



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

HCL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 2nd April 2025

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present: 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;

Club Representatives: L Harrison; C McCreadie; EDI Chair - Mushtaq Hussain

Representatives from 34 of 40 Clubs were in attendance. Apologies were received from Emley Clarence and Kirkheaton CC's, with four other Clubs absent (Clayton West, Holmfirth, Kirkburton & Mirfield).

David Haikings from the HCL UA was also in attendance.

Apologies

President – W A Sugden; Treasurer - A Hill; LVP - R Tindall

Minutes of Previous Council Mtg held on Wednesday 4th December 2024

Approved.

Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of HPCL's Council in 2025. He took this opportunity to congratulate them and thanked them for all their Clubs' efforts in supporting the process of gaining ECB PL status from 2025. The last two years of hard work and preparation have been a busy, but ultimately successful and worthwhile, time for both the League's Executive and for many Clubs that have gained a Clubmark accreditation.

The introduction of double sight screens and a better quality Dukes ball into the Premiership and Championship divisions, along with a small increase in new umpires for 2025 and having some 85% of all HPCL Clubs confirm or improve their quality of management and administration through the Clubmark process, are all signs of a League that is on the way up, and underpinning its sustainability for the future.

Trevor stated that, whilst there will initially be little further change, it has already raised the League's profile in the ECB and across Yorkshire. He expects other positive and more substantive effects to steadily filter through over the next few years.

Matters Arising - NC

After researching several alternative venues the Huddersfield Masonic Hall on Greenhead Road in central Huddersfield has now been booked for the 2025 Awards event which will take place on Friday 28th November.

Financial Matters – AH via TA

The finances of HCL remain in a satisfactory and stable situation with a current Balance of just under £47k.

4 clubs have not yet paid for their Dukes cricket ball order (Birkby Rose Hill, Linthwaite, Moorlands, and Skelmanthorpe).

Presentation Night debtors: - £30 Clayton West. Birkby Rose Hill owe fines of £40. Clubs are requested to now clear these old debts as quickly as possible.

Administration Matters - MB

All Clubs (if you have not already done so) are asked to furnish Mark Binns with the following details by Friday 18th April:

- Confirmation of having Public Liability Insurance for 2025 (rule L4.2)
- Confirmation of Premiership Clubs putting double sight screens in place for start of the 2025 season (rule L4.6.10.2)
- Any change vs 2024 to providing (or not) Cricket Teas (rule L8.20.4 – 6)
- Any change vs 2024 to live streaming/filming of matches. Note: It is confirmed that any teams wishing to film away matches must agree this with the host Club in advance of the game, and ensure that suitable signage informing persons present that this is taking place is displayed (rule L8.24)
- Any change to your previously nominated regular Club Umpire(s), and if 'yes' providing evidence of their DBS and basic training/qualification (rule L10.6)

It was further confirmed that a pre-season meeting is being held with all Club Umpires tomorrow evening 3rd April, and a Captains meeting is being held at Almondbury Wesleyan CC on Wed 9th April commencing at 19.00pm.

Clubs are advised of important and only very recently announced changes by the ECB regarding their Junior Directives covering fast bowling and close in fielding. There are a number of changes but six in particular should be noted, especially by Club Umpires and 2nd XI captains that are likely to be involved in games including several junior players:

Bowling

U 15's was 6 overs, but now reduced and limited to 5 overs per spell

U 17's was 7 overs, but now reduced and limited to 6 overs per spell

U 19's remain at 7 overs per spell

Fielding

U15's minimum close fielding distance was 8 yds but now increased to 11 yds from bat

U17's minimum distance now 8 yards

17 – 18 year olds fielding closer than 8 yards must wear protection

Age Criteria

All age criteria is now based on actual age of player on the day of the game, not their school year group. That is what Captains must write down on the team sheet

Clubs, Captains and Club Umpires are recommended to read full details of the changes that are available via the ECB website (and attached to these Minutes).

Disciplinary Matters - MB

It was confirmed that the WTU and GCR related Fair Play Team Penalty and Points deduction System remains in place in 2025. The format is unaltered from the experimental rules used in 2024.

Clubmark & Safeguarding - JB

Clubmark Clubs are requested are to keep their SHMS up to date.

Our six non Clubmark accredited Clubs are recommended to adopt and use the ECB's Safe Hands Management System to manage a number of their safeguarding and other administrative matters. All Clubs have certain critical obligations (such as DBS of persons in nominated positions) which the government and cricket authorities require Clubs to comply with even if they are not Clubmark accredited.

Jackie Brook thanked the many persons who attended the recently run Safeguarding training course for Club Safeguarding Officers. Jackie asked that any Club that is having problems with ECB training/qualifications being pulled through into the SHMS and which is causing them, wrongly, to appear to be non-compliant, should contact her for assistance.

It was confirmed that there is a new ECB requirement for all Umpires to undertake a short safeguarding awareness update which can be completed online. HPCL's Panel Umpire members are being required by their UA to undertake this awareness training, and Clubs are asked to ensure that your Club Umpires also comply with this requirement.

Media Matters - JH

The new amended Huddersfield Premier Cricket League logo and artwork (incl ongoing League sponsor Walker Timber) is available on the HPCL website.

Match & Registration Matters - PS

Phil Senior reinforced the importance of being aware of the changes to the ECB Junior Directives.

There are also further changes regarding Junior playing in open age:

- U12's can only play in HPCL if they are named as being part of a county squad
- U12's can't be signed-on on the day of a match.
- All cricketers under the age of 18 now require parental permission to play senior cricket – therefore HPCL's Registration form has been amended – pls use 'r (Revision) 2', or amend manually the '2025' version 1 form.

Phil reminded Clubs regarding the ECB's Concussion Protocol (If in doubt – sit them out!) and the need to now nominate a Responsible Adult to take 'a duty of care' in the event of an in-match incident. Umpires and Captains will be made aware of these matters at their respective pre-season meetings. The relevant Protocols are also attached to these Minutes.

Due to a late request from Kirkheaton CC to field a team in the Sunday League, that cannot easily be accommodated, Phil asks that if any already enrolled team are struggling or have congested fixtures/dates, then could they contact him, to explore whether Kirkheaton could be accommodated instead.

Overseas Player Registrations

Overseas players can be pre-registered prior to their arrival in the country. Their registration can then be confirmed once they are here.

Overseas players not returning to their 2024 Club should be de registered.

Clubs are reminded that you are limited to only one Category 2 player (unless home grown).

Umpiring Situation 2025 - D Haikings

The HPCL UA Panel is being strengthened a little for 2025.

A newly qualified, but inexperienced Umpire is looking for a Club where he can gain experience in 2025 before joining the UA Panel in the future. Any Club with a vacancy should make contact.

Match vs MCC - NC

Any Clubs who have suitable and qualifying U21 players should contact Norman Clee

Any Other Business

The Scholes CC Representative informed the meeting and all HPCL Clubs that for anyone visiting Chapelgate the Old School Field off Chapelgate will be available for car parking from 2025. This will help to alleviate congestion on the roads outside Scholes CC's ground on busy match days.

In response to a question it was confirmed that the early Paddock Shield rounds will need to be staffed by Club Umpires.

The next HPCL Council Meeting is planned for Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 19.00pm at Honley CC.

The next HPCL Executive Committee Meeting is planned for Wednesday 7th May 2025 at Almondbury Wesleyan CC at 19.00pm.