



PEARSON  
FINANCIAL WELLBEING

**HUDDERSFIELD**

**PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**In the Chair:** Trevor Atkinson

**Other Officers Present:** General Secretary – N Clee; Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior;  
Administration Secretary – M Binns; Media Secretary – Mrs Paula Huddleston

**Life Vice Presidents:** G Crompton

**Club Representatives:** L Harrison; C McCreadie; A Fortis

### **Apologies**

Treasurer - A Hill; President – W A Sugden; EDI Chair – M Hussain; Compliance Officer – Mrs Jackie Brook;  
LVP - R Tindall

### **Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Approved.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Sponsorship - PEARSON FINANCIAL WELLBEING**

HPCL Chair TA was pleased and delighted to inform the meeting and announce that **PEARSON FINANCIAL WELLBEING** have agreed to elevate their support for HPCL by becoming our league Main Sponsor with immediate effect.

HPCL and wealth management experts PEARSON FW already benefit from a successful relationship having partnered last season through sponsorship of the Sykes Cup and T20 competitions.

This initial three year deal strengthens that relationship further with PEARSON now becoming the League's main sponsor in a higher-profile long-term partnership that places their name and brand alongside HPCL. The updated HPCL crest can be seen at the head of these Minutes.

Through their long standing association with Scholes CC the highly respected Pearson family are both trusted and familiar faces within Huddersfield cricketing circles and have a deep personal connection with the local cricketing community.

TA expressed his enthusiasm about the new partnership with an organisation and family who truly understand Huddersfield cricket and the values of the HPCL.

#### **Sponsorship Vacancies**

As a result of the above news HPCL are now looking for new sponsors of our prestigious and historic Sykes Cup competition and the two T20 Trophy and Shield competitions. Clubs are asked to make this known amongst your memberships in the hope that an interested business may come forward to take advantage of these opportunities that provide significant brand exposure and a direct connection to an audience of several thousand persons.

Any party who wishes to explore these options should contact HPCL's chair TA.

## **Edgerton & Dalton CC**

NC and MB updated the meeting on communications from E&D CC and with the chair of their landlords Dalton Bowling Club. The threat of legal action and recent negotiations between the parties appears to have increased the prospect of E&D CC reaching an agreement to hire their Dalton Fold ground again at least for 2026. We are awaiting further updates from Mr Bradbury.

In the meantime it was agreed that grounds and facilities advisors AF and C McC will revisit Dalton Fold in the next few days to establish its post winter state and check that the necessary work needed before the start of the new season is underway to ensure the cricket square, match pitches and outfield are in a safe and satisfactory condition to be able to recommence hosting home fixtures throughout 2026.

### **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 just over £53k.

The Development Fund totals £13,209.83.

Since last meeting interest free loans connected to the procurement of sight screens have been made to Hall Bower and Kirkheaton. Slaithwaite's loan is still pending

Upperthong and Birkby Rose Hill have still to pay for their Presentation Night tickets (both £45). Simeon John owes £220 for his bat auction bid.

We have received a request for a loan from Moorlands for a scoreboard and sightscreens. The Treasurer is awaiting financial information from the applicant. A decision will be made next meeting.

### **Disciplinary Report – TA/MB**

New GCR's valid from 2026 have been received and their effects will be presented at the next Executive meeting and also explained at the Council mtg in April.

### **Media Secretary Report – PH**

Paula advised the meeting that Andrew Crawshaw has agreed to take on the HPCL Podcast show 'Castle Hill Cricket Chat' together with local legend Steve 'Cobber' Whitwam and his first effort is being published this week.

A formal public announcement regarding new Main League Sponsor Pearson FW will be made tomorrow. It is further agreed to liaise with Eden Pearson to develop and introduce a number of initiatives that will support PFW making the most of their investment in HPCL.

Paula intends to write articles of interest regarding many groundsmen beginning their first post winter pre-2026 season preparations and is also looking for some help with producing match day reviews.

### **EDI Report - MH**

Nothing to report

### **Clubmark, Safeguarding and Compliance – JB via TA/NC**

All 40 HPCL Clubs must be aware of and compliant with the following minimum requirements:

- Use of the SHMS system
- Having a qualified Club Safeguarding Officer
- Having up-to-date DBS's for all required post holders (which includes coaches and team managers, captains and vices, Club Safeguarding Officers, Club Umpires, persons involved with junior and other vulnerable Club members)

- Sufficient and up to date trained/qualified cricket coaches (see laid down coach/player ratios) for any junior and W&G's teams
- Keep your P-C 'about us' page up to date including adding the name of your Women & Girls coordinator (or Activator) if relevant
- Being affiliated to the ECB and signing up to their basic terms and conditions of affiliation

HPCL have been informed by the ECB of red flags being raised regarding two of our ECB PL Clubs, Lascelles Hall and Meltham CC's, mainly due to them not nominating a W&G's Activator. In the worst case this may result in the ECB requiring HPCL to apply 6 penalty points against each 1<sup>st</sup> team if they remain non-compliant in these important areas by the start of the 2026 season. JB is working to ensure this unwanted situation is avoided by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March.

A possible meeting with all HPCL Club's Safeguarding Officers is provisionally arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Jackie has been informed that, as of this week, 10x HPCL Clubs have not signed up to the ECB's/YCF's basic Affiliation Terms & Conditions (this is now done through Clubs' P-C Action Centre). The ECB have provided a list which is attached to these Minutes. Clubs cannot commence the 2026 season unless they have signed up to the affiliation, so must do so as a matter of urgency.

### Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

PS reminded the meeting that overseas cricketers cannot be registered in advance of them arriving in the country.

In the same way the registration of any cricketer that is relying on the assimilated Category 1 eligibility criteria (>210 days residency and not playing as a local abroad) cannot not be processed until after the qualifying period ends on 31st March.

He further advised the meeting that he is awaiting clarification from the authorities on the eligibility and treatment of cricketers arriving into England on a student visa.

### Grounds and Facilities - AF

AF confirmed the previously discussed new process that will audit the grounds and facilities of all HPCL Clubs each year, starting in 2026. Three teams of two Executive members, led by himself, C McC and LH, will share the 40 visits to spread the workload.

He is working to produce the audit template in an electronic google drive sharable format.

Clubs whose ground was placed towards the bottom of the ECB 2025 Pitch Mark league table will be visited as early priorities.

Improved guidance for Umpires regarding the awarding of pitch marks has been received. This will be provided to the HPCL UA for use in 2026.

It was agreed that AF would be given direct access to the WTU Pitch Marks so that he and his colleagues can monitor scores and feedback from Umpires. This is keeping in mind that:

- The Total Pitch Score (A – D, excl outfield) must achieve a minimum score of 12 for each match and no pitch should receive a score lower than a 3 in any column (incl outfield - E).
- In the event of a **match score of 2** or lower being recorded in any category, the League Facilities' Executive will investigate the circumstances and follow up as necessary.
- In the event of a **total match score of 11 or less on two separate occasions** in any season the League Executive will enter discussions with the Club who must submit a credible action plan designed to improve the quality of their pitches.
- In the event that the **average annual score for a Club is lower than 12** the League Executive will enter discussions with the Club who must submit a credible action plan designed to improve the quality of their pitches. The implementation and effect of the action plan will be monitored by the League Executive for 12 months.

## Any Other Business

Everyone is reminded that there is a training course for Scorers that is taking place on Saturday 28th March 2026 at Almondbury Wesleyan CC, commencing at 09.30am. This free training course is suitable for anyone who is aged 13 or older, and will cover both PCS Scorer and PCS Pro apps. See website for booking details.

It was agreed that there was insufficient new information or important matters to necessitate a pre-2026-season Captains Meeting. However any new Captains who are unfamiliar with disciplinary matters or their obligation to complete the WTU Feedback on Umpires in Premiership and Championship divisions should make contact to receive individual awareness training.

NC is exploring options for hosting HPCL's end of 2026 season Awards Presentation event and is hoping to secure Cedar Court at Ainley Top for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November (TBC next meeting).

**Please note: The next meeting of HPCL's Executive Committee will take place immediately after the Meeting of HPCL's Council which will take place at Honley CC on Wed 1st April 2026 commencing at 19.00pm**