

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024**

Held at Honley CC

**In the Chair:** Trevor Atkinson

**Other Officers Present:** General Secretary – N Clee; Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior; Media Secretary – J Harrison; Compliance & Safeguarding Officer – J Brook

**Life Vice Presidents:** G Crompton, R Tindall.

**Club Representatives:** L Harrison; C McCreddie.

### **ITEM 1: Roll Call and Apologies**

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#### **Committee**

President – W A Sugden; Administration Secretary – M Binns; Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer – M Hussain

#### **Clubs Apologies**

None

#### **Clubs Absent**

Almondbury; Birkby Rose Hill; Denby Grange and Linthwaite

### **ITEM 2: Approval Of Minutes**

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The previous Council Meeting minutes from Wednesday 6th December 2023 were approved.

### **ITEM 3: Matters Arising**

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#### **League Sponsor**

The Chairman announced that local business Walker Timber are the new overall sponsors of the league in a deal which will boost the finances of the league. He explained that the deal was a two-year trial period, but he was confident this would blossom into a positive long-term relationship.

#### **Weather**

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to other local leagues about the prospects for starting the season on time. The consensus at the time of the meeting was it was too early to announce a decision. The Chairman and General Secretary will continue to monitor the situation in the hope that the weather suddenly improves. A full and proper announcement will come in due course as soon as a decision is made. He asked around the room to canvas clubs' opinions and the consensus was a negative one.

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### **“Points Deduction System” Experimental Rule**

The General Secretary reminded the clubs present to familiarise themselves with the new experimental rule involving potential points deductions for poor discipline which will be in play for the 2024 season. The captains and umpires had already been briefed on this at meetings recently conveyed in March.

### **ITEM 4: Financial Report**

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The Chairman on behalf of the Treasurer provided an update regarding the balance sheet and reported that it was in a satisfactory position at this moment in time.

### **ITEM 5: Disciplinary Report**

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The Chairman had nothing to report.

### **ITEM 6: Media Secretary Report**

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The Media Secretary brought to the attention of clubs that Almondbury Wesleyans CC had placed a banner advertisement on the league website. He explained this was the league’s Sapphire tier advertising which was £35 for a four-week period. Clubs were welcome to use this option to promote an event at their club. He would offer more information via an upcoming news article.

### **ITEM 7: Clubmark and Safeguarding Report**

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Jackie Brook reminded clubs that they had until 30th April for maintaining compliance for Clubmark. A club’s chair or safeguarding officer can sign off the documents. She also reminded clubs to keep Safe Hands Management up to date with insurance documents etc.

Clubs were reminded of the ECB requirements to retain their Club Mark status:

1. SHMS is a fair and accurate reflection of the size of your club. In addition, and before the start of the season, the following roles need to be added and everyone must have a valid ECB DBS (a DBS from somewhere else is not allowed);

- Open age captains for all senior teams – ideally Vice Captains also. This should tally with captains on Play Cricket once the season starts. ECB may check this and have done in the past!
- Junior coaches/team managers – one per age group (unless there is a reasonable explanation for not having this).

2. AGM minutes to be uploaded (from October 2023 onwards) to the Clubmark Portal

3. Evidence of valid and up to date insurance (public/employee liability) to be uploaded to the Clubmark Portal. This is ONLY if a club is not on the ECB central scheme

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4. Upload a signed ECB Safeguarding policy statement to the Clubmark Portal. Please note this has to be signed by the Club Chair or CSO/Committee member and replaces the CLUB Safeguarding policy statement. Access to the new statement can be found in the resources section of the Clubmark Portal.

The clubs who are yet to achieve Clubmark, the deadline is 28th June for uploading documents into the portal with a final deadline of 15th July latest. There is a remedial date of 30th August.

Jackie Brook was announced as league Compliance & Safeguarding Officer. YCB have created a new networking group for LSO's which Jackie has joined. The key driver this year is focussed on Listening to Children. More information is to follow shortly regarding this.

### **ITEM 8: Match & Registration Secretary Report**

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The Match & Registration Secretary explained that RTDF forms have been released for both domestic and overseas players. All are available to be downloaded on the website. He reminded clubs that the forms *must* be filled out properly and a newly signed player has acknowledged consent.

Clubs were advised to keep hold of the RTDF until play-cricket registration has been completed. At that point he will accept the form.

With Elland CC merging with Whalley CC, clubs signing former players from Elland should treat the situation as if Elland CC are still existing.

Any clubs with an overseas player who is not returning, must deregister them from play-cricket, whilst keeping Match & Registration Secretary informed once completed.

### **ITEM 9: EDI Sub Committee Report**

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The Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer was not present.

### **ITEM 10: ECB Premier League Progress**

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The Chairman reported that progress is shaping up positively. No probs on data. He is hoping for a favourable report by the ECB before season gets underway and would report at the next Council Meeting.

Ad-hoc inspections on some of our grounds will be conducted by the YCB. He reiterated that the good work clubs have done to date needed to be maintained. The Chairman thanked the clubs for doing so well with Clubmark, Safe Hands and more to enable the league to be in such a positive position.

### **ITEM 11: Report From Umpire's Association**

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David Haikings from the Umpire's Association reminded clubs to inform their captains to ensure team sheets are completed in ample time before the coin toss to ensure a prompt start to matches.

With Covid still present and some umpires still anxious about the spread of the virus, the decision of carrying of players' jumpers and headwear will be left to the umpires officiating on the day. If the

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umpire(s) involved don't want to carry them then the captain(s) should respect that decision and arrange an alternative option. This should be agreed on at the coin toss with both captains.

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#### **ITEM 12: MCC v HCL Under 21s**

The General Secretary announced the date for the annual representative match will be Wednesday 7th August 2024 with the venue at Skelmanthorpe CC. The Scholes representative asked the General Secretary when the cut-off date was for players eligibility. The General Secretary explained it was for players to be 20 or under on or before 31st August 2023.

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#### **ITEM 13: Rule Changes for 2024**

The General Secretary reminded clubs of the experimental rule changes ahead of the new season. The Alliance Three and Alliance Four is reverting back to 45 overs per side and Umpire's expenses will also revert back on a pro rata basis to £47.

The General Secretary also issued a reminder that the slow over rate penalty rule involving five outfield players in the ring is a considerable change and captains should be made well aware to not infringe it.

He also noted that 12 noon starts for matches in the top three tiers in September was another rule which clubs needed to bear in mind.

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#### **ITEM 14: Administration Summary**

The General Secretary on behalf of the Administration Secretary reminded clubs that Public Liability Insurance documents need to be emailed to the Administration Secretary by 13th April. They should aim for *at least* one week before the deadline.

Clubs beginning to live stream matches for the new season must let the Administration Secretary know before the start of the season. The Administration Secretary will assume clubs on the streaming register will continue and there was no requirement for informing him likewise.

Clubs should inform the Administration Secretary if they plan to supply cricket teas so the register can be updated. Clubs who are deciding not to prepare teas who were on the register should inform the Administration Secretary.

Clubs should confirm their normal club umpire ahead of the season with the Administration Secretary, and if different to the name(s) in 2023, also provide evidence of their qualification (L1/S1/Mod C or above). Clubs are also asked to add their Club Umpire nomination and contact details onto their Play-Cricket 'about us' page. The deadline date for this should be 1<sup>st</sup> April. However, with the meeting just after this date, a reasonable level of leniency would apply.

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#### **ITEM 15: Any Other Business**

The General Secretary distributed Dukes balls to Premiership clubs who were present.

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Handbooks and TMRFs were also available for clubs to collect at the meeting. There were simplified rules cards included inside each club's handbook quota which will be useful for club umpires. Any clubs not in attendance should make arrangements via the General Secretary to collect their bundles.

The Flockton CC representative asked if the Treasurer sends out invoices as he'd not yet received one for league fees. The Chairman will investigate the matter and ensure the Treasurer will send one directly.

The Match & Registration Secretary also informed clubs that they should de-register any overseas players who were not returning to their clubs.

The Chairman thanked clubs for their attendance and wished them good luck ahead of the new season.

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