

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Held at Honley CC

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| In the Chair: | Trevor Atkinson |
| Other Officers Present: | President – A Sugden; General Secretary – Norman Clee; Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior; Media Secretary – J Harrison; Compliance Officer - Mrs Jackie Brook |
| Life Vice Presidents: | G Crompton; R Tindall |
| Club Representatives: | Craig McCreadie; Les Harrison |
| Apologies: | General Secretary – N Clee; Treasurer - A Hill; Administration Secretary – M Binns; EDI Chair – M Hussain; LVP – R Peaker |

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL & APOLOGIES

All clubs were present except for: Almondbury, Clayton West, Denby Grange, Holmfirth, Kirkheaton & Thongsbridge.

Apologies were sent from Denby, Hoylandswaine and Emley Clarence.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 were approved.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

ITEM 4: END OF SEASON APPRAISAL

The Chairman summarised the season and congratulated Hoylandswaine for winning the Sykes Cup and Skelmanthorpe 2nd XI for winning the Paddock Shield. He thanked both Barkisland and Skelmanthorpe for their efforts in hosting two excellent finals that were both well attended.

Linthwaite 1st XI and Flockton 2nd XI were warmly congratulated on winning respectively the Oddfellows and Earnshaw Cups, despite challenging times recently for each club.

The Chair also congratulated Rastrick 1st XI & Thongsbridge 1st XI on achieving promotion from the Championship, as well as Cartworth Moor 1st XI (from Alliance Two) and both Rastrick 2nd XI and Almondbury 2nd XI (Alliance Four).

The Chairman reminded the meeting that it was T20 Finals Day on Sunday 8th September.

ITEM 5: FINANCIAL REPORT

On behalf of the Treasurer the Chairman provided an update regarding the balance sheet and reported that the finances of the League are in an ongoing satisfactory position at this moment in time.

THE WALKER TIMBER HUDDERSFIELD CRICKET LEAGUE

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ANDREW SUGDEN

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GENERAL SECRETARY

NORMAN CLEE

ITEM 6: DISCIPLINARY REPORT

The Chairman thanked the absent Administration Secretary for his efforts in refining the disciplinary situation which is resulting in a reduced number of disciplinary cases. 30 cases saw 45 players issued with disciplinary sanctions in 2023, whilst in contrast 2024 had seen a lower amount of 31 players disciplined with only a few weeks of the current season still to go.

Four clubs have been directly impacted by the new experimental rules for discipline. He reminded clubs that they will be able to review and vote on whether to make the experimental rule permanent in the upcoming rules revision process.

ITEM 7: MEDIA SECRETARY REPORT

Nothing to report.

ITEM 8: SAFEGUARDING

The Compliance & Safeguarding Officer thanked clubs for their hard work in achieving Clubmark. The process to maintain clubs' Clubmark accreditation over the years may change and evolve but she was confident it will be manageable, especially now that clubs had experience of the process.

ITEM 9: MATCH & REGISTRATION SECRETARY REPORT - PS

play-cricket issues

The Match & Registration Secretary noted extreme problems with the ECB's play-cricket system on Sat 31st Aug resulting in lack of access to scoring by many teams. He reminded clubs of the importance of a book being available for these rare occasions. The issues have been reported to have been ironed out which saw no issues on the following day. The Match & Registrations Sec reiterated the importance of checking the play-cricket Action Centre frequently to correct any errors regarding player registrations, team selections and match administration.

Fines update

Over a problematic month, he reported 16 late team sheets and 7 teams had not turned out club umpires. The Match & Registrations Secretary reported this to be a satisfactory level given the difficulties in getting them. He also confirmed that after Denby Grange withdrew their second team, any individual player performances involving teams that had played them will count in their statistics/League averages..

Late overs

The Match & Registration Sec noted that four clubs had exceeded the allotted over times at the weekend which involved fines being imposed.

Last six matches

The Match & Registration Sec urged clubs to play to the spirit of the game when selecting players for 2nd XI teams as we come into the final matches of the season.

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ITEM 10: EDI REPORT

On behalf of the absent EDI Chair, the Chairman reported that we are excelling in terms of take up of women's cricket in comparison to most other leagues/areas. He emphasised clubs should seriously consider how to better accommodate female changing arrangements, and provide dedicated facilities for females given the increase in popularity and participation in the game.

ITEM 11: ECB PREMIER LEAGUE & CLUBMARK PROGRESS

The Chair informed the meeting that the league was on track in its quest to become an ECB League, based on feedback received from the ECB. In late July, Paul Bedford from the ECB visited five of our clubs, and was extremely impressed by what he saw. A month later Mr Bedford paid a successful return visit to view six other clubs, which again proved to be most informative. He was left impressed that every club had delegates to meet and greet him and engage in discussions relating to their individual clubs. The Chair thanked those clubs for their interest and work.

The Chairman confirmed again that running three 'hardball' junior teams is a critical prerequisite for clubs with teams in the top two Divisions. Dialogue continues between the HCL, YCB and ECB to attempt to smooth out some of the issues surrounding complete compliance with 'hardball' junior teams in our top two divisions.

ITEM 12: UMPIRES ASSOCIATION REPORT

The Umpire's Association Chairman reported umpiring numbers were set around the low 40's but with less than 40 being available to officiate each week when taking into account illness and holidays.

The UA have planned for two experienced senior umpires to officiate at key fixtures as the season reaches its conclusion.

Due to the Appointments Secretary being on holiday for the final two weeks of the season, Who's The Umpire system will be bypassed for a paper system.

Mr Haikings advised the meeting that any new potential umpires who need to take the entry Umpires course should make contact with him on david.haikings@outlook.com. Available courses are on the YCB website and the cost is £70.

The Umpires Association President reported that in the final weekend of the season, all Premiership fixtures will be staffed by two UA members. In the Championship, Linthwaite v Lascelles Hall would only have one umpire as would Conference two fixtures at Skelmanthorpe 2XI v Mirfield 2XI. A club umpire or a (aged 18+) player doing square leg would need to make up the shortfall.

ITEM 13: AWARDS & TROPHY RETURNS

The General Secretary informed the meeting that the Hopkinson and Schweppes trophies along with all individual awards from 2023 should be returned to Cobwoods on or before 1st October 2024.

ITEM 14: AWARD NOMINATIONS

The General Secretary urged clubs to send any Lady Sykes Candlesticks and Fred Stallard Cup nominations to the Administration Secretary by 30th September 2024.

Nominations for Johnny Hunter Rose Bowls for best match winning performances of the season (1st XI and 2nd XI) should also be put forward by the same date.

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ITEM 15: AWARDS PRESENTATION EVENING

The General Secretary reminded the clubs that the Awards Evening is on Friday 29 November and encouraged all clubs to attend. More details will be sent out to Club Representatives. Comedian Lea Roberts is confirmed as the entertainment for the evening.

The Golcar representative pointed out that because Elland Cricket Club folded owing money to the League, it seemed inappropriate to hold the Awards event at the Baines Hall. The General Secretary responded that Baines Hall didn't owe the money themselves, it was the cricket club's debt. He also explained that the venue fits our needs, and alternatives had been considered but didn't meet the criteria.

ITEM 16: NEW RULES PROPOSALS

The General Secretary on behalf of the Administration Secretary reminded clubs that the deadline for Rules proposals was 19 September 2024. They should be sent to either the Administration Secretary or himself. He asked clubs to be specific with rule change proposals and not vague or confusing.

ITEM 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Executive Committee would endeavour to ensure that trophies won before the end of the season would be presented to clubs at their last fixture by a senior officer of HCL. He had already arranged for Rastrick to be presented with the Championship trophy.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at Honley CC (7:00pm).

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