PEARSON
FINANCIAL WELLBEING
HUDDERSFIELD
PREMIER CRICKET LEAGUE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 4th November 2026

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; Compliance Officer – Mrs Jackie Brook; Media Secretary – Mrs Paula Huddleston

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

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

Apologies

Treasurer - A Hill; (EDI Chair) Mushtaq Hussain

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2026

Approved.

Matters Arising

Linthwaite CC

After finishing the 2026 Conference division season in second position the matter of whether Linthwaite CC are eligible to be promoted into the 2027 Championship season was carefully discussed and considered in detail.

The Committee took into account that:

- LCC had been forcibly relegated from the Championship at the end of the 2025 season mainly due to none compliance with rule L7.6 of our Handbook (non-compliance with the conditions of playing in the top two divisions of an ECB PL – such as 3 hard ball junior teams)
- at a ground and facilities audit undertaken by AF and MB on 25th July 2026 a number of problems and (some serious) deficiencies were observed. Some matters observed were unsafe and others sub-standard. Note: the pitches, cricket square and outfield are not the problem
- two subsequent audit follow up visits on 28th August and 5th October observed improvements with some unsafe matters closed out, but other matters still unsatisfactory or not yet closed out
- YCF had made an official statement that LCC were only compliant in one of three key areas of ECB PL requirements (girls team), with the most critical aspect (3 x junior hardball teams) not compliant and the third (running junior starter programmes) still pending, subject to postponed sessions previously planned to take place before the compliance deadline of 31st October now taking place later in November

The Committee also reviewed and took into account:

- the pleasing updated information that LCC provided regarding facilities and progress on preparedness for junior and girls cricket for 2027
- a detailed paper jointly produced by the YCF and HPCL that contained a daunting, time consuming and expensive list of outstanding matters that LCC must achieve or put in place over the next months before the start of the 2027 season in April, or by the end of the 2027 season
- the clear commitment, ambition and resolve of LCC's officers that we had met over the past four months
- the deep respect in which LCC is held by the Executive Committee as a long standing and valued member Club of our League

- that whilst the ECB/YCF had told us it would not take the lead in making a final decision it would be fully supportive and in agreement with a decision not to allow the promotion of LCC and, instead, to give them more time to become fully compliant and meet the other standards required by HPCL

The Committee had serious concerns and reservations about the large amount of difficult, time consuming and costly work that remains in front of a relatively small team of people with modest resources at LCC. The Committee believes that LCC 'will get there' at some point, but that both time and the 'degree of difficulty' is against them in terms of meeting the key deadline of HPCL and the ECB/YCF.

Furthermore the Committee took into important account the fact that once a team was allowed to be promoted into the ECB PL Championship division that also made them eligible to be promoted into the Premiership division if they were strong enough. The Committee was also mindful to avoid a possible yo-yo situation which would be unacceptable. This could arise if LCC, having been forcibly relegated in 2025, are promoted in 2026 on a 'fragile reality' and an 'uncertain promise for the future', and then could face another forced relegation back down again by the YCF if they could not prove full compliance in Sept/Oct 2027.

The Committee concluded that it was not sufficiently confident that it could rely on LCC meeting all the mandatory and important requirements of standards and compliance by April 2027 or the end of next season. The feeling of the Committee was that LCC would benefit a great deal from having another season to complete all the things being asked of them, to be able to demonstrate rather than promise compliance, and to further mature their organisation, especially their junior and girls coaching teams.

Therefore, in response to a resolution that LCC be prevented from being promoted into the 2027 Championship, and with a heavy heart, the meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of this unfortunate decision. No-one voted against the resolution.

LCC will be informed of the decision as quickly as possible. It was acknowledged that LCC are likely to be very disappointed and may challenge the decision. The meeting confirmed that it was confident it could explain, justify and defend its decision.

Emley CC will be promoted in place of LCC, subject to them successfully submitting all of the things necessary to achieve ECB PL Accredited Club Status (end April 2027).

Financial Report – TA (on behalf of AH)

The Report confirmed that the finances of the League are in a satisfactory state with General Funds totalling £62.4k.

The ECB Development Fund totals £17K.

The final instalment of the Cedar Court Presentation Night bill has been paid and Fired Up Corporation have paid their sponsorship.

Birkby Rose Hill have still to pay their 06 Jun to 01 Aug fine (£68). 2 Clubs have still to pay their 08 to 29 Aug fines: - Birkby Rose Hill (£50) and Clayton West (£68). Meltham owe their Sept fine (£200).

Interest Free Loan Application

In our desire to further support Linthwaite CC as much as possible it was agreed to a authorise an interest free loan for an electronic scoreboard and other items. This is subject to LCC accepting the relegation decision detailed in Matters Arising above.

Disciplinary Report – MB

HPCL has been contacted by ECB/YCF's Anti-Discrimination team and the Cricket Regulator about two anonymous complaints they received regarding incidents that took place in 2026 HPCL matches. We were aware of and have dealt with both of those complaints which had come to our attention.

We have now provided a detailed summary of the cases, our conclusions and follow up actions, which met with their approval.

Media Secretary Report – PH

A number of end of and post season articles have been placed on the website and launched on our social media channels.

Paula is updating our Umpires pages and highlighting the evolution of Clubmark to the new Accredited Club Status.

A number of press releases/new articles have received a lot of interest and coverage, such as Hoylandswaine winning the White Rose Trophy at Headingley which was viewed some 34000 times.

The Castle Hill Cricket Chat Podcast's interview with Tony Harrison had created interest but with a mixed reaction.

Over the upcoming winter Paula will undertake a further review of the website and our social media activities to see what can be done to ensure its contents are suitable and provide good, relevant and interesting news and information to our cricket community.

Any opportunities for improvement will be progressed, and any constructive feedback is welcomed.

EDI Report – MH via MB

MH continues to support the situation at Linthwaite CC.

Clubmark, Safeguarding and Compliance – JB

Evolution of Clubmark to Accredited Club Status

Clubs should note the important ECB announcements about the evolution from the Clubmark accreditation system to the succeeding Accredited Club Status system which is being introduced in January 2027.

Existing Clubmark Clubs have already received, directly from the ECB, information regarding the requirements and process, which opens in Jan 2027 and must be completed by end of April.

ECB PL Compliance

Delph & Dobcross CC remains a concern as they have been one team short of junior hardball compliance, and may not have acceptable arrangements in place to meet their obligations for girls cricket.

Shelley CC's already approved gap closure action plan remains on track.

Safeguarding

A Safeguarding training course will be run in February 2027. Further details will be announced shortly.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

2027 Fixture Calendar

A provisional 2027 season fixture calendar was circulated for comment. Feedback was that this was good:

First game 17th April, last game 11th Sept. First rounds of cups on 9th May. Sykes Cup Final on 15th Aug, T20 Finals day on 25th July, Oddfellows Cup Final on 1st August, Paddock Shield and Earnshaw Cup Finals on 22nd August.

Cup draws at AGM on 2nd Dec.

Cup dates have been synchronised as much as possible with other external Cup competition schedules.

Denby Grange CC

After their difficulties during 2026 and due to ongoing uncertainties regarding their playing strength for 2027 Denby Grange CC have requested permission to enter only one team in the 2027 season. This was agreed. Their single team (1st XI) will play in Alliance 3, and Alliance 4 will reduce to 7 teams playing eachother 3 times, totalling 18 fixtures.

Possible Player Points Cap System (PPCS)

The Chair explained what had happened regarding a growing interest across Huddersfield in a Player Points Cap System (PPCS). As HPCL's Executive Committee identified with the concerns and interests expressed by a number of Clubs a small working group had been created to study the matter and consult with stakeholders.

The working group concluded that whilst it supported the high level objectives of a possible PPCS the proposed system itself was very complicated and not easy to understand, and especially not easy for either HPCL's Match & Registrations Secretary or Clubs themselves to administrate. It was feared that such a scheme could result in many matches and division points in a season being impacted by inadvertent eligibility problems.

After some debate and testing the working group concluded that, at least for the time being, PPCS is not the best way forward. It therefore considered a variety of other options and settled on an alternative way forward that is simpler and easier to understand and administrate, and that could be introduced immediately.

The working group had consulted with the various interested stakeholders who agreed to support the alternative way forward and accepted not to propose a PPCS as a competing Rule Change. This is now embodied in Item 19 of the rule change proposal document along with a detailed explanation of what is being proposed and why. It is hoped the rule change will gain general support and be adopted for 2027.

Grounds and Facilities - AF

Audit follow up priorities are Flockton CC, Edgerton & Dalton CC (first audit undertaken in Oct found end of season work on square successfully completed and growing), Denby Grange CC.

A meeting at Flockton CC along with YCF is arranged for 9th Nov, and a meeting with Denby Grange CC will be arranged as quickly as possible.

Any Other Business

Presentation Evening

Norman Clee informed the meeting that he expected more than 200 persons to attend the HPCL Presentation Evening on 20th Nov. He was finalising arrangements and if any Club has not indicated how many tickets they need then he hopes that they will make contact urgently.

Club Umpires in 2027

Chair Trevor has been in constructive discussions with the HPCL UA about Club Umpires. He has reached an in principle agreement for the UA to take oversight of that group, and to coordinate fixture appointments for the 2027 Conference division.

As part of this new arrangement UA Chair David Haikings has also undertaken to become a focal point who will coordinate training and provide help, support and advice to any Club Umpire. David has therefore been appointed Club Umpire Liaison Officer.

Club Umpires will also be invited to all the UA's regular meetings.

HPCL President – W Andrew Sugden

Finally at the close of the meeting Chair Trevor extended his warm, fulsome and grateful thanks to League President W Andrew Sugden who is standing down at the AGM in December. His assistance,

ambassadorship, support and legal advice has been invaluable. The meeting wholeheartedly agreed with Trevor's words.

Andrew will continue to provide the League and any Clubs who need it, with legal advice.

David Hall will be nominated to succeed Andrew at the upcoming AGM.

Please note: The next meeting of HPCL's Executive Committee will take place after the AGM and Council Meetings at Honley CC on Wed 2nd December.

HPCL's AGM and Council meeting, which must be attended by all Clubs, will commence at 19.00pm