



Walker Timber **HUDDERSFIELD** **CRICKET LEAGUE**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 6th November 2024

In the Chair: Trevor Atkinson

Other Officers Present: President - W Andrew Sugden, General Secretary – N Clee, Administration Secretary – M Binns; Media Secretary – J Harrison; Match & Registration Secretary – P Senior; Compliance Officer - Mrs Jackie Brook

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

Club Representatives: Craig McCreddie; Les Harrison

Apologies

Treasurer - A Hill, LVP – R Peaker, EDI Chair – Mushtaq Hussain

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2024

Approved.

Matters Arising

None

Financial Report - TA

The Report confirmed that the finances of the League are in a satisfactory state, with an overall balance of just over £53k. Current account: £22,799.70 Money Manager £27,940.64, Loans £2,638.96 producing a Balance of £53,379.30

Since last meeting received £2,000.00 from Readers and £400 from Titan Cricket (Jedi) Ltd

Linthwaite owe fines of £77, Thongsbridge £30, Birkby Rose Hill £10 and Clayton West £10.

Disciplinary Report – MB/TA

Covering the last weeks of the 2024 season, the most recent information regarding disciplinary matters is available on HCL's website.

It was confirmed that the WTU Fair Play Penalty system introduced as an experimental rule in 2024 has been reviewed by the Executive. Taking into account the feedback received from various parties the system is deemed to have been a success. The intention of the system is to encourage good behaviour, deter poor conduct, and provide Clubs, Captains and Umpires with more tools to assist them with managing such matters.

The number of 2024 disciplinary cases was down by a third vs 2023 and the average severity of the offences committed and the sanctions issued was also reduced. It is clear that Captains have taken a stronger hand with their teammates to manage incidents and encourage respecting Umpires and the spirit of cricket.

Most penalties/points deductions were incurred as a result of player discipline rather than low Fair Play scores. No team was relegated or prevented from being promoted as a result of points deducted by the system.

HCL's Executive Committee is therefore submitting a rule change to adopt the system on an ongoing basis. The Executive commends the system to Clubs and encourages them to vote in favour.

Media Secretary Report - JH

None

EDI Report – MH

None

Safeguarding – JB

A Safe Hands Safeguarding course for Club Safeguarding Officers is being organised to take place in Huddersfield before the start of the 2025 season. Dates will be advised when confirmed.

Current Officers are reminded that many of you last undertook the course in March 2022 in the post covid catch up period, so will need to renew your qualification before the end of March 2025 to remain compliant.

ECB Premier League - TA/NC

Trevor Atkinson and Norman Clee remain in close contact with Mr Bedford from the ECB to finalise requirements and compliance so as to achieve RCB PL status.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

The case of BRH CC 2nd XI deliberately playing an ineligible cricketer under the false name of Atif Sultan in a fixture vs Slaithwaite was reviewed.

Given BRH having other eligibility issues earlier in the season, and the serious nature of this failing it was agreed that, in addition to the normal sanctions that apply to such matters, a 6 point deduction penalty will be applied to BRH 2nd XI's league table points total for the 2025 season. This decision is in line with the precedent set in previous similar circumstances.

The Draft 2025 Fixture calendar was presented and reviewed. The season will commence on 26th April and end on 20th Sept. Phil Senior was requested to find a way to bring the date of the T20 finals day, provisionally scheduled for the 7th September, forward to an earlier date, to reduce the likelihood of this prestigious event being affected by inclement weather.

The Sykes Cup final is scheduled for Sun 17th August and it was confirmed that the 2025 Sykes Cup Final will be held at Honley CC.

2024 Awards Evening Friday 29th November - NC

Arrangements are in hand and an attendance of 120 – 130 persons is estimated. Research to find a suitable alternative venue for 2025 is underway.

2024 Pitch Marking Summary – MB/JB

The full season Pitch Marking data was reviewed. Generally the standard was good.

Moorlands and Mirfield Parish came out on top with very good average marks, which is consistent with the awarding of the Tom Walker Trophy (Groundsman of the Year) to Andrew Fortis.

The ECB guidance (pitches scoring below an average of 14 out of 20) requires us to follow up with four Clubs to discuss improvement plans for 2025. Our Grounds and Facilities Sub-Committee will make contact with the respective Clubs in the next few weeks.

Feedback on Umpires facilities indicated that we must also follow up with three Clubs. Scholes, Thongsbridge and Honley came out best in this area, which again fits with HCL awarding the FE Greenwood Trophy (for the most improved ground and facilities) to Scholes CC .

Main criticism from Umpires is that their designated room is often used as a storage space and is not prepared for them, nor cleaned regularly.

Feedback regarding scorers facilities confirmed that all Clubs scored an average of satisfactory or better, with Scholes, Honley and Slaithwaite coming out top.

Cricket Balls 2024/25 – TA/NC

Feedback regarding the trialling of Dukes balls in the 2024 Premiership was firmly in favour of using the more expensive but demonstrably higher quality ball in the Premier Division for 2025 and the future.

It was agreed to canvas the views of 2025 Championship Clubs, and introduce the Dukes ball in this division if a majority are in favour.

Umpires 2025 – TA/RT/MB

A working paper discussing the ongoing shortage of Umpires, that had been developed in consultation with the officers of HCL's UA, was reviewed. The purpose of the draft proposals outlined in the paper is to ensure that all HCL's Conference division fixtures are staffed by two Umpires.

Any Other Business

It was confirmed that double sight screens must be in place and in use at all Premiership grounds from the start of the 2025 season. Double Sights screens must be in place at Championship grounds for the 2026 season.

The next meeting of the HCL Management Executive will take place at Honley CC on Wed 4th December 2024, commencing immediately following HCL's Annual General Mtg and HCL's Meeting of the Council. The AGM will start at 19.00pm