



Walker Timber **HUDDERSFIELD** **CRICKET LEAGUE**

HCL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present: President – W A Sugden; General Secretary – N Clee; Administration Secretary – M Binns; Media Secretary – J Harrison; Compliance Officer – Mrs Jackie Brook

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

Club Representatives: L Harrison; C McCreadie; EDI Chair - Mushtaq Hussain

Representatives from 30 of 40 Clubs were in attendance. Apologies were received from Golcar CC, with nine other Clubs absent (Clayton West, Emley Clarence, Kirkburton, Kirkheaton, Linthwaite, Mirfield Parish Cavs, Mirfield, Moorlands, & Thongsbridge).

Paula Huddleston, Bill Marshall from the YP, and David Haikings from the HPCL UA were also in attendance.

Apologies

Match & Registration Secretary - P Senior and Treasurer - A Hill

Minutes of Previous Council Mtg held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Approved.

Matters Arising - NC

None

End of Season Report and Comments - TA

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the second Council meeting of the Season. Congratulations were offered to the following Clubs:

- **Sykes Cup Winners Scholes CC** and PoTM **Benji Birkhead**. Congratulations and thanks were also extended to **Thongsbridge CC** who hosted the fixture so well, having stepped in at short notice when Honley, who were originally due to stage the event, reached the final themselves. The day was a really excellent event for participants and the more than 1000 spectators that attended on a warm and pleasant day.
- Both **T20 Finals** went right down to the wire with **Armitage Bridge CC** eventually getting the better of Championship rivals Mirfield Parish Cavaliers off the last ball of the Shield game, and Skelmanthorpe pushing eventual winners **Scholes CC** all the way in the Trophy final but just missing out by 4 runs. Many thanks are extended again to **Armitage Bridge** who hosted the well-attended finals day event at only a few day's notice.
- The increasingly important (since the recent restructuring of 1st XI Cup Competitions) **Oddfellows Cup** was won by **Slaithwaite CC**, who saw off Conference team Denby Dale with PoTM deservedly going to Slaithwaite's all-rounder **Cosmond Walters**.

- The 2nd XI **Earnshaw Cup Competition** was won by **Mirfield Parish Cavaliers CC** who defeated Birkby Rose Hill, and the historic **Paddock Shield** was comfortably won by **Skelmanthorpe 2nd XI** at Holmfirth.
- **Shepley CC** and their captain **Danny Glover** are warmly congratulated for reaching the prestigious **Heavy Woollen Cup Final** against New Farnley after defeating several top teams to get there.
- Conference League leaders **Hoylandswaine 2nd XI** are congratulated on their comfortable victory over Cawthorne to win the 2025 Crowther Cup.

The current highly competitive situation in several HPCL divisions, and the high-profile Cup Final events described above (some against the best teams from other Leagues) all serve to demonstrate the strength of cricket across the town which is a credit to the 40 strong Clubs that make up the HPCL.

All end of season team trophies will be presented to their respective winners on either the 20th September or earlier if outcomes are known.

Clubs are reminded that, as in the past, match start times on the 6th and 13th Sept are brought forward 30 mins to 12.00noon and 12.30pm respectively. Due to the last fixture date of the 2025 season being one week later than previous years, a decision has been made to bring the match start times for 20th further forward by another 30 minutes to 11.30am and 12noon respectively.

Financial Matters – (AH via TA)

The finances of HPCL remain in a satisfactory and stable situation with a current General Fund balance of just over £63k.

The September balance is bolstered by sponsorship monies and the net proceeds from the recent well attended Cup Finals.

The following named Clubs are requested to bring their accounts with HPCL up to date:

- Moorlands still owe their April to 03 May fine (£40)
- 3 Clubs still owe their 14 to 28 June fines (Edgerton & Dalton £20, Mirfield £50 and Thongsbridge £64)
- 3 Clubs still owe their 05 July to 09 Aug fines (Edgerton & Dalton £10, Honley £20 and Shelley £20)

As already announced additional monies received from the ECB have been placed into a separate Development Fund that will be used to pay for the development priorities of our League including:

- Improving the number and quality of League and Club Umpires (including such things as training costs)
- Junior cricket and the ECB requirement to run at least 3x junior hard ball teams
- The accelerated development of Women & Girls cricket against the requirement for Clubs to be running at least one girl's team by 2027
- As a result of an additional and recently received ECB requirement for PL's to focus on the development and quality of cricket scorers this has been added as a fourth priority of the Development Fund.

EDI Sub Committee - MH

EDI Sub Committee Chair Mushtaq Hussain reported on a recent meeting which discussed women and girls' cricket in particular.

Having reduced her workload in this area over the last 12 months our women and girls' rep -Wendy Kemp – has requested that she is replaced by someone who is and will be more heavily involved in these matters. MH agreed to find someone else asap.

The EDI Sub-Committee are recommending that:

- On a date during the winter period HPCL will run a special open meeting with Clubs to consider women and girls cricket and to discuss strategies and initiatives to provide further impetus behind the already fast-growing development of women and girls' cricket. Guest speakers from ECB/YCB will be invited to participate in a workshop and forum style meeting.

- HPCL will organise and run a one-day women and girls cricket festival during May 2026. All HPCL Clubs will be invited to participate and send teams and female cricketers. Again, the YCB/ECB and the West Yorkshire W&G CL will be asked to support this kick-off style event.

Disciplinary Matters - MB

HCL Disciplinary Register 2025										
Date	Name	Club	Match	Division	Offence	Sanction	Dates	Captain	Sanction	Dates
16.8.25	Umpire Ian Mellor	Umpire	Rastrick vs Barkisland	Premiership	Complaint re poor decisions	Withdrawn from 2 fixtures				
16.8.25	Member Nick Oddy	Barkisland CC	Rastrick vs Barkisland	Premiership	Insulting Umpire	Reminded		Barkisland	Reminded	
16.8.25	Delph & DC	Delph CC	Hall Bower v Delph	Championsh	WTU Fair Play mark 10	1 WTU Penalty		Jack Hague		
30.8.25	Parvaz Khan	Kirkheaton	Swaine vs Kirkheaton	Conference	Open case					

WTU Fair Play Penalties 2025		Penalites	League Points
2.5.25	Swaine Hussain	7	4
2.5.25	Thongsbridge Shuff	7	4
17.5.25	Shepley (vs Rastrick)	1	
17.5.25	Rastrick (vs Shepley)	1	
17.5.25	Golcar Keogh	2	
5.7.25	Broad Oak	1	
16.8.25	Delph	1	

The number of disciplinary cases YTD 2025 is significantly reduced vs 2024, further building on a good reduction vs 2023. All Clubs, Captains and players are thanked for their efforts and improved conduct and behaviour. It is believed that the focus on, and efforts of team Captains has been a key factor in this very welcome improvement, that is enhancing the enjoyment of all participants and spectators.

Media Matters - JH

As already announced Media Secretary Jamie Harrison will step down from this role at the end of September, although he will remain on the Executive Committee until the AGM in December.

Paula Huddleston has been appointed to succeed him and is now in a handover process to be completed over the next two months.

Jamie has been HPCL's Media Manager for some 10 years which has seen many developments including the evolution of social media, the link with our Play-Cricket site and the launching of the Podcast series that he has anchored. Jamie was thanked by the Chair and warmly congratulated by the Council when presented with a small memento by President W Andrew Sugden.

The first important task as part of the handover is the refresh the website and, where necessary, bring its contents up to date.

Clubmark & Safeguarding - JB

The meeting was informed that the ECB are updating their requirements to become (or retain) Clubmark accredited for 2026 which will cause Clubs to have to adjust and amend your administration to remain compliant with the ECB's revised standard. We must not expect this to be just another nod through as it was between 2024 and 25. Jackie Brook will inform Clubs of what new requirements or changes are needed when they become known.

As already announced in a separate special communication the ECB are placing an extra focus on women and especially girls' cricket, requiring us to embrace a three-phase approach culminating in an expectation that all HPCL's Premiership and Championship Clubs will run at least one girl's team in 2027 at the latest.

Jackie said that some 24 of HPCL's 40 Clubs are already running a women/girls (or both) programme.

Clubs are reminded to ensure that they nominate an appointed Club Safeguarding Officer who must hold a valid safeguarding (Safe Hands) qualification. Some Clubs' officer's qualification will need to be renewed for 2026 if they remain in post, along with any newly appointed officers for 2026. Courses will be available in Q1 2026.

Our current six non Clubmark accredited Clubs are reminded that they must nevertheless meet certain mandatory basic requirements of the ECB – such as designated post holders (Club Umpire, team Captain, any coaches etc.) being DBS'd. Those Clubs are encouraged to sign up to and use the ECB's Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) to support the administration of these matters.

Match & Registration Matters – (NC in absence of PS)

Edgerton & Dalton CC

As already advised in August the meeting was informed about the situation with Edgerton & Dalton's unfit cricket square which has resulted in them being prevented from playing matches at their home ground for the remainder of the season. Phil Senior has worked with the officers of E&D to identify alternative grounds that they could borrow to fulfil their remaining fixtures to the end of the 2025 season.

It is for E&D to inform their opponents of any revised match arrangements once those are confirmed.

HPCL's Grounds and Facilities Sub-Committee will meet at E&D again in the next few weeks to review progress and further plans to bring their ground back up to the required minimum standard to be able to recommence playing cricket at their home ground in 2026.

Through Mel Booth Scholes CC requested the Match Secretary (Phil Senior) to review his match outcome and awarding of points decision for the abandoned fixture E&D 1st XI vs Scholes 2nd XI of 19th July. This was agreed and Phil Senior will be in touch with Scholes directly once he has reviewed the matter.

Norman Clee reminded Clubs and players about the return of trophies in accordance with the respective rules of each competition/Cup.

He also reminded Clubs interested in nominating individuals for the various end of 2025 season awards to do so by 30th September.

Umpiring Situation 2025 - D Haikings

Norman Clee made a special point of thanking all Clubs for providing a Club Umpires for their Alliance division matches and, in particular, thanked those Clubs that are providing two Club Umpires, and Clubs with a 2nd XI in the Conference that are providing Club Umpires to work alongside Panel Umpires due to an ongoing and increasingly concerning shortage.

Both the UA and HPCL remain concerned about the reducing strength of the UA Panel. A further review of options to arrest the downward trend will be considered following the end of the playing season.

An Umpires training course especially for female Umpires is being run on 27th September in Bradford (pls see YCB website for more details and link to enrol).

Basic, Intermediate, and Refresher training courses for Umpires will be organised by the UA and run in March 2026. Information will be advised asap.

2025 Awards Event - NC

Norman Clee reminded the meeting that HPCL's 2025 end of season Awards Event will take place on Friday 28th November at the Masonic Hall in central Huddersfield. Entertainment will be provided by comedian Martin Gold.

A decision on ticket price, which will be slightly increased due to the change of venue, along with the number of mandatory tickets to be purchased by clubs will be announced shortly.

Any Other Business

Birkby Rose Hill CC and Lascelles Hall CC were commended for their excellent hosting of the recent Earnshaw Cup and HJCL U17 Finals. It is also great to see the infrastructure developments taking place at LH CC.

The Council will next meet at the HPCL 2025 AGM on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at Honley CC at 19.00pm. The Meeting of the Council will follow on immediately, and the Executive Committee will meet after that.