



HUDDERSFIELD

CRICKET LEAGUE

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 7th February 2024

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present:, President – W A Sugden; General Secretary – N Clee; 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: Craig McCreadie

Apologies

Treasurer - A Hill, LVP – R Peaker, EDI Chair – M Hussain, Les Harrison

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024

Approved.

Matters Arising

Elland CC

Elland Community Sports Club are still refusing to accept any responsibility for the debts of ECC, despite publicly declaring that ECC has merged with Warley CC.

Following legal advice HCL will write one more time and may also threaten them with involving the YCB.

W&G's Cricket

Based on the strong recommendation of the YCB it has been agreed that W&G's cricket in Huddersfield will fall under the auspices of the West Yorkshire W&G Cricket League from 2024 onwards, and not under the auspices of the HCL. The HCL will however continue to support W&G's cricket in Huddersfield in whatever way is reasonably requested and possible.

Financial Report - TA

The Report confirmed that the finances of the League are in a satisfactory state, with an overall balance of just under £47k.

Awards Evening: Still to pay Kirkheaton (£30) and Moorlands (£150). Outstanding fines £47 from Linthwaite and £10 Skelmanthorpe. The fine levied on Skelmanthorpe was queried and will be clarified by the relevant people.

Double Sightscreens

At a recent high level meeting with the ECB and YCB (see also below in ECL PL section) HCL's Chair and General Secretary raised the matter of double sight screens and the cost of approx £72k that Premier and Championship Clubs are likely to incur to comply.

The ECB informed HCL that it is not in a position to provide immediate financial support to reduce the cost burden of this ECB PL requirement.

However in response to HCL's request the ECB has now agreed to allow the timetable for complying with the requirement (previously advised as having to be in place by 30th June 2024) to be staggered as follows:

- Premiership Clubs must now have double sight screens in place for the start of the 2025 season at the latest
- 2024 Championship and Conference division promoted Clubs must have double sight screens in place by the start of the 2026 season

To further support the situation HCL is making £16k available from its reserves, initially to 12 Premiership Clubs, at the level of £1350 per team, in the form of interest free loans, repayable within 12 months of issuing. This will assist Clubs to spread what is expected to be a cost of approximately £3k per Club over the next 12/13 months.

Championship Clubs will then be offered the same arrangements available from March 2025.

The Chairman will make direct individual contact with Premier Clubs to establish their plans and whether they wish to take advantage of a loan as described above.

Disciplinary Report – 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.**

Media Secretary Report - JH

Discussions with Gutterdoctor, and Battersby regarding sponsorship opportunities are ongoing.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the YCB are aware of HCL's podcast programmes and approved of them. Mr Paul Cummins and Steve Archer will be invited to participate in an upcoming broadcast during 2024.

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

At the already mentioned recent meeting the ECB and YCB were very supportive of our application to become an ECB PL. They confirmed that HCL is well on the way to achieving this in 2025 which would be a probationary year. They confirmed that all 'main criteria' have already been met but informed and reminded the League and its Clubs regarding the following:

- It is key that from 2025 every team (Club) in the Premiership and Championship divisions has already achieved and maintains the Clubmark accreditation
- Ensuing that each HCL Club's "About Us" page on their respective website is fully up to date (and matches the HCL 2024 Handbook) including in particular details of their Officers, Club Safeguarding Officer, their regular Club Umpire, and how to contact them all
- Existing Clubmark accredited Clubs and new Clubmark applicants must be running 3 x hard ball junior teams in age groups U11 – 15
- Whilst it is not mandatory the ECB strongly encourages Clubs to use the Injury Surveillance reporting tool and complete reports in Play-Cricket when a cricket related injury or illness occurs
- The ECB will independently inspect some Premiership and Championship grounds and their facilities in 2024

The ECB have also reviewed the structures and workings of HCL's Executive Management Committee against the Sport England Tier 1 Code for Good Sports Governance, which we are required to adopt. Although the HCL Executive already largely operates in accordance with the contents of the good practice code this meeting now unanimously agreed to adopt and fully comply with the code with immediate effect. The Executive will also bring forward to our AGM in December a recommendation to include the code in HCL's Constitution as set out in Section L1 of the Handbook.

The ECB were informed that HCL's Compliance Officer Jack Brook is currently 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.

The ECB informed HCL that we would know by the 2024 AGM whether ECB PL status was confirmed for 2025 or not.

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.

Clubmark

All remaining Clubs in HCL, especially those who aspire to play and remain in the Premiership and Championship divisions, are strongly encouraged to strive to achieve Clubmark in 2024. This requires them to submit their application including all of the accompanying requirements of the Clubmark portal and the safe Hands Management System (SHMS) by 30th June 2024 at the latest.

Familiarisation and training has already been provided on 30th January and was well attended by the interested Clubs. It is pleasing to note that our new member Club Denby Grange CC are showing interest in gaining this important accreditation.

Further support will be provided to Clubs over the next five months.

It was confirmed that whether applying Clubs have achieved Clubmark for 2025 will be known before the end of the 2024 season. This means it will be clear if there are any Clubs for 2025 who must be relegated into the Conference or who cannot be promoted from the Conference because they have not achieved/maintained Clubmark,

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.

Safeguarding

HCL's Compliance Officer will notify Clubs of the ECB's new decision to remove the requirement for regular scorers to have an enhanced DBS. This decision has been introduced with immediate effect. The decision has been made following the ECB receiving legal advice which has determined that the role of 'scorer' does not fit within the technical definition of a Regulated Activity. Therefore, it is unlawful for the ECB (or any other body – such as a Club) to request a DBS for someone carrying out the sole role of scorer.

Nevertheless the ECB's safeguarding guidance advises that Clubs should continue to follow safeguarding best practice, which has never relied solely on the DBS. Participation in all activity within cricket, regardless of whether it is DBS checked or not, should be subject to the same level of risk assessment and safeguarding standards to ensure a safe environment for all participants.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

The Registration Secretary informed the meeting that new registrations and transfers are currently quiet.

Umpires

Umpire refresher training days are being run on Sat 24th February and again on Sat 16th March.

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.

Any Other Business

Craig McCreddie asked the Executive to thank Chair Trevor Atkinson and General Secretary Norman Clee for all their hard and diligent work undertaken with the YCB and ECB as HCL drives towards becoming an ECB PL in 2025. This was warmly endorsed by the meeting.

The next meeting of the HCL Management Executive will take place at Almondbury Wesleyan CC on Wed 6th March 2024 at 19.00pm.

