



Walker Timber **HUDDERSFIELD** PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 1st November 2025

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present: General Secretary – N Clee; Media Secretary – J Harrison and Mrs Paula Huddleston;

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton

Club Representatives: L Harrison; C McCreadie

Apologies

President - W A Sugden; Treasurer - A Hill; EDI Chair – M Hussain; LVP – R Tindall; Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior; Compliance Officer – Mrs Jackie Brook; Administration Secretary – M Binns

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 1st October 2025

Approved.

Matters Arising

TA: Report from strategy and planning meeting with UA - 9th October 2025.

TA/MB met with the Officers and Executive Committee of the UA to discuss the umpiring strategy for HPCL. An agreement has now been reached where the UA and HPCL will work together to increase umpire numbers. Both parties are fully aware of the urgent need and challenges involved in recruiting more umpires.

TA: Reece Abrams' registration issues - update.

Subsequent to our last meeting in October PS extracted a clarification from Australia regarding Reece Abrams' registration situation. Reece had played one game in a league where, when players are registered, their local or overseas status is not a factor. The complaint that triggered the case and investigation, which alleged that Reece Abrams was ineligible to be registered as a Category 1 player during 2025, was rejected. Separately Reece Abrams has received a six week ECB/GCR's ban (for bringing himself and the league into disrepute) which has not been appealed. The matter is now closed

CM/NC: Edgerton & Dalton – ground issues.

It was reported that Edgerton & Dalton have made a big effort to improve their ground and done as much as they can with the means and resources available to them. It was confirmed that the ground should now be suitable, as the weather has been favourable, grass has germinated and is growing. He expects that games should be able to be played next season on a safe surface of satisfactory quality. HPCL will keep an eye on things to ensure their pitches remain playable.

On a separate note, Dalton Bowling Club feel that the ground belongs to them and want to hire out the ground for bowling etc. The local councillor is now involved, and Steve Archer is supporting although limited in what he can do. This is a further example of the need for HPCL Clubs to check their leases

Financial Report – TA (on behalf of AH)

The Report confirmed that the finances of the League are in a satisfactory state, with General Funds totalling £59.5k. The Development Fund totals £9,232.

No significant expenditure since last meeting. 2 Fines invoiced for late return of trophies.

Disciplinary Report – TA/MB

Beyond the item in Matters Arising above, nothing to report.

Media Secretary Report – PH/JH

JH is meeting Andrew Crawshaw, who, together with Steve Whitwam is taking on HPCL's Castle Hill Cricket Chat podcast series. There are a couple of podcasts planned over the coming months.

PH has updated parts of the website and provided a short presentation to the committee displaying the new page graphics. The suitability of the current website platform (Shopblocks now Symphony) is being reviewed. Ongoing work to significantly reduce the current unnecessary 1000+ pages is time consuming. Serious consideration regarding moving to a better alternative provider will not be recommended until the number of pages is reduced to approx. 40/50. PH expects to be in a position to provide a proposal regarding a moving to a new platform in the next few months.

The HPCL Play-Cricket website 'about us' section has been updated with photos of officials.

An update was given regarding the newly launched Facebook and Instagram accounts and it was agreed that the main social media accounts should be Instagram and Facebook, as on X (although has 2966 followers) views on each post are presently lower.

PH has asked PS if the Player Registrations page can be brought up to date as website analysis shows a lot of people are still looking at this page.

EDI Report

Nothing to report

Clubmark, Safeguarding and Compliance – JB

HPCL held a meeting regarding Girls Cricket on 15th October. This was well attended with 19 clubs represented. The ECB's Katie Stewart, Steve Coulthard, Steve Archer and WYW&GCL's Phil Sharples gave presentations outlining requirements for providing girls cricket and the help available. This is all available to view on the HPCL website.

17 clubs out of 24 already meet the future requirement for girls' cricket (at least one girls team playing games in 2027 or sooner).

Premier League Matters - TA

Submissions to ECB - PRPF: Pitch Marks; Fair Play Marks; Umpires & Scorers Action Plans

We are expecting a Performance Related top-up payment from the ECB which, when decided, will be paid to us in December. The statistical reports that HPCL provided to the ECB have been accepted as ok. We have submitted Pitch Marks; Fair Play Marks; Umpires & Scorers Action Plans, however we may get downgraded on low pitch marks.

An average match mark of 14 out of 25 suggests a Club's cricket square is not quite right. Three HPCL clubs received average marks of 13.8/13.9 for last season and one club received 12. We are hampered by the lack of people working for the league on a day to day basis.

TA asked for anyone able to help out with ground inspections. LH/CM are considering.

NC will write to UA spelling out importance of pitch marks and implications of very low scores.

Umpires and scorers action plans.

Now that we are an ECB Premier League (ECB PL) we are being challenged to recruit more umpires and more scorers. TA reported that the ECB had made it clear that in future they will be putting significant pressure on the League to oversee meeting the ongoing challenge of Umpire recruitment. The ECB has also made it clear that it expects HPCL to hold HPCL's UA, as our responsible partner, accountable to HPCL for playing their important role in urgently improving the unsatisfactory situation.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

PS provided a 'outline fixture calendar for the 2026 season' which is similar to last year. He has suggested that in 2026 Oddfellows Cup matches are played on a separate day but that Earnshaw Cup fixtures are played on the same day as the Paddock Shield matches. This was felt to be a good idea as it made the Oddfellows cup more prestigious.

Awards Evening - NC

19 clubs out of 40 have responded resulting in 70 people attending (unusually there are lots of guests this year), this leaves 40 places for the remaining 21 clubs. It was noted that not all winners are attending.

Any Other Business

LH questioned the reason for TMRF being in triplicate. This is to enable one to go to the scorer, one to the umpire and one for the home club to keep.

Rule changes are all set up and ready to go out tonight following the meeting, the deadline for Clubs to register their vote is two weeks after today (19th).

Please note: The next meeting will be of the HPCL Council at its AGM. This will take place at **Honley CC on Wed 3rd December 2025 commencing at 19.00pm and be immediately followed by a quarterly meeting of the Council of HPCL's 40 Clubs.**

The December HPCL Executive mtg will follow immediately afterwards.