



EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 10th January 2024

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present:, General Secretary – N Clee; Administration Secretary – M Binns; Media Secretary – J Harrison; Chair EDI Sub-Committee - Mushtaq Hussain, Compliance Officer - Mrs Jackie Brook,

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

Club Representatives: Les Harrison, Craig McCreadie

Apologies

Treasurer - A Hill, President – W A Sugden, LVP – R Peaker, Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 6th December 2023

Approved.

Matters Arising

Elland CC

ECC have ceased to trade and ceased to exist. They appear not to have any funds to honour any fines/compensation/debts incurred by the forfeiting of several fixtures at the end of the 2023 season.

In the absence of any leverage or practicable alternative HCL will be forced to write the debt off. However HCL's solicitor is making one last attempt to extract payment or a contribution from them.

W&G's Cricket

HCL have been asked by organising representatives of W&G's cricket in Huddersfield (Wendy Kemp of Thongsbridge CC and Sara Begg of Thurstonland CC) to attend a meeting alongside them with WY W&G's CL and YCB's W&G's Development Officer Katie Stewart.

The purpose of this meeting, which is expected to take place before the end of January, is to agree and establish the best formats and best way to manage both hard and soft ball W&G's cricket in Huddersfield in 2024.

2024 Awards Event

Based on the success of the 2023 event which was well attended and well received this informal format will be repeated in 2024 and take place at Elland Community Sports Club's Baines Hall on Friday 29th November. HCL Clubs will be required to purchase 2x tickets, but at an accessible price. The evening will include entertainment.

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. Current account: £9,908.53, Money Manager £27,491.72, Loans £8,833.43, producing a Balance of £46,233.68.

Since last meeting the costs of £225 to settle the dispute with PA Media have been paid, and Barkisland CC's already authorised loan of £3k has been advanced.

Awards Evening: Still to pay Kirkheaton (£30) and Moorlands (£150). Outstanding fines £47 from Linthwaite and £10 Skelmanthorpe.

Edgerton & Dalton CC have paid for the cost of the replacement Ernest B Whittle Trophy.

Shepley have submitted a loan request of £5,000 repayable over 2 years for the installation of 2 hybrid cricket pitches. All their financial paperwork is in order. It was agreed to hold this application pending until after the upcoming meeting with the ECB next week when possible support funding for double sight screens will be discussed.

The HCL Executive will seek to increase its revenues to combat the effects of rising costs. If sufficient additional sponsorship can be attracted this will help, and may mean no further action is needed.

Disciplinary Report – TA & MB

The final proposed Team League Points Deduction System was reviewed and confirmed. The briefing paper has been amended to clarify certain points (such as it does not apply to Sykes Cup/Paddock Shield matches) and it will be issued along with these Minutes. HCL UA Panel Umpires will be briefed regarding this and other matters on 21st March. A special Captains briefing will take place on Wed 20th March.

Proposed new Guidance for Clubs, Captains and Umpires regarding Poor Spectator Behaviour was also reviewed and will be issued for use from the season 2024 onwards. This Guidance is being issued in response to their being five spectator incidents brought to the attention of the HCL Executive Committee since 2022, including the most recent incident taking place during the 2023 Sykes Cup Final.

All Clubs, Umpires and Captains are asked to familiarise themselves with the guidance, which is attached to these Minutes.

Media Secretary Report - JH

The newly produced sponsorship brochure is attached to these Minutes. The Sykes Cup and The League itself are currently unsponsored. Club Secretaries are asked to circulate the enclosed brochure amongst your wider membership and to pass any possible sponsorship interest onto Jamie Harrison or Trevor Atkinson.

Discussions with Gutterdoctor, Battersby, and Impact Sport are ongoing.

With the help of John Andrews the Media Secretary is tidying up the website and updating the reference section that includes HCL policies and other key documents.

EDI Report – MH

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

ECB Premier League & Clubmark Progress – JB

It was confirmed again that HCL is striving to become an ECB PL in 2025 which would be a probationary year. It is key that from 2025 every team (Club) in the Premiership and Championship divisions has already achieved and maintains the Clubmark accreditation.

Jackie Brook is now working with Premiership/Championship Clubs who need to catch up on Clubmark, and helping other Conference Clubs with a view to them making successful submissions by the end of June 2024. A meeting is being held with ten Clubs on 30th January.

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 Clubmark for 2025.

In the same way Clubs in the 2024 Premiership or Championship divisions that do not (or have not already) achieve Clubmark **will be automatically relegated** into the Conference division at the end of the 2024 season.

Clubs that are already Clubmark accredited are reminded to ensure that they remain up to date and compliant, by (such as) uploading your most recent AGM Minutes, and ensuring that your personnel are still compliant in the SHMS. All to be done by the end of April 2024.

The 2024 Safe Hands training course for Club Safeguarding Officers is being held on Tuesday 13th February and any Club/Officer who needs to become qualified is encouraged to attend this event.

Double Sight Screens

As already announced at the HCL Council meeting in September it is a requirement of becoming an ECB PL that the

grounds of all Premier and Championship teams have double sight screens available, and in use during HCL matches.

In order to comply with this requirement Clubs with teams in the Premiership and Championship must put double sight screens in place by the **end of June 2024**. A double sight screen is defined as two white sight screens at each end of your ground, with each individual sight screen being at least 4m wide x 4m in height or more.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

The Registration Secretary reminds all Clubs regarding the new registration rules that will apply to cricketers from overseas in 2024.

He further reminds Clubs that the registration of cricketers from overseas commonly described as 'British Passport qualified' (in accordance with rules set out in the 2023 HCL Handbook L6.6 Appendix B) are limited to one player per Club in 2024.

Umpires

The number of Umpires on the HCL UA Panel is expected to reduce a little in 2024 vs last year. Any Club who can identify and recommend persons suitable and interested to join the Panel are requested to do so by contacting David Haikings.

The training and qualification schemes for Umpires are in the process of being changed by the ECB. It is expected that HCL and HCL UA will be able to organise one training course that will train new umpires to the previous S1/L1 standard which will enable new umpires to officiate in at least HCL Conference matches or as a regular Club Umpire. The date will be circulated when known.

Cricket Balls

The new Dukes ball, which is being trialled in 2024 Premier League fixtures only, will be made available to Clubs at the April Council meeting. The Dukes ball comes at an increased cost of £27.50 but potentially much higher quality.

All other 2024 Cup fixtures and divisions will continue with the Readers Sovereign ball.

Any remaining stocks of SCIC balls can be used in 2nd XI fixtures in 2024.

Notified 2023 failed balls will be replaced with Sovereign balls by Readers free of charge, and these will also be issued on 3rd April.

Any Other Business

None

The next meeting of the HCL Management Executive will take place at Almondbury Wesleyan CC on Wed 7th February 2024 at 19.00pm.