



Walker Timber
HUDDERSFIELD
CRICKET LEAGUE

HCL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 4th December 2024

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present: President – W A Sugden; General Secretary – N Clee; Treasurer - A Hill; Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior; 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

Representatives from 37 of 40 Clubs were in attendance. Apologies were received from one Club – Clayton West CC, with two other Clubs absent (Kirkheaton & Linthwaite).

David Haikings from the HCL UA and Bill XX from the Yorkshire Post were also in attendance.

Apologies

EDI Chair – Mushtaq Hussain

Minutes of Previous Council Mtg held on Wednesday 4th September 2024

Approved.

Matters Arising

None

Financial Matters - AH

The finances of HCL remain in a satisfactory and stable situation with a current Balance of just over £47k.

Linthwaite owe fines of £5, Thongsbridge £30, Birkby Rose Hill £50 and Clayton West £30.

The 13 Clubs that have not paid for their Presentation Evening tickets are requested to do so asap.

Clubmark & Safeguarding - JB

There are no new documents that are needed by the ECB from Clubs for 2025.

For any Clubs wishing to become accredited to Clubmark, the 2025 process is now open. Emley Clarence CC have expressed interest.

Clubs are reminded to ensure that your Safeguarding Officer remains qualified. There are a variety of Safe Hands training courses available around Yorkshire, timetabled for before the 2025 season begins in April but none in Huddersfield.

Match & Registration Matters - PS

Overseas Player Eligibility

Phil Senior confirmed that Clubs are no longer allowed, for 2025 and the future, to register a second overseas player under the banner or previous HCL definition of 'British Passport'.

Only one overseas player can be registered in 2025, and that player must have the appropriate Visa and qualify as either a genuine amateur, or a professional cricketer (International Sportsperson - and for which the registering Clubs will require a governing body - ECB - endorsed sponsors license).

He also reminded Cubs that they are limited to only one Category 2 player.

The current ECB registration eligibility categories and definitions of amateur/professional are attached as an addendum to these minutes.

Other Matters

Updated player registration/transfer forms for 2025 will be available on the website and should be used, not forgetting that completion of 'Part One' of the process remains paper based, with the remainder being electronic via Play-Cricket (League Registered Player - LRP).

Clubs are recommended to have a second, knowledgeable, backup Play-Cricket administrator.

ECB Premier League - TA

In relation to the statement read out at the preceding HCL AGM Trevor Atkinson provided additional details and comment. He confirmed that the ECB had cleared previously outstanding matters connected to HCL's commitment to good governance and pitch marking.

Two matters remained outstanding:

1. All Clubs to run 3x junior hard ball cricket teams (ideally at U11's, 13's and 15's).

2025 Premiership teams have been cleared, but 5 other teams/Clubs are potentially not compliant. The YCB, along with the League's Compliance Officer will work with those 5 Clubs, and any other clubs who become non-compliant, to support them, but in the end compliance is the responsibility of the respective Clubs.

2. A requirement to put in place minimum cricket playing area dimensions.

These are now defined by the HCL Executive as:

- The playing area must measure a minimum length of 97 yards (as measured 37.5yds boundary edge to middle stump plus 22yds middle stump to middle stump plus 37.5yds middle stump to other boundary edge), and a minimum width of 90 yards (as measured from the centre point of the cricket square 45 yds at a right angle to the leg side boundary and 45 yds at a right angle to the off side boundary).

These details will be added to HCL's minimum standards as set out in section L4.6 of the Handbook.

All current Premiership and Championship teams are deemed to be compliant, but other Clubs and any new Clubs admitted into the League may be denied promotion into the two ECB PL Divisions if their boundary size is too small.

In conclusion the HCL appear to be very close to gaining ECB PL status for 2025 but must now wait for further communications from Mr Bedford.

Umpiring Situation 2025 -TA and D Haikings

The meeting was reminded that there are several Umpires training courses being run by the ECB, a further 2 run locally by HCL/HCL UA (15th and 22nd March), and 2 refresher courses for existing Umpires (8th and 29th March),

all taking place before the start of the 2025 season. Details and access to booking on any of the courses is available via the YCB website.

The strength of the 2025 HCL UA Panel is expected to be at a similar level to 2024. This means that the risk of many Conference Division matches being staffed by only one umpire remains. This is unacceptable.

Therefore at a recent meeting with all 2025 Conference Clubs it was agreed that the 3x 2nd teams playing in the Conference – Hoylandswaine, Moorlands and Skelmanthorpe – will provide a Club Umpire to staff their matches alongside a Panel Umpire. If additional 'Panel Support' is still needed then the Club Umpires of the other 9 teams/Clubs will be required, on a rotation basis, to step up from umpiring their 2nd XI fixture to umpire their 1st XI Conference fixture alongside a Panel Umpire. In these circumstances the Clubs would also be required, on a best endeavours basis, to find an occasional Umpire for their 2nd XI match.

It is hoped that these new arrangements will minimise the number of Conference Division matches that are not fully staffed.

Sunday Section - NC

A letter will be sent to all Clubs who fielded a team in the 2024 Sunday Section asking them to confirm your continued participation in 2025.

Any Clubs wishing to enter a team for the first time should contact Norman Clee asap.

2024 Awards Evening - NC

The recently held 2024 Awards Evening was seen to be a good and successful event, and the informal and accessible format appears to be popular. It is nevertheless disappointing that only 29 out of our 40 Clubs were represented.

The Executive are working on the venue for the 2025 event.

Any Other Business

Clubs are reminded that HCL's most prestigious awards are by nomination. Nominations for the Jonny Hunter Rose Bowls, the Lady Sykes Candlesticks and the F R Stallard Cup are encouraged and should be submitted along with an appropriate supporting justification.

Chairman Trevor Atkinson ended the meeting by thanking all Clubs for their diligent and hard work on Clubmark and the ECB PL journey during the last 12 months.

He also provided feedback from the ECB who have made several visits to Huddersfield and to a number of our Clubs earlier this year. The HCL and its member Clubs are commended by the ECB who have been impressed by the quality of the grounds they have audited and the officers of the Clubs they have met.

The next HCL Annual General Meeting is planned for Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 19.00pm. Venue Honley CC.

The next HCL Council Meeting is planned for Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at Honley CC.