



HUDDERSFIELD

CRICKET LEAGUE

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 6th December 2023

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

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

Club Representatives: L Harrison; C McCreadie

Representatives from 36 Clubs (excluding Elland CC, but including Denby Grange CC) were in attendance. Apologies were received from two Clubs – Moorlands CC and Hoylandswaine CC, and two other Clubs were absent (Kirkheaton & Holmfirth). David Haikings from the HCL UA was also in attendance.

Apologies of Executive Members

Andrew Hill, Mushtaq Hussain, Jackie Brook and Roger Peaker

The Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting on Wednesday 6th September 2023 were taken as read and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

The Chair warmly welcomed representatives of Denby Grange CC who were attending their first Council meeting in advance of becoming a member Club of HCL and fielding two teams in Alliance Divisions 2 and 4 in the upcoming 2024 season.

As previously recorded in the October Minutes the Chair confirmed HCL's reluctant acceptance of Elland CC's formal resignation from HCL. ECC owe monies for several conceded fixtures at the end of the 2023 season and HCL is pursuing both ECC and the over-arching Elland Community Sports Club for settlement.

The acceptance of Denby Grange CC's application to join HCL keeps the League at a strength of 40 Clubs, each fielding two teams (with Flockton CC returning to two teams in 2024) in 6 divisions of 12 teams and a seventh of 8 teams.

Monthly Finance Report

The Chair, on behalf of the Finance Secretary, reported that the League's finances are in a satisfactory state with a current balance of almost £46,500. Since the closing of last year's accounts a significant sum has been paid for end of season trophies, and the HCL UA have been reimbursed for training costs incurred relating to 2023.

Birkby Rose Hill, Honley, Kirkheaton, Lascelles Hall, Mirfield Parish Cavaliers and Moorlands are still to settle their bills for attendance at the recent awards evening and there are fine payments outstanding for Linthwaite, Skelmanthorpe and Thongsbridge.

Disciplinary Report

All disciplinary cases relating to 2023 are now closed. In the season just ended there were 30 case files over 23 fixture set weeks, resulting disciplinary action being applied to 45 persons, including 16 team captains. There were 11 x Level 1 sanctions, 7x L2, 2x L3 and 2x L4, including one person being banned for a full year for violent conduct.

The Council reviewed a paper circulated in advance of the meeting regarding the introduction of a penalty and points deductions system that is intended to be brought in using HCL's experimental rules (L12.6) to add further teeth to the ECB's General Conduct regulations (GCR's) and the Who's the Umpire (WTU) Fair Play scoring system.

The meeting generally supported the principle of what the proposal intends to achieve and a number of questions were answered regarding how it would work in practice.

A last check of the detail of the scheme is being undertaken before final issuing, in time for use in the 2024 season.

Media Secretary - JH

HCL are pleased to announce Swift Teamwear (Wayne Swift) as the new 2024 sponsor of the HCL Premiership Division. The 2024 Championship continues to be sponsored by JEDI Sports of Skelmanthorpe (James Dollive).

The Sykes Cup competition and the Conference and Alliance divisions are still available and HCL is looking for sponsors.

A marketing brochure which is available in both hard copy and electronic formats will be issued to Clubs shortly.

Clubmark & ECB PL

The Chair confirmed that 22 HCL Clubs have already achieved Clubmark accreditation in 2023 and another 14 Clubs are well on the way to achieving it in 2024.

HCL are grateful for the help and support of YCB's Director of Recreational Cricket Paul Cummins.

A visit and meeting with the ECB in January will confirm the final steps of the roadmap needed for HCL to achieve ECB Premier League status for 2025.

An ECB Safeguarding Qualification training course required by Club Safeguarding Officers is being run in Huddersfield on 13th February and other dates are available at a variety of venues across the County.

Umpires

Umpires Association Chair David Haikings advised the meeting that changes are being made to ECB's Umpires training and pathways. Full details will be advised as soon as available.

He also confirmed that the HCL UA will be running an Umpiring refresher training course in the new year. This course is open to both panel and Club Umpires, who are encouraged to attend to keep themselves up to date.

It was confirmed that any new Club umpires must gain a basic ECB ACO Umpires training qualification before officiating in 2024.

Match & Registration Secretary Report

Phil Senior reminded Clubs of the link between the Sykes and Oddfellows Cups and the Paddock Shield with the Earnshaws Cup.

The League fixtures for 2024 will be issued shortly. The season commences on Sat 20th April 2024.

T20 Shield Draw 1st Round – 8th June

Kirkheaton	v	Shelley
Marsden	v	Upperthong
Slaithwaite	v	Thongsbridge
Emley Clarence	v	Rastrick
Armitage Bridge	v	Clayton West
Birkby Rose Hill	v	Mirfield
Denby	v	Mirfield Parish Cavaliers
Lascelles Hall	v	Almondbury
Thurstonland	v	Denby Grange
Linthwaite	v	Flockton
Cartworth Moor	v	Holmfirth
Edgerton & Dalton	v	Holmbridge
Byes for Denby Dale, Meltham, Hall Bower and Cumberworth Utd		

T20 Trophy 26th May and 23rd June

Group 1 includes Moorlands Almondbury Wesleyans Scholes and Honley
Festival dates are at Moorlands 26th May and Wesleyans on 23rd June

Group 2 includes Barkisland, Kirkburton, Golcar and Delph & Dobcross
Festival dates are at Barkisland on 26th May and Delph on 23rd June.

GP 3 includes Shepley, Broad Oak, Hoylandswaine and Skelmanthorpe
Festival dates are at Shepley on 26th May and at Broad Oak on 23rd June

The 2024 rules for being able to register Category 3 players for 2024 were confirmed, which are:

- 1 x overseas player is allowed per Club (as in 2023)
- Only 1 x Category 3, British Passport qualified (in accordance with HCL's 2023 registration rules) cricketer is allowed per Club

It was further confirmed that validation of a Visa allowing a person to enter and remain in the UK and play cricket either as a professional or amateur was in the hands of the UK Border authorities and the Home Office.

In relation to the new registration or transfer of players it was confirmed that a physical RTDF (Registration Form) is always required to be submitted, with Part 1 completed and signed by the player wishing to register/transfer. The rest of the process is handled online via Play-Cricket League Registered Player (LRP).

Awards Evenings 2023 and 2024

The 2023 awards evening, held at Elland CC's Baines Hall, had been well attended and well received. A similar format will be organised for 2024.

Clubs with recommendations for worthy winners of the 2024 Fred Stallard Trophy, the Lady Sykes Candlesticks and the Johnny Hunter Rose Bowls are encouraged and should be submitted to either the General Secretary or Administration Secretary.

2024 Sunday Section

The General Secretary asked that Clubs who already played during 2023 confirm their continuing involvement for 2024, and any Clubs wishing to enter a team into this competition for the first time do so immediately.

Any Other Business

In response to a question it was confirmed that financial support expected to be received from the ECB once HCL becomes an ECB PL will not be paid until we actually become an ECB PL, hopefully for 2025.

The next meeting of the HCL Council will be held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at Honley CC commencing at 19:00pm