



HUDDERSFIELD

CRICKET LEAGUE

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2023

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present: The President; General Secretary; Compliance & Safeguarding Officer; Match & Registration Secretary; Media Secretary.

Life Vice Presidents: Geoff Crompton; Ron Tindall.

Clubs: All clubs were present except for Almondbury, Clayton West, Elland, Emley Clarence, Kirkheaton and Thongsbridge, Meltham and Mirfield Parish Cavaliers

Apologies: The Administration Secretary, Finance Secretary, Meltham CC and Mirfield Parish Cavaliers CC

The Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting on Wednesday 5th April 2023 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Congratulations and End of Season Fixtures.

Congratulations

The Chairman congratulated Moorlands for their success in winning the Premiership Byrom Shield, noting it was the first new name on there since 2012. He also went on to bestow congratulations to Broad Oak for winning the Sykes Cup as well as Hoylandswaine for their success in the T20 Trophy and Armitage Bridge for the T20 Shield. He added his thoughts that both Sykes Cup and T20 Finals Day held at Armitage Bridge was well organised and thanked them for their excellent hosting of them.

There were also plaudits for Marsden who won the Conference and Linthwaite whose promotion was confirmed. Moorlands, who won Alliance Two were congratulated along with Almondbury Wesleyans who were promoted alongside them. Birkby Rose Hill, the winners of Alliance Three and Mirfield Alliance Four Champions were also mentioned.

The Chairman pointed out several end of season matters were unresolved and requested integrity when selecting and playing the final matches.

Elland CC

The Chairman noted that Elland's conceding of their final three fixtures for both first and second team was worrying news, particularly for a club of their esteem.

A meeting has recently taken place with the key people at ECC where the possibility of them withdrawing from HCL was discussed. However, it was agreed to establish more details in a meeting with Treasurer Kevin Whiteley and discuss possibilities for survival with the overarching Elland Community Sport Club governing body that ECC are part of. ECC are keen to continue playing cricket at Hullens Edge if a realistic way forward can be found. ECC and the HCL will now seek a meeting with the relevant parties asap.

HCL confirmed its commitment to support and assist ECC in continuing to play cricket as part of the HCL in whatever way would help.

Denby Grange CC

The Chairman informed the Council that Denby Grange, from the Pontefract & District Cricket League had made an official application over the summer to join our league. Whilst the Executive's position is to accept them into the league, concern was also acknowledged after seeing DGCC had conceded a couple of matches towards the end of the 2023 season. A further meeting has been arranged to investigate them.

Flockton CC

The Chairman announced encouraging news from Flockton who intend to field two senior teams again from the 2024 season.

Relegation

Given the situation at Elland, the Chairman established that no teams will be relegated unless they occupied a legitimate relegation position at the conclusion of the season.

Monthly Finance Report

The Chairman, on behalf of the Finance Secretary, reported the finances were in a healthy state.

Gate receipts for Sykes Cup Final were announced as £1,319 and £222 was taken at the Paddock Shield Final.

Disciplinary Report

The Chairman explained that we had adopted all ECB General Conduct Regulations and that the Admin Secretary was working between contacts within the YCB and ECB to fine tune these in time for the 2024 season.

He reported that 24 players/Captains had been the subject of a disciplinary sanction of some type during the 2023 season. They have also been placed on the HCL/ECB Disciplinary Register which could result in a compounding up of any new sanction should one of those persons be the subject of a proven new disciplinary offence in the next 24 months.

He informed the Council that all disciplinary cases were published on the League website each month.

The Chairman took time to thank the Administration Secretary for all his hard work over the course of the season.

Media Secretary Report

The Media Secretary had nothing to report, but thanked those present for help during the season in informing any corrections on the website.

Match & Registration Secretary Report

The Match & Registration Secretary reported he'd issued 121 fines in total for the season: 25 coming in August.

He mentioned several involved Elland whose future was uncertain and confirmed he had deducted points due to their conceded matches.

Several clubs were reported to be extremely late with sending through the TMRF form after matches, with some not even sending theirs in from several weeks ago.

Returning Of Trophies

The General Secretary asked that all Individual Awards, Hopkinson & Schweppes Trophies need to be returned to him no later than 1st October.

Awards Evening 2023

The General Secretary confirmed that Geoff Miller was to be the Guest Speaker at the Awards event on Friday 24th November, at Baines Hall, Elland. He reminded clubs that this year they would be expected to purchase either 2 or 3 tickets dependent upon capacity at the event. This is less than the usual 4 tickets as per rule.

More info about the finer details of the event to follow.

Nominations for Awards.

The General Secretary invited Nominations by clubs for Lady Sykes Trophies, Fred Stallard Cup and Johnny Hunter Rose Bowls. They should be sent to the attention of the Administration Secretary by the 30th September.

Rule Change Proposals

The General Secretary asked for rule change proposals to be in five days after the last game (14th September) which can be sent to either himself or to the Administration Secretary.

ECB Premier League Application update.

The Chairman acknowledged clubs had spent a large proportion of the year preparing for and achieving their Clubmark accreditation. He reported that the YCB were impressed with our progress. Providing progress continues with clubs who are yet to meet the criteria, the league may become an ECB Premier League for the 2025 season which would be a probatory period and providing we fulfil any obligations through that our ongoing status as a fully compliant ECB league would be confirmed for season 2026.

There are several criteria which the league will be looking to establish in due course. Namely:

Clubs in the top two divisions must have a tearoom.

The league are seeking clarification on the details of this criteria.

Clubs in the top two divisions must possess and use double sight screens.

Clubs may be able to get ECB grants to fund the extra screens and the league will help with interest free loans where possible.

Registration of Players

Overseas players:

The overseas players fall into two categories: Category 1 (British/local players born and resident in UK*) or Category 3 (overseas regardless of level or so called 'British Passport'). This was explained as winter cricketers effectively, those that play cricket all year round. Under ECB regulations, all ECB Premier League clubs are only allowed one Category 3 player. However, it has been agreed for season 2024 to be regarded as a transition year when two Category 3 players will be permitted (one genuine overseas and one overseas player with a British passport – qualification criteria is per 2023 handbook rules). From season 2025 onwards we will be expected to adopt the full ECB PL criteria.

*We will also be adopting the ECB Category 1 minimum 210 day residency regulations from 2024 onwards.

Clubmark Progress

The Compliance & Safeguarding Officer had reported that she'd witnessed a great response to Clubmark with the vast majority of Premiership & Championship clubs either already achieving or on the cusp of achieving their accreditation.

She put forward an offer to help clubs who are behind in order to gain accreditation. She thanked the clubs for the hard work put in during the season.

Experimental Rules 2023

After a discussion on the Experimental Rules used this season, it was confirmed that these would be voted upon by clubs for their permanent inclusion in the 2024 season.

Any Other Business

Umpire Training

David Haikings informed clubs that he had an email from the ECB's Umpire Training Officer and it looks like ECB may change some things. He invited clubs to send club umpires for stage 1 and stage 2 courses which can be done remotely. He also invited club umpires forward to go on a refresher course which will be held in early 2024 with dates TBC.

Umpires For Final Matches

Ron Tindall informed clubs that four first team matches will only be staffed by one official umpire. He asked for club umpires to step forward to help out in the following fixtures, all of which have no bearing on promotion or relegation outcomes:

Clayton West 1XI v Shelley 1XI
Armitage Bridge 1XI v Lascelles Hall 1XI
Hall Bower 1XI v Cumberworth United 1XI
Kirkheaton 1XI v Thurstonland 1XI

The next meeting of the Council which will include HCL's AGM will be held on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at Honley CC (7:00pm).