



# Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

[www.ycspl.co.uk](http://www.ycspl.co.uk)

## Premier Section Cricket Committee

3<sup>rd</sup> meeting – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 7.30pm by Zoom

### Note of Meeting

Present: Mark Beardshall (chair), Jason Booth, Alex Fletcher, Mick Forrester, Chris Froggett, Andy Harrison, Bryan Lowe, Andrew Tipple (observer), Steve Ward

1 **Welcome.** MB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Covid impact on 2021 season**

- SW updated the committee on feedback from the ECB Chairs' call. We will not know when the season will be able to start until after the PM's update on the Recovery Roadmap on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. After that, ECB will follow up with officials from DCMS, and ECB will update League chairmen on 24<sup>th</sup> March. MB invited thoughts from the committee on whether members were still in favour of starting on time.
- JB said that he was in favour of a delay, because we are a Premier League, where cricket is taken seriously, and a good pre-season is important. He felt that the unknown variable, the weather, may be the biggest factor, because of its impact on grounds and practice. He said that in other sports, a staged approach is being favoured, with longer lead-ins for competitions higher up the pyramid.
- CF felt that the important issue is the detail – in particular, whether there will be any restrictions on clubs' ability to train and to host games.
- SW said that if the Roadmap is followed, groups of 30 people will be allowed to train outside from 29 March; but cautioned that travel could be an issue.
- AF said that after last season, players were 'chomping at the bit', and would want to start as soon as possible. He agreed, however, that what facilities could be used by players would be an important factor.
- The suggestion was made that clubs were asked for views, but CF cautioned that it depends on who you ask – players and administrators have differing views.
- MB said that a quick Zoom call would be organised for committee members on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March in order to make decisions based on the previous day's announcements.

3 **Covid contingency rules.** MB invited any comments on the rules. All members were content.

4 **Play-Cricket**

- SW said that in the interests of the harmony in, and the greater good of, the League, he had decided to stand down from player registration work. This will be conducted by Melvyn Bond and overseen by David Ward. He apologised to committee members, saying that he understood that this was not what they wanted, but felt that it was the right thing to do to demonstrate our willingness to co-operate. He said that a Key Facts sheet would be prepared for clubs. Any issues should be flagged to DW.

- SW said that he had recruited Kevin Motley to check and lock down Premier Section results on P-C. He would share the Senior Section duties with MB.

## 5 Umpires report

- BL said that there would be 18 new umpires in the Senior Section next year, and that it was hoped to push the better and more experienced umpires up into the Premier Section.
- In response to a question from MB, BL said that he was unaware of any umpires not standing in 2021 due to the pandemic.
- SW asked if there would be an annual meeting of Premier Section umpires, and offered to talk to the umpires about new rules and procedures. BL to follow up.

## 6 Equity & Diversity report.

- JB said that the group is settling down very well and good work is in progress. An action plan is being created, to be in line with ECB & YCB action plans.
- JB said that the intention was that the group was representative of society as a whole, not just minority ethnic groups, and that the group is hoping to recruit from other sections of society.
- An E&D survey is planned to provide feedback from people who play in the League.
- The group are very aware that this is a new initiative in a sensitive area, and they are being careful about how they take it forward.

7 **YSPL virtual presentation night.** AF updated on progress, saying that five or six invites would be made available to each club; there would be virtual presentations to the 2020 award winners; plus interviews with Steve Foster, Donovan Koch and Andrew Gale. It will take place on Friday 26 March (7.30pm) and will last about an hour and a half. SW will look at potential winners of umpires' and scorers' awards. There will be no Hall of Fame inductions; nominees will be sought this season for induction at the 2021 dinner. AH suggested Milton Samuels would be a very good candidate. MB thanked AF for all his work on the presentation night.

8 **Compliance issues.** MB said that whilst there had been an understandable focus on overseas players so far, the role was much more than that – issues around ground standards and facilities were no less important. MB said that if we have standards, there needs to be a meaningful effort to apply them. CF asked if we could revisit the issue after he had given the issue further consideration. It was agreed that this would take place at a meeting as soon as possible after the season has started.

## 9 Other business

- SW said that it is now a Clubmark requirement that all clubs must register on the *Safe Hands* Management System. So far only three Premier Section clubs have done so. He will put a reminder out to clubs.
- SW said that Nicholas Associates, who have hitherto sponsored the SYSCL, have agreed to sponsor the Premier League.
- MF asked about match balls. SW said that these are being ordered by David Ward, and Linzey Scothern is in charge of distribution. SW will be liaising with DW & LS on this.
- AF asked if others had encountered difficulties with the All Stars sign-up system, ClubSpark. SW said he thought that there had been teething troubles.
- AH suggested that there should be an Equity & Diversity Group representative on all disciplinary panels. The committee thought this was a very good idea and MB will pass it on.
- BL said that there had been suggestions that umpires were not doing disciplinary reports properly. He said that if this is the case, they need to be given proper feedback.

10 **Date of next meeting.** The next meeting will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (7.30pm)

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.