



HUDDERSFIELD CRICKET LEAGUE

EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 11th October 2023

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;

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

Club Representatives: Les Harrison, Craig McCreddie

Apologies

Treasurer - A Hill, R Peaker, President – W A Sugden, Chair EDI Sub-Committee - Mushtaq Hussain, Compliance Officer - Mrs Jackie Brook, LVP – R Peaker, M Westoby

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 6th September 2023

Approved.

Matters Arising

The subject of the number of overs of some 'dead rubber' matches at the end of the season being reduced below their normal amount without good reason was reviewed.

Umpires and Captains are reminded that this is not the intention of rule L8.17. The length of matches must only be reduced by mutual agreement of the captains and Umpires when prevailing inclement weather conditions make it unlikely that a game of normal length can be completed.

Financial Report - TA

The Report confirmed that the finances of the League are in a satisfactory state, with an overall balance of just over £49k.

Payment of August fines is now up to date but Kirkheaton £110, Clayton West £68, Almondbury £25, Meltham £5, Edgerton & Dalton £5, and Linthwaite £15 owe for Aug/Sep & meeting non-attendance fines.

It was agreed to attempt to obtain the payment of fines and compensation from Elland CC (or the overarching organisation Elland Community Sports Club) following their forfeiting of several matches at the end of the 2023 season.

Disciplinary Report – TA & MB

Disciplinary Register August/Early Sept 2023

Date	Name	Club	Match	Divn	Offence	Sanction	dates	Captain	Sanction	dates
2.9.23	Marlon Rodrigo	LH CC	LH CC vs Holmfirth CC	Champ	L3 Threatening behaviour	9 wks	19.4-21.6.2024	included	included	
2.9.23	Hardeep Singh	LH CC	LH CC vs Holmfirth CC	Champ	open case					
2.9.23	Andy Grey	Holmfirth	LH CC vs Holmfirth CC	Champ	L3 Threatening behaviour	6 wks ban	19.4-31.5.24	Gareth Myers	1 wk	19.4-26.4.24
2.9.23	Sarfraz Hussain	BRH	BRH vs Slaithwaite	Champ	Low level dissent	Final Formal Warning	24 mths to 1.9.25			
9.9.23	Mohammad Sawad	BRH	BRH vs Denby CC	Alliance 3	open case			Tahir Iqbal		

Two cases remain open with one going to a Personal Hearing, and it is hoped they will be closed out shortly.

Media Secretary Report - JH

The newly produced sponsorship brochure is now being circulated to prospective businesses and organisations. Work will be undertaken over the winter to re-sign existing sponsors and attract new ones.

EDI Report – MH (via MB)

Women & Girls Cricket

Through the EDI Sub-Committee the Executive asks those persons in charge of W&GC to think about more formalised registrations, match results, league tables, and the use of ECB's Play-Cricket for 2024.

A dedicated space on HCL's website to provide information and profile for W&GC in Huddersfield is also offered.

ECB Premier League & Clubmark Progress – via TA

It was confirmed again that HCL is striving to become an ECB PL in 2025 which would be a probationary year. It is key that from 2025 every team (Club) in the Premiership and Championship divisions has already achieved the Clubmark accreditation.

Jackie Brook will work with the four Clubs who need to catch up on Clubmark and any Conference Club who contact her to make successful submissions by the end of June 2024.

Promotion and Relegation into/from the ECB PL divisions (Premiership & Championship)

Clubs in the 2024 Conference division who aspire to be promoted at the end of next season are reminded that they **cannot be promoted** into the Championship unless they have gained Clubmark for 2025.

In the same way Clubs in the 2024 Premiership or Championship divisions that do not (or have not already) achieve Clubmark **will be automatically relegated** into the Conference division at the end of next season.

Double Sight Screens

As already announced at the HCL Council meeting in September it is a requirement of becoming an ECB PL that the grounds of all Premier and Championship teams have double sight screens available, and in use during HCL matches.

In order to comply with this requirement Clubs with teams in the Premiership and Championship must put double sight screens in place by the **end of June 2024**. A double sight screen is defined as two white sight screens at each end of your ground, with each individual sight screen being at least 4m wide x 4m in height or more.

It is recognised that this is a potential significant expense for Clubs as each additional sight screen can cost up to £1500, therefore totalling £3k altogether. Clubs are reminded that unsecured interest free loans that can be spread over 2-3 years are available from HCL to assist with this investment. HCL is also in discussion with ECB/YCB regarding the possibility of some grant aid funding to assist with this requirement, and will keep Clubs posted regarding developments. However Clubs should not wait to put this important requirement in place by the middle of next year.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

The outline Calendar for the 2024 season is enclosed. The first game of the 2024 season is scheduled for Sat 20th April with the final match on Sat 14th September. The Sykes Cup Final will take place at Barkisland on Sunday 11th August.

With sadness and regret it is confirmed and formally recorded that Elland CC has resigned from our League with immediate effect, having reached a point where they are in absolutely no position to sustain themselves. HCL has called several meetings with relevant parties in an attempt to assist and support ECC but it is clear that their position is unsalvageable. Therefore their resignation has, reluctantly, been accepted.

Various developments now enable the HCL to return to a structure of 40 Clubs in 2024, each running two teams floating within 7 divisions made up 6x divisions of 12 teams, each playing 22 fixtures, and a bottom seventh division of 8 teams, each playing 21 fixtures (3x).

After providing them with the possibility to operate on a temporary basis with only one team in 2023 Flockton will return to the normal situation of running two teams again in 2024. Their 1st XI will play in the 6th division – Alliance 3 (as a result of their one team being promoted from Alliance 4 at the end of 2023) and their 2nd XI will recommence playing as one of now eight teams in Alliance 4.

As has already been announced Denby Grange CC will join our League from 2024. Their 1st XI will be placed in Alliance 2 and their 2nd XI will replace Elland CC in Alliance 4.

HCL's fourth section, the Alliance, will return to a division of 12 teams (following the disappearance of Flockton 1st XI in 2023 and the relegated from the Conference 1st XI of Elland CC) for 2024.

In addition to the above this is further achieved by the following:

- Bottom of the 2023 Alliance, Golcar 2nd XI, not being relegated
- Alliance 2's second bottom of 2023 season team Cumberworth United 2nd XI not being relegated
- Alliance 3's second bottom of 2023 season team Denby Dale 2nd XI not being relegated

Annual Awards

It was agreed to make the following awards for the 2023 season:

Jack Gledhill Memorial Trophy	Best all-rounder	Moorlands CC	Marcus Walmsley
Reg Haigh Trophy	Best Young Player	Barkisland CC	Matthew Weston
Johnny Hunter Rose Bowls	Two outstanding individual performances go to	1 st XI – Emley Clarence CC's Adam Taylor	
		2 nd XI – to Birkby Rose Hill CC's Zaheer Ahmed	
Tom Walker Award	Best Playing Area	Denby CC	Craig Sanders
F E Greenwood Ground Trophy	Most Improved Ground	Armitage Bridge CC	
David Boulton Memorial Trophy	Fair Play/Most Sporting Team	Barkisland CC	
Tim Sugden Award	Best Administrated Club	Holmbridge CC	

Cricket Balls

HCL's Feedback from Clubs and the Players Forum indicates that the trialling of Readers premier ball the SC Imperial Crown in the 2023 Premiership Division was not a success. The consensus is that the SCIC ball did not perform noticeably better than the current standard Sovereign ball. This feedback ignores the higher than previous failing of both balls (some in only the early overs of a match) and Readers poor delivery performance and communication.

It is therefore decided not to proceed with the introduction of the SCIC ball any further.

Instead it is decided, also based on feedback from the Players Forum and subject to further feedback from Premier teams, to trial an alternative supplier – Dukes - and their recommended ball – the County International - in the Premier Division in 2024. The Dukes ball comes at an increased cost of £27.50 but potentially much higher quality.

All other divisions will continue with the Readers Sovereign ball in 2024.

Any remaining stocks of SCIC balls can be used in 2nd XI fixtures in 2024. Notified 2023 failed balls will be replaced with Sovereign balls by Readers free of charge.

Any Other Business

A Discussion Paper explaining the possibility of adding additional teeth to HCL's disciplinary arrangements that, from 2024 would apply player de-merits that can lead to bans, and a team penalty system that has the potential to result in the deduction of Team League points was reviewed. After discussion and also consulting with the UA it was agreed not to progress the de-merit aspect of the outline proposals but to take the other elements of the possible scheme forward for further serious consideration at the above special meeting.

Invitations to the HCL Annual Awards Presentation Evening which is taking place in the Baines Hall at Elland Community Sports Club on Friday 24th November at 19.00pm will be sent out shortly.

The next meeting of the HCL Management Executive will take place at Almondbury Wesleyan CC on Wed 1st November 2023 at 19.00pm.