



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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Premier Section Cricket Committee

6th meeting – Monday 7 February 2022 – 7.30pm by Zoom

Note of Meeting

Present: Chris Froggett (chair), Chris Cobb, Alex Fletcher, Mick Forrester, Andy Harrison, Bryan Lowe, Nelson Windle, Andrew Tipple (observer), Roger Pugh (note-taker)

Apologies: Mark Beardshall, Steve Ward

- 1 **Welcome.** CF welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2 **Equity & Diversity update.** NW provided a short update from the Group:
 - given recent developments concerning YCCC, the Group have decided to reopen the player survey for three or four weeks
 - the Group plan to get an update from the YCSPL disciplinary committee about E&D representation within it
 - new members are sought for the Group to cover a range of different backgrounds and roles
 - the Group are to make contact with the newly-formed diversity group in YPLN, in order to exchange ideas
- 3 **Teas.** CF reported that, as there was no AGM proposal otherwise, the LEB view had been that teas should be provided by all clubs in 2022, in line with existing rules. However, following representations by several clubs, it has been agreed that the issue had been understandably overlooked at the time, and that clubs should be free to decide whether they wished to provide teas on an individual basis. All clubs have now been written to and asked if they wish to provide teas. Clubs will be clearly advised of who will and will not provide teas, through the handbook and website. Where a club does provide teas, visitors will be required to purchase them in line with existing rules. Even where teas are not provided for teams, they must be provided for match officials.
- 4 **Distribution of ECB monies.** CF has been asked to chair a sub-group to make proposals to LEB about how ECB monies will be distributed; firstly, the 2021 money and, secondly, future money. It was clarified that:
 - the YSPL had received in the region of £7,500 to £8,500 from ECB, of which £6,000 was distributed to clubs equally
 - the total ECB money for 2021 represented an increase of approximately £3,000 on what it would have been had the leagues not merged
 - the rationale for the payments to clubs was to make a contribution towards the extra costs associated with maintaining Premier League accreditation standards.
 - money retained by the League is used to cover cost such as trophies and hosting finals

- 5 CF asked for any thoughts on the subject, and the following points were made:
- distributing the money equally to all clubs would result in payments of less than £100 per club, which was not felt to be worthwhile
 - it seems reasonable that some or all of the increase should go to clubs outside the Premier Division
 - money could be allocated for projects to improve standards that meet specified criteria
 - money could be allocated to reward those clubs who do most
 - the money for clubs could be used as prize money for winners of Divisions and Cups
 - whatever system is used needs to be easy to administer

CF will feed these thoughts into the sub-group.

- 6 **Ground & facilities standards.** CF said that, largely for understandable Covid-related reasons, this issue had largely fallen by the wayside in the last couple of seasons. There was a general discussion, the consensus of which was that there should be some kind of audit of grounds and facilities at Premier Section clubs in 2022. The existing YCSPL Ground & Facilities criteria could be used as a baseline, along with the ground markings, and the audit would reflect not just whether a facility was provided, but whether it was up-to-standard. It was agreed that clubs would need to be advised in advance of the audit criteria. CF to feedback to LEB accordingly.
- 7 **Viking Cricket Cup final.** It is the YCSPL turn to host the Viking final this year, and a venue is required. It was clarified that in the event of two North clubs reaching the final, the wishes of the clubs concerned would be taken into account by the organising committee in deciding whether the game should be relocated to the north. AH felt that the venue should be kept as central as possible in order to attract 'passing spectators' and suggested Wakefield Thornes. Thornes have not had a 'prestige game' allocated to the ground since they joined the YSPL. This suggestion will be put to Mark Beardshall and Steve Ward.
- 8 **Social media.** Steve Ward has put a suggestion forward that the League needs to increase its' social media profile. He has observed that both the Bradford League and the YPLN have very proactive social media presences. Steve believes that we need to do the same, suggesting, for example; short Q&As with captains across the League, seeking their views on the coming season; regular news about signings and transfers; photo competitions, etc. There was agreement to the idea, and it was acknowledged that social media is a very important part of selling the League to sponsors. It was suggested that an LEB member could be charged with responsibility for overseeing this function and that perhaps one of the university students could do the work under their direction. Committee members were asked to let Steve know if they could think of anyone who would be prepared to take on the role.
- 9 **Other business**
- AF said that he had met with Luke Ogden of Houghton Main. He had advised on the actions he felt the club needed to take, and of available funding. Luke had said that the club had not yet met with the League, and were seeking a full explanation of why they were not considered suitable for promotion to the Premier Division. It was agreed that the explanation given must be factually correct, as it had been suggested that if the League had promoted them, this would have been overturned by the ECB. It is not believed that the ECB would micromanage in this way. This feedback will be passed to David Ward and Mark Beardshall, who will be meeting club representatives this Thursday.
 - AT said that he had been asked if an ECB under-19s competition will be run this year. Steve Ward to be asked to follow up with Richard Wilkinson.
 - AH asked if there would be any interest from clubs in participating in a junior friendly league, for example u17/u19 over 30/40 overs on Sundays. AH said that he knew that some clubs enter the Barnsley & District League for this purpose, but incur penalties if games are cancelled. He wanted to create a more flexible environment, played with a positive and encouraging mentality and without fear of penalties. Steve to be asked to investigate whether there was any significant interest.
- 10 **Close.** The meeting closed at 8.56. The next meeting will be on Monday 14 March.