

Drakes Huddersfield Cricket League

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Wed 4thth March 2020

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present: General Sec – NC; Child Welfare, Facilities & Trophies Secretary - RP; Match & Registration Secretary - PS; Media Secretary – JH; Administration Secretary – MB

Life Vice Presidents: Geoff Crompton; Ron Tindall.

Club Representatives: Craig McCreddie, Malcolm Westoby

Apologies

R France; L Harrison; A Hill

Minutes of previous meeting Wednesday 5th February 2020

Approved.

Matters Arising

1. The remaining stock of coats for the Umpires Pool has been given back to the League and the matter is now closed
2. Admin Secretary reported back on the meeting that a small delegation from the Executive had with Holmfirth CC on 20.2.20 to address concerns HCC had raised and discuss their expressed desire for modernisation. Constructive discussions took place resulting in the following:
 - a. HCC understand why their nomination of Chris Ridler for the office of League Chairman cannot go forward to the AGM in December 2020
 - b. HCC still retain a desire to nominate him when he becomes eligible
 - c. HCC gained an increased understanding of the rationale behind certain current set-ups and decisions made by the Executive over recent months

It was agreed that the Executive would clarify when Chris Ridler would become eligible to be nominated.

3. Chairman reported back on the meeting a small delegation from the Executive had with Nortonthorpe CC to discuss their request to field only one team in season 2020, which League rules do not allow. The meeting also discussed Nortonthorpe's plans that may enable them to survive and thrive longer term. A frank and constructive discussion concluded:
 - a. Nortonthorpe can only realistically field one team in 2020, with a strength capable of playing in the seventh section of the League
 - b. After losing several senior players the club were regrouping and would strive to strengthen over the next twelve months

The Chairman asked the Executive to consider allowing Nortonthorpe to offer twelve months notice of their resignation from the League at the end of the 2020 season, thereby allowing them to continue temporarily with one team this season, and the opportunity to either:

- o Find another League which can accommodate a one team club,
- o or strengthen sufficiently to be able to field two teams again in 2021 and sufficiently demonstrate to the League that they have a convincing sustainable long term situation (in a review meeting following the end of the season)

Note: they would not be entered into the 2020 Sykes Cup competition

This was agreed.

4. It was further agreed that the likelihood of other clubs, including full member clubs, finding it difficult/impossible to field two teams each week (as the League rules require) was increasing, and that the League should consider these matters in a more structural way before they present themselves. It was agreed that the Chairman would consult with others to form a position for the future regarding such an eventuality.
5. General Secretary told the meeting that there had been a nibble of interest in sponsoring the T20 competition and he would continue to work on it.

Finance Report – AH

The finances of the League were presented and reviewed. Bills to be paid and to pay are up to date, and loans authorised have also been actioned.

A now formalised loan request from Shepley CC to support installation of a new electronic scoreboard was agreed. League funds have space to make up to another £10,000 available to clubs as things currently stand. This was agreed.

Ground & Facilities - RP

The difficult situation at Denby Dale CC with a flood damaged ground was discussed again. A specialist report is still awaited and it remains unclear whether it will be possible to play matches at DDCC in 2020. DDCC are to be formally asked to clarify the situation, and if not available make known their alternative arrangements for hosting their home fixtures in 2020 by Friday 20th March. The Match Secretary will continue to support and work with them on fixture planning and other League ground options that may be available.

Disciplinary Report

Nothing to report

Media Secretary Report - JH

The League Podcast project, now named 'Drakes Discussions' will trial this week and, once produced, be available via Youtube and Soundcloud. The first episode will feature Golcar cricketer Steve Whitwam and be 30 – 45 minutes in length. An initial free period will enable trials to take place before costs of £81 per year are incurred if actioned.

The website, which will be sponsored again in 2020 by All Rounder, continues to prominently contain information regarding the recruitment drive for both regular and pool umpires, and the oversight and coordination that the newly created role of Club & Pool Umpires' Liaison Secretary will provide via the newly appointed Stephen Sykes.

All Rounder and sponsors of the League Handbook will gain some further exposure by each receiving coverage on both the website and in the handbook.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

The Match Secretary will attend the UA meeting on 19th March to brief umpires regarding the implications of introducing the DL method as the new rain rule for DHCL in 2020. A further briefing document will be produced to inform captains, scorers and club/pool umpires of how to apply the rule in 2020. This document will be available shortly and further supported by explanations that will be loaded up on to the League website, and simple and clear tutorials available on the play-cricket website.

The Match Secretary reported that there was an increasing frequency of Present clubs refusing to sign, or slowing down the signing of the transfer form releasing a player to a New receiving club. It was agreed that if a Present Club had an objection it must be lodged with the Registration Secretary (and by pressing the play-cricket objection button) within seven days of the form being signed by the player, and that details of the objection with a clearly valid reason must be provided within a further seven days. Otherwise the Registration Secretary would authorise and process the transfer based on the signatures of the Player and the New club.

It was further confirmed that it is the responsibility of Clubs to regularly monitor the Action List on their Play-Cricket Club site and any LRP application on Play-Cricket must be Accepted or Objected on Play-Cricket within seven days of the application, otherwise it will be considered for automatic Acceptance by the Registration Secretary. An Objection must contain a detailed valid reason. Furthermore any subsequent delay of seven days or more relating to Club correspondence with the Registration Secretary dealing with the validity of the Objection may also result in automatic Acceptance.

General Secretary Matters - NC

It was agreed that despite current rule TS4.3 in the T20 Shield Competition giving clubs the option of using a pink, or standard red ball, the preferred use of a pink ball in the 2020 season, as is mandatory in the T20 Premiership Trophy competition, is strongly encouraged. Stocks of pink balls are available or can still be ordered in time, from the League.

The General Secretary confirmed the creation of the new role of Club & Pool Umpires' Liaison Secretary, and the appointment of Stephen Sykes into that role.

This role is designed to work with all clubs to support the Club Umpire process, the Club umpires themselves, and will have responsibility for the Umpires Pool. The role will be the key link for weekly deployment of UA panel umpires who are not allocated a 1st XI fixture, Pool umpires who are available on a more occasional basis, and with all Clubs who may request support from the Pool to provide umpires to fill vacancies as they arise. Stephen Sykes has already begun his work in the role.

Concept of a Points Cap System - CM

An outline paper explaining the concept of a points cap system was circulated by Craig McCreadie. The system is designed to attempt to make cricket more competitive, whilst rewarding player loyalty and production of home grown talent. Following discussions and clarifications the meeting felt, despite some concerns, and comments regarding making any such system workable in practice, that this was an interesting idea worthy of further consideration.

A working group comprising CM, The General and Match Secretaries, together with Robert Moore, was appointed to study this in more detail and bring their conclusions back to the Executive meeting in June (3rd).

Any Other Business

None.

The next Executive Meeting will be held on Wed 1st April 2020 at Elland CC, commencing at the end of the Council meeting which starts at 7.00pm