



# Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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## Premier Section Cricket Committee

16<sup>th</sup> meeting – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – 7.30pm by Zoom

### Note of Meeting

Present: Roger Pugh (chair), Mark Beardshall, Chris Froggett, Mick Forrester, Andy Harrison, Bryan Lowe, Steve Ward

Apologies: Jason Booth, Nick Kendall

1. **Welcome & apologies.** Apologies were received from Jason Booth (holiday) and Nick Kendall (work).
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** RP had provided an update on action points, and the following points were made:
  - i. David Ward had raised the issue of Police checks being required for overseas professionals on the PPE route at the ECB Premier league chairmen's meeting, and was advised to talk to the Home Office
  - ii. the amendment about player qualification for the later stages of the Cup & T20 competitions was agreed, with the caveat that there needs to be an addition to allow players from lower division teams to play – **RP to draft as suitable clause**
3. **Equity & Diversity update.** JB has said that there is to be a meeting with Gareth Davis in w/c 21 August to take forward work on the action plan.
4. **Overseas players.** CF raised two points:
  - i. Given that overseas players are returning home early, he questioned whether we should consider an amendment to our rules to allow replacement overseas players up to a given date, later than 30 June – **CF & RP to consider and draft a suitable rule for consideration.**
  - ii. The influx of Afghanistan refugees has prompted him to question whether we should amend our rules to allow refugees to play without restriction, provided that they have not played at the level used to designate overseas professionals – **CF & RP to consider and draft a suitable rule for consideration.**
5. **Ball trials**
  - i. Clarification was sought on what had prompted the trials, and whether there had been complaints about the Oxbridge balls. RP said that there had not been significant complaints but Oxbridge had indicated that prices would increase in 2024, which prompted us to look at alternatives. However, the latest information is that prices will be held at the same or similar level.
  - ii. RP said that there had been generally positive feedback on the Dukes ball trialled; the Reader trial had been spoiled by the weather, but feedback had not been great. We now also have six Oxbridge *Emperor* balls to trial – this is the higher quality ball in their range. It was agreed that these balls would be trialled in games with no bearing on championship, promotion and relegation issues on August Bank Holiday Monday, allowing the last Saturday as an alternative in case of poor weather.
  - iii. The costs of the relevant balls in 2024, including VAT, are now expected to be:

Dukes County International – £27.50

Oxbridge Emperor – £27.00

Oxbridge Windsor – £19.80

- iv. It was agreed that the committee would recommend that the same ball is used for 2024, but if there is very good feedback from the *Emperor* a wider trial could be conducted in 2024.

## 6. Premier Leagues Management Board

- i. RP reported that DW had met Alan Birkinshaw on 2 August. AB had agreed that the consultation and communication around the play-off final and the Streethouse move could have been done better, and he apologised for that.
- ii. AB had said that, given that the four leagues were autonomous and self-governing, he wondered whether the PLMB was still required. DW had said that he would have no issue with the abolition of the PLMB.
- iii. AB also questioned whether the play-offs were still needed, or had now served their purpose. This issue was discussed, and the committee view is that the play-offs should continue, moved back by one week to allow two Saturdays in September for league games, with the final hosted in rotation by the four leagues, and administered by a small committee including a representative from each of the Leagues.

7. **Cleethorpes' withdrawal from the T20 Blast.** RP has been in contact with Paul Hewstone at CCC to arrange a meeting. It was not possible to arrange this during the season, so will be arranged, at a neutral venue, after the end of the season, when RP returns from holiday. MB and CF to be involved if possible.

## 8. Premier League restructure proposal

- i. RP reported that there had been some opposition to the idea at the LEB after being mentioned in the last minutes. RP said that it would be necessary to include in a discussion paper:
  - the case for change
  - possible alternatives
  - emphasis that this is for discussion and that alternative ideas will be welcomed
- ii. Several ideas were discussed, and RP agreed to do an initial draft – **RP to take forward.**

9. **Close.** The meeting closed at 9.00pm. The next meeting is provisionally arranged for Wednesday 27 September, by Zoom.