



Walker Timber
HUDDERSFIELD
CRICKET LEAGUE

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 6th March 2024

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present:, General Secretary – N Clee; Administration Secretary – M Binns; Compliance Officer - Mrs Jackie Brook;

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

Club Representatives: Craig McCreadie; Les Harrison

Apologies

President – W A Sugden, Treasurer - A Hill, LVP – R Peaker, Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior, EDI Chair – M Hussain, Media Secretary – J Harrison;

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 7th February 2024

Approved.

Matters Arising

Elland CC

Elland Community Sports Club have written a lengthy response justifying why they believe they have no responsibility for the debt of Elland CC. Legal Counsel has advised that our only remaining course of action would be to initiate legal proceedings, but without any certainty regarding the outcome. The meeting therefore reluctantly decided not proceed any further, but to close the case, and write the debt off.

Double Sight Screens and Interest Free Loans

Premier Clubs have recognised that they now have more time to put double sight screens in place, although some Clubs already have matters in hand which means they will have them in place during 2024.

The Chair has contacted all Premier Division Clubs regarding the matter. A loan has been agreed with Scholes CC, and loans have been requested by Delph & Dobcross CC, Honley CC, Kirkburton CC, and Skelmanthorpe CC. Shepley will let us know shortly.

Financial Report - TA

The Report confirmed that the finances of the League are in a satisfactory state, with an overall balance of just over £46k.

Awards Evening: Still to pay Kirkheaton (£30). Outstanding fines £47 from Linthwaite, and Almondbury's monthly loan repayment has not been received.

Special Captain's Meeting – TA & MB

As included in the January Minutes HCL Club Captains and UA Panel Umpires will be briefed regarding the new 2024 Team Points Deduction System and the Poor Spectator Behaviour Guidelines along with other matters on 20th and 21st March respectively.

Clubs are requested to ask their **1st XI Captain or an appropriate substitute to attend this special meeting on 20th March at Almondbury Wesleyan CC commencing at 19.00pm.**

Sponsorship of HCL – TA

HCL is delighted to confirm that it has agreed a deal with Walker Timber of Birkby to sponsor the HCL for two years commencing with immediate effect.

HCL, its media team and its Executive will do everything it can to promote the name of this longstanding locally run business, now in the hands of the fourth generation of the Walker family. Walker Timber and Fencing Centre is one of Huddersfield's premier specialist Timber and Fencing outlets.

The HCL Logo has now been adapted to incorporate the Walker Timber name as follows:



HCL are also grateful to our LVP Ron Tindall who has agreed to sponsor the 2024 Sykes Cup Competition.

Media Secretary Report - JH

The Media Secretary is in the process of agreeing a sponsorship deal with Battersby linked to groundworks and cricket field materials.

EDI Report – MH

Nothing further to report. A meeting of the EDI Sub-Committee will be organised shortly.

ECB Premier League & Clubmark Progress – TA, NC & JB

ECB Premier League Status

The ECB's Paul Bedford has confirmed to HCL's Chair that he is satisfied with the progress HCL are making towards becoming a PL in 2025.

Promotion and Relegation into/from the ECB PL divisions (Premiership & Championship)

Clubs in the 2024 Conference Division who aspire to be promoted at the end of the 2024 season are reminded that they **cannot be promoted** into the Championship unless they have gained the Clubmark accreditation for 2025. This has not changed.

However following new guidance from the ECB, HCL will change the way that 2024 Premiership Division Clubs that either do not achieve, or lose, the Clubmark accreditation for 2025 are treated. In such a situation Premiership Clubs will be relegated into the Championship Division for 2025. If that Club then fails to achieve Clubmark in 2025 then it will be further relegated into the Championship Division for 2026.

Clubmark

Jackie Brook continues to work with, and provide support, to all Clubs working towards achieving the accreditation in 2024. Jackie reminds Clubs again of the importance of meeting the criteria/expectations regarding junior teams, and of correctly updating their 'About Us' page.

Pitch Marking

Following the trialling of the ECB/WTU Pitch Marking system in 2023 HCL will, from 2024 onwards, follow up with the relevant Club on pitches that are scored either below 14 (out of 25) overall for an individual match, or score below 3 (out of 5) in an individual category (there are 5).

Based on average marks received an overall 2024 Pitch Mark League Table will be produced at the end of the season and this will be used to inform decisions when considering the award of the Tom Walker Trophy to a groundsman producing excellent pitches and outfield, and the award of the F E Greenwood Ground Trophy that recognises the improvement a Club makes to its playing area and amenities.

HCL's Ground and Facilities Sub-Committee will also follow up with Clubs who find themselves positioned towards the bottom of the League table to discuss and agree any necessary improvement programmes for the future.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

Nothing to Report

Umpires

An Umpire refresher training day is being run on Sat 16th March and a new Umpire training course (Module C), which is also suitable for any persons wishing to be qualified to umpire W&G's cricket matches is being run on Sat 23rd March.

The HCL UA have informed HCL that due to a shortage of Umpires a number of Conference Division games will only be staffed by one Umpire in the upcoming season.

They also confirmed that, for the avoidance of doubt, all 1st Round Paddock Shield games (Sun 28th April) must be staffed by Club Umpires.

Club Representative Craig McCreadie expressed his view that HCL UA Panel Umpires remain underpaid and that this is one of the reasons why the League is short of numbers and struggling to attract new members. He also stated that the duties and responsibilities which umpires are now expected to undertake are higher and more onerous than in the past but this change has not been reflected in a commensurate adjustment in the match fees paid. His comments were acknowledged and it was agreed to consider the situation over the months ahead.

Clubs are reminded that they must nominate a regular Club Umpire (or more than one) for 2024 who must be trained and qualified to at least ECB Level 1 / Stage 1 / Module C.

Any Other Business

Premiership Division Clubs are reminded to pay £605 for the new Dukes ball, which will be distributed at the April Council meeting, by the 1st April.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Almondbury Wesleyan CC for hosting, free of charge, many meetings of the HCL Executive, HCL UA, and a variety of special meetings, and training events.

The next meeting of the HCL Management Executive will take place at Honley CC on Wed 3rd April 2024 after the HCL pre-season Council Meeting which all HCL Clubs are required to attend. This meeting commences at 19.00pm