



PEARSON
FINANCIAL WELLBEING

HUDDERSFIELD

PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

HCL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 8th April 2026

In the Chair: Norman Clee

Other Officers Present: 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 (Grounds & Facilities)

Representatives from 36 of 40 Clubs were in attendance. There were no apologies. 4 Clubs were absent (Clayton West, Denby Grange, Kirkburton, Linthwaite).

David Haikings from the HCL UA was also in attendance.

Apologies

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

Minutes of Previous Council Mtg held on Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Approved.

Matters Arising

None

Financial Matters - AH

The finances of HPCL remain in a satisfactory and stable situation with a current General Fund Balance of £49k. This figure includes interest free loans out to HPCL Clubs of £8k.

The ECB Development Fund stands at just under £13k having spent some money on covering Umpires training costs.

Disciplinary Matters - MB

The meeting was informed that the ECB, through their General Conduct regulations (GCR's), have changed the ruling regarding the use of filming/streaming footage being used in incident (such as disciplinary) investigations.

Such footage was previously inadmissible as evidence, but will now be allowed.

Media Matters - PH

Paula informed the meeting that she is continuing the process of reviewing and refreshing the League Website.

Paula has decided that staying with the current platform host Symphony (previously called Shopblocks) is the best way forward for the time being due to the number of pages (thousands) that still have to be boiled down to a smaller, more useful and manageable number.

She is always pleased to receive any items of interest regarding HPCL Clubs, their players and events (especially cricket related), including information, photos, announcements etc.

Paula informed the meeting that our new for 2026 social media accounts on Facebook and Insta have generated several thousands of views, and it is clear that HPCL is now reaching a bigger and wider audience than in the past. The player transfer page seems to attract the highest number of clicks.

Paula asked for volunteers to write match reports, and also invited feedback, comments or suggestions on the website and its contents.

Clubmark, Safeguarding and Compliance – JB (via NC)

All 40 Clubs are reminded about the importance of having and using the ECB's Safe Hands Management System (SHMS), including those who are not Clubmark accredited. Please ensure you do this and are compliant in terms of DBS's, qualifications and training.

It appears that all 40 Clubs have now signed up to the ECB's terms and conditions of Affiliation.

Match & Registration Matters - PS

Club are advised that scoring in 2026 should be done using the correct P-C version (7.4.5 scorer). When using DLS we are now on version 6.

Club are reminded that the ECB has indicated that it is likely that the use of the P-C Pro (which requires a laptop platform) for scoring HPCL matches will become mandatory at some point in the next few years. P-C Pro is judged to be the better system and more reliable. In the meantime scoring using P-C scorer is still allowed.

Revised player registration/transfer forms (RTDF's) for 2026 are available on the HPCL website and must be used, not forgetting that completion of 'Part One' of the process remains paper based and must be completed and signed by the player, with the remainder being electronic via Play-Cricket (League Registered Player - LRP).

It goes without saying that the information on the paper form and the data inputted into P-C must match. The 'Document Number' field should be completed with the Visa number not the Passport number. HPCL does not need and should not see the so called 'share code'.

EDI Sub-Committee - MH

Nothing to Report

Grounds & Facilities Matters - AF

Newly appointed Grounds & Facilities co-ordinator Andrew Fortis informed Clubs that HPCL will undertake a full audit of all 40 Clubs every three years, but will inspect the grounds and related facilities/machinery every year starting in 2026.

An audit template will be used to guide the audits and record the outcomes. This will be circulated to Clubs in advance of any visit so they will know what to expect.

Executive Committee member colleagues Craig McCreddie and Les Harrison will undertake this work alongside AF.

The G&F team will also monitor grounds throughout the season aided by feedback received through the WTU Pitch Marking system, as well as dealing with any ground/pitch related incidents/reports/complaints received.

AF informed the meeting that he had been asked by HPCL's Executive to ensure that every Club/ground meets a minimum standard, and to work with Clubs to gradually improve the overall quality of grounds and facilities across the League over time. This work is designed to support the facilitation of high-quality cricket matches in our semi-professional situation, and provide a good experience for all participants, members and supporters.

The G&F team have been heavily involved in supporting and monitoring ground preparation arrangements at Edgerton & Dalton CC following the pitches at Dalton Fold becoming unsafe/unfit to host home matches in the second half of the 2025 season.

The team are confident that so long as the necessary work is done between now and 18th April their ground will be safe to recommence hosting 2026 season home matches.

Administration Matters - MB

Clubs are reminded/informed:

- To provide evidence of their Public Liability (PL) insurance for 2026, that includes cover of at least £5m each claim (see rule L4.2.1) before the first match
- That if filming/streaming matches appropriate signage must be displayed (rule L8.24.3)
- That in 2026 there are 15 Clubs providing cricket teas at their 1st XI home fixtures and 14 at their home 2nd XI fixtures. Details are contained in the enclosed Register
- That there are 15 Clubs that will be routinely filming/streaming their home fixtures with one of those teams filming some away fixtures. Details are contained in the enclosed Register
- Regarding arrangements for Club Umpires at Alliance 1 – 4 Division matches who must be trained to the basic level (ECB-ACO L1, S1, Mod C, ECB-UTC)
- Regarding arrangements for Club Umpires who may be asked to officiate at Conference Division matches, must be trained to the intermediate level (L2, S2, Mod B) and be members of the ECB-ACO. Note: HPCL will (and is already) reimburse any Umpire who incurs additional costs as a result of these increased requirements
- That Captains of Premiership and Championship teams must submit feedback on Umpires through the WTU system (any new captain who needs familiarisation should contact the Administration Secretary)

Umpires' Association Update – D Haikings

The meeting was informed that the UA had 38 names on their Panel for the 2026 season, and that they are striving to cover at least 32 of the 36 appointments each fixture set.

The Association is relying on Club Umpires to assist in fully staffing Conference Division matches.

They welcome the Captains' feedback on Umpires which helps to inform their appointment decisions.

Any Other Business - NC

Clubs were invited to collect stocks of HPCL 2026 handbooks, ECB Laws/Rules/Directives guidance cards and match scorecard aids for their Club Umpires, as well as Dukes cricket balls (if applicable). The Dukes balls issued are only part of the full orders placed.

NC reminded the meeting of the most important rule changes brought in from 2026, including a change to the slow over rate penalty (L8.14.2.2), an adjustment to rules regarding shortening matches due to inclement weather (L8.17), and adjustments to waiver time in certain circumstances (L8.18.1.2)

He reminded Championship Clubs that having double sight screens (total coverage of at least 8m wide and 4m high at each end) was a new mandatory requirement for 2026.

HPCL 2026 Awards Event

HPCL's 2026 Awards Presentation Evening will be held at the Cedar Court Hotel on 20th November, with each Club required to purchase a minimum of 4x tickets.

The 2026 game vs the MCC will take place at Lascelles Hall on 5th August.

The next HPCL Council Meeting is planned for Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at Honley CC.