



Walker Timber **HUDDERSFIELD** **CRICKET LEAGUE**

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 14th August 2024

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson
Other Officers Present: General Secretary – N Clee, Administration Secretary – M Binns; Media Secretary – J Harrison; EDI Chair – M Hussain,
Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall
Club Representatives: Craig McCreadie; Les Harrison

Apologies

President - W Andrew Sugden, Treasurer - A Hill, LVP – R Peaker, Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior; Compliance Officer - Mrs Jackie Brook

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd July 2024

Approved.

Matters Arising

In the matter of the registration eligibility of Slaithwaite CC's Joshua Earle the ECB has now, after consulting with the Home Office, ruled that he is no longer eligible to play cricket in England as an amateur. HCL has therefore revoked his registration with immediate effect as of 31st July 2024.

As part of the same audit process the Home Office/ECB have identified Rastrick CC's Shrikant Wagh as no longer being eligible and his registration has also been revoked.

The ECB have further ruled that as both Joshua and Shrikant have been registered in good faith there are to be no retrospective re-percussions regarding the matches that they have already participated in this season.

These matters have highlighted the need for both Clubs and HCL's Registration Secretary to undertake a more stringent due diligence when signing and registering overseas players in the future. It is clear that extra care is needed as the authorities are checking and have now shown they will take action.

Financial Report - TA

The Report confirmed that the finances of the League are in a satisfactory state, with an overall balance of just under £53k. Current account: £20,830.17, Money Manager £27,804.46, Loans £4,072.47, producing a Balance of £52,707.90

Since last meeting paid £600.00 to Junior League. Sykes Cup final gate receipts £1,018.70. Raffle receipts £130.

Clayton West (£150) and Edgerton & Dalton (£20) still owe their May fines. Edgerton & Dalton owe their June fine (£10) as well.

Disciplinary Report – MB/TA

An updated version of this information will be available on HCL's website.

Date	Name	Club	Match	Divn	Offence	Sanction	dates	details	Captain	Sanction	dates
29.6.24	Dominic Finn	BO	Barkisland vs Broad Oak	Prem	2 x L2 Dissent against um	2 x L2 = 4 wk ban	19.7-16.8.24	dissented vs LBW and alterc	Dan Rushworth	1 wk compounded to 2 wk	19.7-2.8.24
29.6.24	Michael Fisher	BO	Barkisland vs Broad Oak	Prem	L3 Threatening umpire	6 wk ban	19.7-30.8.24	threatened umpire after lbw	Dan Rushworth	included above	see above
6.7.24	Pragam Sharma	Wes	Barkisland vs Wes	Prem	Dissent against umpire	Formal warning	to 5.7.26	argument with umpire	same person		to 5.7.26
13.7.24	Several	Both	LH vs Denby	Championship	2 x L1 to LH & 2 x L2 to De	Commended		Cope & Heap case	Addy & Jones	reminded	
13.7.24	Adam France	BO	BO CC vs Shepley	Prem	L1 dissent	1 wk ban	26.7-2.8.24	Dissent vs Umpire	Dan Rushworth	1 wk ban	3.8-10.8.24
13.7.24	Raja Hussain	Cartwort	Cartworth vs BRH	Alliance 2	Complaint	not proven		abuse of opponent	Sajjid Hussain	reminded	
13.7.24	Jordan Ghani	Rastrick	Meltham vs Rastrick	Championship	dealt with in-game	reminded of responsibilities			Jacob Waterson	reminded of responsibilities	
21.7.24	Archie Davis Name	D&D CC	D&D vs Swaine	Prem	L1 dissent	1 wk ban suspended	to 20.7.26	Dissent vs Umpire	Nathan Jones	Formal Warning	20.7.26
21.7.24	Shoaib Nasir	Mirfield	Swaine vs Mirfield	Conference	L2 serious altercation wit	Reduced to L1 1 wk ban	9.8-16.8.24	serious altercation with opp	Dom Howarth	commended	20.7.26
27.7.24	Ben Shufflebotham	Wes	Wes vs Moorlands	Prem	L1 abuse of equipment	Formal Warning		threw bat after given out	Pragam Sharma	reminded of responsibility	26.7.24

WTU Fair Play Penalties 2024	Penalties	Points
18.5.24	Broad Oak	1
25.5.24	Wes	1
25.5.24	BRH	4
22.6.24	Broad Oak	8
29.6.24	Broad Oak	3
29.6.24	Broad Oak Finn	9
29.6.24	Broad Oak Fisher	9
29.6.24	Broad Oak Rushwor	3
6.7.24	Wes	2
13.7.24	Broad Oak France	6
21.7.24	D&DC	3
27.7.24	Wes	1

As a result of an unprecedented run of disciplinary incidents involving five players over 22 days and four matches Broad Oak CC's 1st XI attracted 38 WTU Fair Play Penalties and ECB GCR player bans totalling 16 man weeks. This has resulted in them being deducted a total of 26 Premier Division Points.

Disciplinary Sanctions and Umpiring

Craig McCreddie stated that he felt that the sanctions were disproportionate and that the quality of some umpiring was both unacceptable and an underlying cause of some of the disciplinary problems that arise during matches.

Craig was reminded that Umpires also can, and do, face disciplinary sanctions, and some Umpires have been removed from officiating in HCL matches as a result of their poor performances. Nevertheless, and despite the Executive sharing his concern, due to the shortage of Panel Umpires HCL and its partner Umpires Association are finding it difficult to improve the overall quality of umpiring.

Because of this shortage many Conference matches are only officiated by one Panel Umpire, with players being asked to stand in at square leg, and this is an unacceptable ongoing problem. Repeated attempts to recruit additional umpires to the panel have failed and numbers continue to reduce. Clubs should therefore expect, from 2025, to be required to provide Club Umpires to support the Panel and ensure that the 18 weekly fixture sets (Prem/Champ/Conf) are routinely staffed by 36 Umpires.

The Executive will come forward with proposals regarding these necessary arrangements before the AGM in December.

Media Secretary Report - JH

Dave Stanton has offered his services to assist in writing weekly match summary reports and has now started this work.

Thongsbridge have booked a Sapphire advertising space on HCL's website for their upcoming Big Bash event.

Contact has been received from EV2 Sportswear of Dewsbury who have expressed interest in advertising/sponsorship. This will be followed up.

EDI Report – MH

The joint meeting of HCL and HCL UA with a selected number of Clubs to discuss EDI matters was a

success. Desires, questions and concerns were discussed in an open and constructive manner. It was agreed to pick these matters up again before the start of the 2025 season.

HCL's EDI Chair had provided very helpful and valuable assistance in handling a serious Safeguarding Referral case and supporting the investigation process. The case has now been concluded and the file closed.

It is pleasing to report that both hard and soft ball Women & Girls cricket across Huddersfield continues to grow from strength to strength. The EDI Sub-Committee requests that when HCL Clubs are considering changing or upgrading their facilities (such as at Lascelles Hall and Moorlands) that serious consideration is given to the provision of better changing arrangements for women and girls (and indeed the safeguarding segregation of changing arrangements for juniors and adults).

It was identified that there was a possible opportunity to recruit new Umpires from the Asian community. A poster and local radio campaign will be arranged asap.

Safeguarding – JB

The meeting received a written report from Jackie confirming that the serious Safeguarding Referral Case relating to events that took place during a HCL match on 25th May is now concluded and closed. The connected updating of necessary DBS checks for key Club personnel had also been satisfactorily dealt with.

Both Jackie and Phil Senior were thanked for all their support regarding these sensitive and important matters.

ECB Premier League & Clubmark Progress – JB

It was confirmed that the teams in contention to be promoted into the Championship, which is likely to be an ECB Premier League division in 2025, are Clubmark accredited so there are no barriers to teams being promoted as normal.

Mr Paul Bedford, ECB's Head of Recreational Cricket, Leagues and National Counties, visited HCL for a full day on 28th July. He audited HCL including our administrative activities, safeguarding and disciplinary process. He also inspected five selected cricket grounds (Armitage Bridge, Thongsbridge, Moorlands, Shepley, and Kirkburton). Feedback from his visit is positive. The five Clubs visited presented themselves very well and are sincerely thanked for their assistance in these important matters. Mr Bedford will return to visit five other grounds before the end of this season (Holmbridge, Edgerton & Dalton, Linthwaite, Kirkheaton and Hoylandswaine).

HCL is expecting a final decision regarding achieving ECB PL status to be communicated at our AGM in December.

The ECB has, for the avoidance of doubt, asked us to remind all Clubs in our League that once ECB PL status is granted there will be important and non-negotiable requirements for them to achieve and maintain their Clubmark accreditation, use the SHMS, have double sight screens in place (Premier Clubs for start of 2025 season and Championship Clubs by start of 2026 season, and all newly promoted Clubs by the start of their first post promotion season) and to operate 3 x hard ball junior teams (or an agreed action plan and timetable to put them in place) if Clubs wish to play in HCL's Premiership and Championship divisions. Becoming an ECB PL affects all Clubs' ability to be promoted into/continue to play in those two divisions of our League.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

An updated Fines Register was reviewed and confirmed. A copy is attached to these minutes.

It was confirmed that Denby Grange had formally advised HCL that it was no longer able to fulfil their remaining 2nd XI fixtures to the end of the season.

It was agreed not to apply fines to Denby Grange CC for failing to fulfil their fixtures beyond 3rd August, nor for the re-arranged fixture set 21st July.

The HCL Executive have met with the officers of DG CC to discuss the situation. DG CC believe it is unlikely that they will be strong enough to field two teams in 2025, but are keen to re-build back to two teams asap. It was

agreed that DG CC would, by the end of August, submit an action plan setting out how they intend to achieve this. They were advised that these matters would be discussed at the 4th September Executive Meeting, and there was no guarantee that they would be allowed to continue in our League in 2025 or if there was no prospect of them being able to field two teams again within a reasonable timescale.

League Finals - NC

Barkisland were congratulated for a successful hosting of the Sykes Cup final on 11th August. The game was well attended which reinforced taking this prestigious match to Barkisland was both a practical and financial success.

It was agreed to review the admission prices for 2025.

Arrangements for staffing the upcoming Paddock Shield Final at Skelmanthorpe on Sunday 18th were confirmed.

MCC Match - NC

Skelmanthorpe CC were thanked for hosting the MCC match on 7th August.

Experimental adjustment to the 2025 Season Calendar

The meeting discussed adjusting the default season calendar which currently begins on the 3rd Saturday in April. Following overtures to push back the start of the season in response to changing weather patterns, and due to the coincidence of Easter 2025 with the normal start date it is decided, on an experimental basis, to begin the 2025 season on the fourth Saturday 26th of April. The season will then end on 20th September.

Any Other Business

The meeting reviewed the weather cancelled fixture sets of 20th and 27th April which have been re-scheduled for 27th July and 1st September. It was noted that despite there being general support for the fixtures being re-scheduled the reality is more difficult than imagined and has resulted in matches being arranged on two more unwanted Sundays and some uneven results.

It was agreed that unless there is an overwhelming demand from teams to re-arrange such fixtures they will not be re-scheduled in future and will be dealt with by the awarding of 2 points to each team.

The 2024 end of season presentation evening will take place at Baines Hall Elland, and the entertainment will be comedian Lea Roberts.

The next meeting of the HCL Management Executive will take place after the HCL Council meeting which will take place at Honley CC on Wed 4th September 2024. The Council meeting will commence at 7.00pm