extent of injuries sustained in the recreational game.
 - iii. The LEB has endorsed the proposals for distribution of ECB funding, and these are now publicised, via the bulletin and on the League website.
 - iv. The League has encouraged participation in Anti-Discrimination Training via the bulletin, and will issue a reminder.
 - v. SW is arranging ball trials – see 5 below.
 - vi. The Live-Streaming proposals are now agreed and included in League guidance.
 - vii. The 'first & final' warning for the first use of saliva on the ball was approved for use across the whole league and communicated to captains and umpires.
3. **Equity & Diversity update.** JB reported that:
 - i. the E&DG continues to look for more members to cover every background, a number of people have come forward, and the Group continue to reach out to others
 - ii. the Group are working on some rules for membership, including commitment to attend meetings – **RP said he would be interested in seeing these, in order to determine whether they could be adapted for use across all League committees**
 - iii. disciplinary process input – the E&DG have made progress about the use of the Group within the disciplinary process as a sounding board, on a consultancy basis
 - iv. the Group are finalising which members will represent them on the LEB and committees – **RP asked that this is done on the basis of 'a representative and a reserve', in order to help the League meet the requirements of the Code for Sports Governance**

- v. an action plan is being prepared to cover survey findings

4. Overseas players

- i. The overseas students issue has been resolved and incorporated into guidance, with appropriate Play-Cricket entries agreed.
- ii. There has been no update from ECB on the paid permitted engagement (PPE) route of entry, but this is being accepted. CF pointed out that there is an inconsistency in the requirements between the two routes, for example, those on International Sportspersons' (ISP) visas being required to have DBS checks, and those on PPE not; there was discussion on this, and the inconsistency with requirements for UK nationals is also noted – **RP to raise with DW as potentially an issue to be discussed with ECB**

5. Ball trials

- i. SW explained the arrangements for trialling the *Dukes* and *Reader* balls in the Premier Section. The *Dukes* ball is now available and will be used in all PS games on 17 June (weather permitting); whilst the *Reader* will provisionally be trialled in all games on the first weekend in July.
- ii. In the *K3 Dental Cup*, a *pink Dukes County International* is to be trialled in two second-round games, at Sheriff Hutton Bridge (v Hallam) and Woodhouse Grange (v Doncaster Town). One ball will be used at both ends, as the ball is expected to last 50 overs.
- iii. RP has prepared a feedback form for captains to use, for which DW will issue a link via WtU.

6. Premier Leagues Management Board

- i. RP said that because Headingley could not accommodate the Play-Off final on the required date, it was originally intended that York was used. However, York cannot now host the game, and a decision has been made to use New Farnley. The YCSPL were not included in discussions about this, and only found out via players from one of our clubs. Whilst not objecting to the use of New Farnley per se, the committee were appalled at the lack of consultation and communication with our League about this, and felt that we should write to the Board to express our concerns.
- ii. MB raised the issue of RP not being allowed to attend the PLMB as the representative of our Premier Section. He said that RP is the elected representative of our clubs and has the endorsement of our E&DG, and that his exclusion was denying our league its proper representation. The view was expressed, and supported, that no-one should have the right to object to duly-elected representatives of another league, whether at PLMB or in other forums. The committee agreed that this should also be raised. There appears also to be an absence of regular PLMB meetings, which were previously four per year, raising the question of proper governance procedures being applied.
- iii. It was recommended that the letter should be copied to the YCCC CEO and Director of Cricket. **RP to raise at LEB.**
- iv. MB also raised the issue of the *K3 Dental Cup* committee, which had to meet this week to rule on a fixture issue. He said that the sponsor was unhappy that one of the YPLN's two representatives had refused to attend the meeting because RP was attending as deputy for Matt Summerhill. He does not want to see controversies surrounding the competition, believes that we are entitled to send whichever representatives we see fit, and that if another representative cannot accept that, they should resign.

7. Rearrangement of fixture programmes

- i. This issue relates back to comments made at the start of the season that the first week's fixture programme should have been rearranged due to the weather, which RP had agreed to raise in committee, in order to agree how similar situations should be handled in future.
- ii. JB suggested that a small sub-group be set up to consider the issue in totality; considering when rearrangements might be appropriate, looking at what other leagues do, examining options for rearrangements, and making recommendations. It was agreed that due to the higher standard of grounds, preparation and play expected in the Premier Section, a different approach may be required to Premier and Senior Sections.

8. **Umpire recruitment video.** AF and RP have discussed ideas for content, and are confident that we will have enough material. The committee felt that it needs to be relevant to a South Yorkshire audience, to attract maximum interest, and needs to be short – no more than ten minutes maximum. The only issue for AF and RP is that they do not have the technical competence to edit the content in a professional way. It was suggested that either one of the Sheffield Universities or the YCB might be able to help. **RP to raise at LEB.**
9. **Other business.** Chris Froggett left the meeting at this point, and the committee discussed the recent complaint by Wakefield Thornes and the response from Aston Hall. See separate appendix on Fitness of Premier Section grounds below.
10. **Close.** The meeting closed at 9.35pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19 July by Zoom.

Appendix

Fitness of Premier Section grounds for play

I Aston Hall v Wakefield Thornes – 13 May 2023

A letter of complaint from Chris Froggett at WTCC was discussed, concerning the efforts made by the home side to get the above game on. We also received a letter from Steve Ward at AHCC, explaining the background to the game and the actions of his club, for which we thank him.

After due consideration, the committee did not feel that any action could be taken in respect of this specific game:

- the umpires had ruled that the pitch was not fit for play at 12.15pm, due to an area on the square that they deemed 'dangerous'
- we are not in a position at this stage to rule on whether or not the efforts made by AHCC get the game on before that were adequate or not – that would simply be speculation
- there is an inconsistency between the umpires' report, which says that 'no-one was available or willing to work on the pitch', and the AHCC comments, which that says the umpires advised that the 'dangerous' area should not be spiked nor the Super Sopper used
- before the game, the ground is the responsibility of the home club, who can decide which pitch should be used (although if everything else was suitable for play and the home club refused to allow play on a pitch deemed fit by the umpires, action could be taken); in this case, the issue of the use of the 2nd XI pitch may be irrelevant given the fact that the umpires had determined that part of the square was dangerous
- we noted the points about the fitness of the outfield and marking of the boundary, but the issue on the ground at the time was the fitness of the square

II The future

This is not the first instance we are aware of since the inception of the YSPL in 2016 where a visiting side has called into question efforts made by the home side to get the game on, and the current weather has brought it again into focus. We are grateful to WTCC for bringing the issue to our attention this time.

It is the opinion of the committee that we must issue clearer and enforceable guidance to clubs on the action that should be taken to get the game on, both before and on the day of the game, taking into account that different approaches may be required on different grounds. This should:

- specify what drying equipment must be available on Premier Section grounds
- encourage communication between the clubs where there may be a problem
- emphasise that where there is potential disagreement between the clubs, it is important to evidence the efforts being made to get the game on
- acknowledge a balance between getting the game on, and the suitability of the ground for Premier League cricket

To facilitate this, we have initiated work with the Grounds Management Association to produce suitable guidance for Premier Section clubs as soon as possible.