



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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 7th May 2025

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; EDI Chair – M Hussain

Life Vice Presidents: G Crompton; R Tindall

Club Representatives: L Harrison

Apologies

Treasurer - A Hill; Media Secretary – J Harrison; Club Representative - C McCreadie

Minutes of Previous Executive Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Approved.

Matters Arising

HPCL is informed by James Simpson, ECB's Senior Manager for Clubs and Leagues, that our, until now, main contact and link for the ECB PL process – Paul Bedford – is leaving. Paul Cummins will be consulted to understand any possible consequences or next steps.

The ECB have encouraged HPCL to ensure that the requirement for our Clubs to routinely run three hard ball junior teams is met. New requirements regarding women and girls teams will also be announced in due course.

There is no news regarding a revised format or timing of the White Rose Trophy.

Financial Report – TA (on behalf of AH)

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

Thongsbridge CC's sight screen loan has now been processed.

28 out of 40 clubs have paid their annual subs etc invoice

Geoff Crompton will check anomalies on Skelmanthorpe CC's account with his Treasurer colleague.

Clayton West, Kirkheaton and Linthwaite owe fines for various items.

Disciplinary Report – TA/MB

One new Disciplinary case that occurred on 3rd May is being processed.

Media Secretary Report - JH

A problem with legacy image copyright has now been resolved.

Jamie Harrison is exploring whether the technology behind HPCL's website can be migrated to a cheaper and more flexible set up now that interested parties go directly to Play-Cricket for fixtures and results.

EDI Report – MH

It was confirmed that no changes to HPCL's Rules are required as a result of the recent judgement regarding the Equality Act that has clarified defining a person by their biological sex. This is because HPCL (and the Huddersfield Junior Cricket League – HJCL) are open leagues in which men and women and junior boys and girls are already eligible to play.

Clubs should continue to make suitable arrangements for the safe and proper use of changing and wash room facilities for mixed sex teams.

Clubmark, Safeguarding and Compliance - JB

A good practice Concussion Incident Assessment Form (attached to these Minutes) has been developed to aid Responsible Persons with handling such events. Jackie Brook will circulate the form to all Clubs and the HPCL UA. It is strongly recommended for use when an incident occurs. Stuart Battye is thanked for his initiative to create this very useful form.

Jackie Brook is awaiting a progress report from Emley Clarence CC regarding their Clubmark accreditation journey.

All non-Clubmark accredited HPCL Clubs are reminded of the need to meet mandatory requirements that apply to all Clubs regarding basic administration and safeguarding – in particular handling safeguarding matters and ensuring all relevant individuals have a valid DBS.

Progress regarding running three hardball junior teams at Shelley and Linthwaite is being closely monitored by HPCL and the YCB.

Match & Registration Secretary Report - PS

In addition to the changes already advised regarding the applicable amended Junior fast bowling directive the ECB has also issued recommendations regarding the overall workload of young fast bowlers as follows:

ECB's Recommended Workload Management:

The ECB recommends the following maximum and minimum number of in match overs a junior fast bowler should bowl per week. Within these thresholds a protective effect against injury is expected to occur. Bowling loads greater than these recommended amounts (outside of prescribed in season or post season breaks) may place bowlers at greater risk of injury. Furthermore in any 7-day period, there should be a maximum of 4 bowling days with only 1 instance of bowling on consecutive days.

Age in years	Target overs per week
11 and below	12 – 16
12 & 13	16 – 20
14 & 15	20 – 24
16 & 17	22 – 26
18 & 19	24 – 28

Clubs and Captains are requested to make themselves aware of this important guidance when selecting and using junior fast bowlers in HPCL matches.

Three cases of player ineligibility are being investigated:

- A potentially unregistered and therefore ineligible overseas cricketer playing in a Premiership fixture on 26th April

- A junior cricketer
- An adult cricketer who was signed on on the day of a game and who may not have been in the country for the requisite >210 days prior to the end of March 2025

The first Fines List of the 2025 season is attached to these Minutes.

There have been a number of matches where a slow over rate has been reported. Clubs are reminded that a 50 over innings should be completed in 3 hrs:10 mins and 45 overs in 2 hrs: 53 mins, and that slow over rate rules set out in L8.14 of the Handbook apply to such matters.

Any Other Business

Ron Tindall enquired about the WTU system that had encountered problems over the first two weeks of the new season. This has resulted in it being very difficult or in some cases impossible for Captains to submit their marks for Umpires. Marks for two games on 26th April had had to been loaded up manually by ECB's system administrator because it was not possible for the Captain to do it using either of the normal methods.

It is understood that the ECB has now resolved these system difficulties by launching updated versions of the software and that submitting marks should be easy. The ECB apologises for the problems, and HPCL requests captains in the Premiership and Championship to do their best to get into the habit of submitting marks, which provide important and valuable feedback.

The HPCL Umpires Association enquired about the situation regarding the provision of cricket teas. It was confirmed that, whilst cricket teas being routinely available has historically been a nice tradition of the past, there is no appetite amongst Clubs or players to re-instate the mandatory requirement to provide or to purchase teas. This is reinforced by the detail of the 2025 Teas Register which includes only 15 out of 40 Clubs providing teas on a voluntary basis at 1st XI fixtures, and only 13 providing teas at 2nd XI fixtures. These are similar figures to the 2023 and 24 seasons.

It has been noted that some match scores were not available live in Play-Cricket on 3rd May. It is understood that this was a glitch in the Play-Cricket system which it is hoped will be quickly corrected going forward.

A number of Club groundsmen have asked for a reminder to be sent out about players making intentional and unnecessary scraping marks on both the cricket square and outfield. The following notice, previously developed in 2023 will be circulated again, and Clubs are requested to place it in both changing rooms:

*It is requested that Bowlers, Wicket-keepers and Fielders do not **INTENTIONALLY** damage any part of the cricket field by marking with cricket spikes.*

*In particular during the game **Bowlers** should **use the markers** provided by the home Club in order to assist them in marking out their run up, and **Fielders & Wicket-keepers** should **NOT** make marks on the cricket field with their spikes to enable any perceived assistance with their positioning.*

Batters are requested to limit the number of times that they remark their guard during an innings

The next meeting of the HPCL Management Executive will take place at Almondbury Wesleyan CC on Wednesday 4th June 2025, commencing at 19.00pm.