



PEARSON
FINANCIAL WELLBEING

HUDDERSFIELD

PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

HCL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 2nd September 2026

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present: President – W A Sugden; Compliance Officer – Mrs Jackie Brook; Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior; Administration Secretary – M Binns; Media Secretary – Mrs Paula Huddleston;

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

Club Representatives: (Grounds & Facilities Team) A Fortis; L Harrison; C McCreadie;
(EDI Chair) Mushtaq Hussain

Representatives from 30 of 40 Clubs were in attendance. There were no apologies. 10 Clubs were absent (Clayton West, Denby Dale, Edgerton & Dalton, Emley Clarence, Holmfirth, Hoylandswaine, Kirkburton, Mirfield Parish Cavaliers Mirfield, Thongsbridge).

David Haikings from the HPCL UA and Bill Marshall from the YP were also in attendance.

Apologies

Treasurer - A Hill

Minutes of Previous Council Mtg held on Wednesday 8th April 2026

Approved.

Matters Arising

None

Season Summary - Chair

2026 has been a very good summer, although the weather has created its own challenges from groundsmen. But the Chair expressed disappointment regarding a big increase disciplinary problems.

The Chair congratulated Hoylandswaine on achieving a clean sweep of trophies with their 1st XI winning the Premiership, and also the Sykes Cup, staged so well by Honley CC, and also congratulated HCC's 2nd XI on winning the Conference Division, and the Paddock Shield.

Delph & Dobcross were congratulated on winning the Oddfellows Cup at Upperthong, and Shelley for their victory in the Earnshaw Cup at Cartworth Moor.

Lascelles Hall were congratulated on their victory against Linthwaite in the T20 Shield, and Rastrick were applauded for their win in an exciting T20 Trophy Final game against Scholes. Unfortunately the Trophy Final which ought to have been a fantastic occasion was spoiled by ugly scenes at the end of the match and afterwards. HPCL's Executive is still working through the follow up to those unsavoury and unacceptable events.

Barkisland are congratulated on winning the Championship Division and returning to the 2027 Premiership at the first opportunity.

HPCL is delighted to be able to take advantage of the beneficial profile that our league is receiving as a result of Hoylandswaine's and Rastrick's successful representation of our league in wider national and regional competitions where some of our leading teams come against the top sides from other ECB PL's around the country.

Hoylandswaine reached the semi-final of the HWC, and are about to compete in the Final of the 2025 Yorkshire Premier Leagues Champion Competition (White Rose) where they will face last year's winners Richmondshire at Headingley this coming Sunday 6th.

As HPCL's T20 representatives Rastrick are also congratulated on going forward from the Area Finals of the National Club Twenty20 Cup following two very closely fought victories over Cleethorpes (by 1 run) and Wollaston (by 6 runs). Rastrick's run in that prestigious competition came to an end when they were beaten in the North Regional Final by Liverpool ECB PL side Northern CC.

TA commented that the quality of cricket on display at all of all of the above matches is very high, and a credit to our League and our Clubs.

Clubs are reminded that start time for matches in September comes forward by 30 minutes to 12.00noon and 12.30pm.

Financial Matters - AH

The finances of HPCL remain in a satisfactory and stable situation with a current General Fund Balance of just under £60k This figure includes the net proceeds from the 2026 Sykes Cup Final and with £26k out to various HPCL Clubs as interest free loans.

The ECB Development Fund stands at just over £17k having spent some money on covering Umpires training costs and some other administration costs.

All clubs have paid their annual subs etc invoice except Meltham. Slaithwaite still owe for their ball order.

10 clubs have still to pay their 06 Jun to 01 Aug fines: - Birkby Rose Hill, Rastrick, Moorlands, Denby Grange, Kirkburton, Linthwaite, Skelmanthorpe, Meltham, Mirfield Parish Cavaliers and Edgerton & Dalton.

New interest free loans have been authorised and paid to Almondbury and Mirfield, and the application from Linthwaite CC is awaiting final paperwork.

The annual Honoraria and costs for the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation White Rose Trophy have been paid and the deposit for the upcoming annual awards presentation event at Cedar Court has also been paid.

Disciplinary Matters - MB

There has been a disappointing and concerning increase in disciplinary cases with double the number of case in 2026, and treble the amount of Penalties and League table points being deducted vs 2025.

A spike in cases arising during cup matches has been noted. The Executive Committee will consider what further rules and/or measures may help the situation. However the meeting was reminded that the Executive wishes to continue its light touch approach to discipline (vs other ECB PL's) and is not seeking to punish more Clubs or players than absolutely necessary. However if the current sanctions regime does not prove to be a sufficient deterrent then other measures will have to be considered.

Clubs were asked to take a stronger hand in managing discipline/good behaviour in junior matches by, through your coaches, managers and team captains, reinforcing expectations of good and respectful behaviour in junior cricketers. This important request is made on the basis that if poor conduct is not checked and corrected at junior level then it is likely to flow through into adult cricket when youngsters become older.

Clubs were also reminded that you are, through your premises and alcohol licenses responsible for all persons on your ground (except on the field of play) and you are obliged to control unruly and loutish poor behaviour, language and conduct. If necessary you must steward your ground, and be prepared to ask spectators who do not behave properly to leave. In the worst case matches can be halted or even abandoned.

Clubs were also asked, in response to overtures from council members for higher quality umpiring and greater consistency, to work with HPCL to find and recommend more umpires, and to encourage Club Umpires to join the HPCL UA Panel or consider officiating as neutrals at independent games not involving their own Club. This is on the basis it is extremely difficult to improve quality without a sufficient strength of numbers.

Media Matters - PH

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

She intends to create and launch a HPCL Tik Tok page which will further extend HPCL's social media profile and presence.

Paula reminded Clubs that 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.

She will be updating the photo gallery shortly.

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.

The ECB's Accredited Club status that is replacing Clubmark is due to be rolled out soon.

In the meantime Clubs must ensure that your information on SHMS is up to date and must have a suitable trained/qualified Safeguarding Officer. Clubs are also encouraged to ensure that the appropriate people have undertaken the online SGLII awareness training.

Jackie is pleased to confirm that all relevant HPCL Clubs have successfully appointed a Girls cricket activator, and all Clubs have entered a girls team to participate in one or more games in 2026.

The meeting was informed that some issues that have been reported through the safeguarding channel have been found, after assessment, in fact to be disciplinary matters. Clubs are asked in future to carefully consider which is the correct channel of reporting.

Match & Registration Matters - PS

Clubs are reminded to regularly check and deal with information, requests for action or error messages that appear in your P-C Action Centre.

The most up to date fines list is attached to these Minutes.

EDI Sub-Committee - MH

Nothing to Report

Grounds & Facilities Matters - AF

Andrew Fortis informed the meeting that audits of various Clubs have been undertaken, although not every Club will be audited before the end of the 2026 season. Others will be picked up asap, and at the beginning of the 2027 season.

All of the ground and facilities issues reported by Umpires through the WTU system have been followed up.

Andy remains available for help and to advise any groundsman or Club seeking assistance.

Andy and his team have a specific focus on Clubs that are being promoted up the divisions to ensure that their ground and facilities keeps pace with the quality and progression of their teams.

Administration Matters - MB

Clubs are reminded/informed to submit nominations for the following end of season awards:

Fred Stallard Cup – distinguished service

Lady Sykes Candlesticks – 1st and 2nd XI Cricketers giving outstanding service to cricket and their Club

Johny Hunter Rose Bowls – a 1st XI and a 2nd XI cricketer producing an individual match winning performance

Nominations to either MB or NC by 30th September if possible.

All individual trophies won last year to be returned to Cobwood Trophies Milnsbridge by 30th September at the latest.

Umpires' Association Update – D Haikings

David Haikings confirmed that turning out enough Umpires to cover HPCL's top three divisions is an ongoing battle. Currently approx. half of the appointments at Conference division games are made from the Panel. The Association continues to rely on Club Umpires to assist in fully staffing Conference Division matches.

The UA are feeding back that film footage which is being viewed by cricketers and spectators focussing on key moments in games is a cause for concern,. Viewers should keep in mind that most of the film footage available is grainy, coming from an offset angle vantage point, and frequently from 50+ yards distance from the action. It is not the view the adjudicating Umpire has, nor has many of them got the benefit of accompanying sound.

David echoed the earlier comments about working together to find additional, new and younger umpires.

To this end both training and refresher courses will be running in Huddersfield in the spring (probably late Feb and in March) 2027. The first training of the upcoming winter: ECB's basic 'Umpires Training Course' is being run in Sheffield on 21st November.

Any Other Business - NC

The Chair informed the meeting that The Executive Committee will be considering the merits of a Player Points Cap eligibility system that has been introduced by some other ECB PL's and has gained interest from certain HPCL Clubs. A small working group will be formed immediately following the end of the season and representatives from the Players Forum have been asked to participate.

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 next HPCL Council Meeting will be our AGM and is planned for Wednesday 2nd December 2026 at Honley CC.