

Darlington Building Society
North Yorkshire & South Durham ECB Premier Cricket League

Minutes of Management Meeting held at the Springboard Centre, Stokesley
on Wednesday 17th January 2018

PRESENT

President C W West (CWW), Fixtures Secretary N Hutchinson (NH), Results Secretary G Smith (GS), Treasurer D Stanwix (DS), Umpires Coordinator DS Oliver (DSO), Committee members AB Bainbridge (ABB), S Brenkley (SB), S Donlan (SD), J Crowther (JC), S Gill (SG) and M Jobling (MJ)...(11)

APOLOGIES for ABSENCE

Received from T Briddock (TB)

WELCOME TO NEW LMC MEMBERS

The president welcomed the new members of the LMC, Messrs Crowther, Gill and Jobling and expressed the hope that they would find their involvement stimulating and enjoyable.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

As required under recommended governance procedures all committee members are reminded at each meeting that when there is any perceived conflict of interest they should declare such.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2017 were approved to be signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising which were not covered in the rest of the evening's agenda.

2017 AGM

The president reported that the AGM had gone well and thanked everyone for their input. There were one or two outstanding matters where permission had been given to the LMC by the member clubs to resolve and confirm, and these would be dealt with during this meeting.

Billingham had been thanked for their excellent hosting of the meeting after the event and the committee echoed those sentiments.

NEW RULES OUTSTANDING FROM THE AGM

Player eligibility – third team cup ties

Graeme Smith, Neil Hutchinson and Steve Donlan had reviewed the eligibility rules for the Bell and Sanders cups in light of the problems seen in 2017 and the new structure of the Bell. A copy of their written proposals was issued to all members of the LMC.

Resolved: LMC members to review at their leisure and alert GS to any problems they perceived. A copy of the final draft to be prepared by the end of January.

Player Loan Scheme

It was proposed that the president prepare a short briefing paper for issue to all LMC members with a view to being in a position to adopt a scheme at the next LMC meeting for putting to clubs by the end of February.

GENERAL SECRETARY

An open 'advert' to fill this position had been issued to all clubs and the umpires panel. Mr Shaun Storey (SS) had written back almost immediately expressing an interest in serving the League via this role. The LMC had been given permission to make this appointment by the member clubs at AGM. The president proposed Mr Storey as general secretary.

Resolved: By unanimous decision Mr Storey was appointed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This new role was sanctioned by the member clubs at AGM since when one formal application had been received despite the position not being formally advertised.

Upon exchange of correspondence with the applicant it transpired that the applicant was looking for a position more akin to a permanent one, with commensurate remuneration, and once the president had outlined the perceived structure of the role the applicant had decided not to proceed with the application.

SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2018

At the first meeting of the calendar year the structure and personnel of the sub-committees was reviewed and the following was agreed:

Discipline Review Committee: CWW (Chair), DSO, SD, MJ and SS

Disciplinary Hearings Committee: CWW (Chair), ABB, TB, DSO, DS, SS

Disciplinary Appeals Committee: GS (Chair), MC, SD, JC, SS

Facilities Committee: CWW, ABB, DSO, SB, SS

LUSC: M Kirkbright (Chair), DSO, E Woolnough

Hall of Fame: GS (Chair), TB, SB

Website Administrator and League Historian: S Charlton

Press & Media: CWW

Cricket Balls: NH

LCWO: Dr Mike Lindsay

Under 17 Manager: P Leadbitter

Womens & Girls: MJ

Yorkshire Premier Leagues Management Board: CWW and DSO

FIXTURES SECRETARY

Mr Hutchinson reported as follows:

Amendments to fixtures sent out pre-Xmas

Ken Welsh Cup – Semi-final date should read Wednesday 6th June, Final should read Wednesday 20th June.

Division Three - Yarm now playing Norton at Yarm on Saturday 26th May and not at Redcar CC. Mr Hutchinson asked that, even though the match had now reverted to Yarm, thanks be recorded to Redcar who had been exceptionally helpful to Yarm.

Fifteens Finals Reserve date should read Sunday 2nd September.

Sedgefield changed their Fifteens name to Sedgefield Stallions.

Premier Fifteens Super Sunday Group Day Hosts

Now confirmed as follows: A – Darlington, B – Norton, C – Marton, D – Middlesbrough

Division One Super Monday Fifteens Group Hosts

Now confirmed as follows: A – Darlington, B – Norton, C - Great Ayton, D – Guisborough

The president asked for particular thanks to be recorded to Darlington and Norton who are to host group matches in both competitions.

Requests to change fixtures

Sunday Conference South - 29th July Marske v Thornaby - Marske have asked to not to have a home fixture on that date due to the Yorkshire 2nd team game on the next day. They have been advised to reverse the fixture with Thornaby if possible. Not yet confirmed.

Guisborough struggling to get 2 teams out on Saturday 25th August due to a wedding. The first team game should go ahead as scheduled but permission will be given to approach their 2nd team opponents in Division 3 to enquire about the possibilities of re-arranging.

Hartlepool don't wish to have Junior Cup/Junior Fifteens home games on a Friday evening because of a potential clash with junior practice. They are to be advised to approach their opponents with a view to reversing the fixtures to play on their opponents grounds and then confirm to the Fixtures Secretary in future years by way of the fixture request form.

Ray Bell Cup

Whitby have dropped out, therefore Group D will consist of 5 teams. This change requires a change in the format to determine the quarter-final qualifiers from the group stages.

Resolved: The top 2 in each group will qualify for the knockout stages. Points scoring system to be the same as the Fifteens competition. Sunday group games to start at 3pm.

Quarter Final draw to be A1 v B2, B1 v A2, C1 v D2, D1 v C2 (1 = group winner, 2 = runner up)

A fully revised fixture list for the Ray Bell to accompany the minutes.

Under 19 Club Cup

Eight clubs had expressed their intention to play in the NYSD competition via the October fixture requests. The president had recently written to all clubs pointing out the significant ECB and League incentives to enter and asking for **confirmations of entry to be sent to him by the 14th February**, together with playing name and preferred night for home fixtures.

NYSD Masters

Eight clubs had expressed their intention to play in the NYSD competition via the October fixture requests. The president would be writing to all clubs shortly to confirm the final entry list.

RESULTS SECRETARY

Mr Smith had nothing to report.

SCORING

The ECB had written to all clubs in the last few days with details of their new scoring app, PCS Pro, which could be used on laptops. This would complement PCS which was launched in 2017 and was used via tablets and mobiles. Both systems were fully compatible with Play-Cricket. It was expected this new app would be available to all during March but there was the availability to 'trial' it before then. Mr Smith undertook to provide a short tutorial on the new app at the pre-season meeting of clubs.

A discussion took place on the issue of live scoring and the desire of the ECB to see this universally used at the top levels of the recreational game as it was seen as a huge opportunity to stimulate interest. The general view of the meeting was that there were now few barriers to the NYSD's leading clubs being able to live score – wi-fi reception, power supplies, and laptop or tablet facilities had all been put forward as problems in the past, but these can now all be overcome.

Coupled with this it could well be the case that the ECB will consider any clubs playing at Premier Division level will be required to live score as a condition of membership in the next few years, and a number of Premier Leagues already make this compulsory in their top two divisions.

It was fully understood that finding scorers was just as much a problem for clubs as finding players, volunteers and officials, so the NYSD would not impose such a condition in the immediate future, but it would ask clubs at the top levels to work diligently towards that goal and would continue to incentivize this area. The committee felt that it would be a supportive move towards more widely used computer scoring if all Premier Division and Division One league match scorecards were fully loaded on to Play-Cricket by no later than 11pm on the day of the game, and they would be considering possible incentives towards achieving that aim at the next meeting.

TREASURER

Mr Stanwix reported a balance of £32.8k which included the ECB PRPF payment of £4.7k. There were still three clubs who owed for their presentation evening tickets – they had been written to on several occasions. Draft figures for the evening suggested that the event had 'broken even', which was considered an excellent outcome given the significant logistical issues that had been created by the demise of the Marton Hotel.

SPONSORS

Darlington Building Society

The president and Mark Christon had met with Caroline Darnbrook in November for review and renewal discussions. The meeting was positive but the decision regarding 2018 was part of overall DBS partnership strategy and as such was not being considered in isolation. It was hoped that news would be received over the next few weeks.

Teesside University

The president met with Chris Walker, Gary Crawley and Jessica Turner on the 15th January. The University representatives had all attended the presentation evening in November as guests of the League and expressed their thanks and admiration for an event they had found to be 'extremely impressive'.

The meeting was positive with an indication given that the League would be contacted by the end of January detailing any support that could be provided in 2018.

UMPIRES CO-ORDINATOR

Training Courses

There had been a modest enrolment on the current course for new umpires. Mr Oliver suggested it may produce 3 or 4 new panel members in total, and if that was the case then this would leave overall numbers stagnant given the known 'retirements'.

The president made the meeting aware of a possible structured marketing campaign being run in Yorkshire in the next few months, and that the NYSD would be involved in supporting if it came to fruition, however it was agreed that clubs should once again be approached in the immediate future to try and generate more new officials from within club ranks.

New Laws of Cricket

All committee members had been provided with copies of the new law 42 – on-field sanctions – prior to the meeting. A range of views were expressed during a healthy debate, including other areas where new laws were now in place.

Resolved: The new laws to be adopted without bye-law amendment.

It was recognised that a significant ‘education’ programme would be required to introduce clubs to the new laws, and because of the detail involved this could not be incorporated within the pre-season meeting of clubs because of time constraints. Plans were already in place to deliver to the umpires panel.

Resolved: The president and Mr Oliver to liaise on the arrangement of a meeting for captains, scorers, and club officials at which the new laws would be detailed.

Direct Match Expense Payments

Correspondence had been received asking whether the League would consider the adoption of payment of umpires match expenses via bank transfer. The meeting felt that there were many problems this would create and there was no intention to introduce such a scheme.

Training Course Grant Support

It was confirmed that the same level of grants from the League would be available to all umpires on, or intending to be on, the NYSD panel in 2018. The current grant structure significantly defrayed the cost of training courses for umpires and was considered as a crucial element of support in this key area.

UMPIRES EXPENSES

The annual review of umpires expenses was undertaken and it was determined that the following scales would apply in the 2018 season:

Premier Division	£35 (an increase of £3)
Divisions 1 and 2	£30 (an increase of £2)
Divisions 3, 4, SD1 and SD2	£25 (a decrease of £1 in 3 and 4 to tie in with the SDiv rates for 40 overs)
Cup ties – no change	
Mileage rate – no change	

DATA PROTECTION

The impending law changes had been concerning a number of clubs and enquiries had been made of the ECB as to what support or guidance was in place for clubs. The ECB had responded and confirmed that guidance would be issued shortly and all Premier Leagues would be provided with copies.

Resolved: This guidance to be issued to clubs as soon as it was available.

PLAYER REGISTRATIONS SANCTIONED

Professionals – England Qualified

Barnard Castle – Alasdair Appleby

Hartlepool – James Lowe

Overseas Amateurs

Great Ayton - Mitchell John Davis

Marton - Luke De Vlieg

Middlesbrough – Mark Gleeson

Sedgefield – Steven James Dillon

Thornaby – Jeremy Colin Boyle

Transfers

Alasdair Appleby – Newcastle to Barnard Castle

James Lowe – Middlesbrough to Hartlepool

Lewis Harper – Marske to Thornaby

Nathan Bell – Middlesbrough to Normanby Hall

Matthew Bell – Middlesbrough to Normanby Hall

Jawaad Ahmed – Yarm to Normanby Hall

MANAGED MIGRATION

Following the ECB letter to clubs prior to Xmas in which it was stated that the conditions attaching to overseas amateurs/ visas/ professional sportsperson definitions would remain the same as in 2017 the president had taken this statement up with the ECB as there appeared to have been some significant tightening of the assessment of whether an individual would be deemed a professional sportsperson by the Home Office.

In particular any individuals using the services of an agent to source a club, or having their air fare paid, or having their accommodation and living expenses paid, or working for the club in a non-playing capacity, or playing for a professional club in their home country, may be considered by the Home Office to be a professional sportsperson – this in addition to the player pathway ‘test’.

The president indicated that he had been surprised that he had received a number of enquiries from club representatives who were not designated club officials. Managed migration is a complex topic and whilst he would try to give help wherever possible it was important that the process relating to the registration of overseas amateurs be conducted by senior officials at a club, notably the chairman or secretary, as it is they who would be held liable should the Home Office decree that visa regulations had been breached.

It was also felt prudent to issue clarification on the League sanctioning process for the avoidance of doubt. The following wording is noted on all official League confirmation of registration for overseas amateurs:
It should be borne in mind that whilst the overseas registration has been accepted by the League this only signifies that the information you have provided has been accepted as meeting the League’s current regulations – it is entirely the Club’s responsibility to ensure all relevant external regulations are met. If at any time in the future the ECB and/or Home Office indicate that the individual is in breach of their visa or method of entry to the country then this could lead to the player being deemed ineligible for any games played for the Club, the decision of the LMC being final and binding should this occur.

CORRESPONDENCE

None other than that covered in other areas of the agenda.

DISCIPLINE

Barnard Castle understood that Karl Turner had joined an NEPL club. The NEPL do not operate a transfer system by which any outstanding disciplinary matters would be advised to the new club and league of a transferring player.

Resolved: The League write to the NEPL disciplinary body to advise them of the suspended penalty currently applying to the individual, asking for their confirmation it would be noted and applied should circumstances warrant this under the 'mutual recognition of penalties' clause that ECB Premier Leagues were fully bound by.

CRICKET BALLS

Dukes had confirmed that the terms applying in 2017 would remain unaltered for 2018. They were as follows:

Pricing:

Reds - £17.46 plus VAT

Oranges and pinks - £11.25 plus VAT

The supportive package from Dukes including some FOC balls, and a new cricket bat for the presentation evening, would also remain unaltered.

Resolved: The League would provide orange balls to clubs at a discount price of £10 gross subject to the usual caveat that red ball orders were made through the League.

Mr Hutchinson would co-ordinate the orders which would be an automated process conducted via clubs' Play-Cricket website.

NB – All clubs to check the Admin Site of their own P-C website for the order, complete and return by the deadline stated.

REPRESENTATIVE CRICKET

Senior Team

There would be two representative games for the senior team in 2018.

The annual T20 challenge match against Yorkshire Vikings would take place on August the 7th.

Resolved: 4.30pm start time appropriate because of light issues. Host club – Middlesbrough to be offered the opportunity to host.

The match versus MCC would take place towards the end of July, final date yet to be confirmed.

Under 17 Team

Nominations were now complete for the team – just two clubs had failed to respond.

The annual coaching and trials night run by Durham CCC would take place on Monday 22nd January – 40 players had been indicated as attending.

A two week fast bowling development course had been run by Durham for NYSD youngsters in December – 28 had attended and the feedback from Durham had been extremely positive.

PRESENTATION NIGHT

The late problems relating to the venue change had been overcome after a significant amount of additional work, and further problems had been experienced when the primary cricket speaker, Ryan Sidebottom, had withdrawn less than 48 hours before the event, the reasons for the withdrawal disappointingly having to be kept confidential. His father, Arnie Sidebottom, had eventually stood in for him.

Notwithstanding the problems, the evening had received outstanding feedback and it was particularly pleasing to receive glowing messages from both Durham and Yorkshire, and also from our two major

sponsors to whom this event is said by them to be particularly important in demonstrating that they are dealing with a professional organisation. The president asked for his thanks to be recorded to all LMC members who helped with the evening.

Given that Hardwick Hall had been so well received a booking for 2018 was being made by Mr Christon, this likely to be for Friday 16th November as other dates at the venue are taken.

Resolved: That the president write to Mr Sidebottom to express disappointment that no communication had been received directly from him in respect of his late withdrawal, either before or after the event.

PRE-SEASON MEETING OF CLUBS

The venue would be Teesside University as usual. Mr Smith to book Wednesday 28th March with the University, this to be confirmed to clubs once the booking was confirmed.

ECB AND COUNTY BOARDS

ECB - PRPF Outcomes 2017

Just prior to Xmas the NYSD had been advised that they had achieved a 100% outcome in their performance related targets, one of only a small handful of UK leagues to achieve that ranking. As such they had been awarded the maximum performance related grant of £4,700.

The president passed on his thanks to the LMC, and also to member clubs, all of whom had contributed to keeping the League at the top of this important national ladder.

ECB-General

1500 clubs were registered for NatWest Cricketforce which would be held 23/24/25 March. Jewson support of £150 available to each participant club.

All Stars Cricket – 2018 registration now taking place.

DBS Certification – can be completed online now.

County Boards – Small Grants Scheme

Details of the Small Grants Scheme are now with all clubs, deadline for applications 23rd February. Clubs who were successful in 2017 can apply. A significant increase of available funding for the scheme had been announced by the ECB and all clubs are urged to take advantage by submitting qualifying applications to their County Board.

Durham CB League Chairmans Meeting

The president attended a meeting of Durham league chairmen at Chester-le-Street on 11th January. A full summary of the meeting will be issued with the minutes.

LEAGUE CRICKET CONFERENCE/NATIONAL CRICKET CONFERENCE

The president had attended meetings of both bodies during January. It is likely that the NCC will eventually embrace all three league and club conferences – it is currently negotiating a new partnership agreement with the ECB which would determine the future structure of the organisations.

LCC would be running their National League Player of the Year awards again and all member leagues would be asked for their nomination. The awards would be presented at the LCC AGM on the 24th March at Nantwich Cricket Club, Cheshire.

Resolved: The NYSD's nomination would be Jonathan Spillane.

YORKSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUES MANAGEMENT BOARD

The last meeting had been in November and had been attended by the president. It was noted that the Yorkshire Premier League championship semi-final involving the best NYSD Yorkshire team would be played at Scarborough on the 15th September with the final at Headingley on the 22nd.

IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL NYSD YORKSHIRE CLUBS WITH AMBITIONS OF WINNING THE NYSD CHAMPIONSHIP OR QUALIFYING AS THE TOP RANKING YORKSHIRE TEAM SHOULD TRY AND ENSURE ALL THEIR LEADING PLAYERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE DATES.

HANDBOOK 2018

Clubs had been sent the annual information gathering form **which requires completing and returning by the 31st January.**

Obituaries – All clubs wishing to have an obituary published in the handbook should send their submission to the president for receipt by him no later than the 14th February

CHILD WELFARE OFFICERS

It is a requirement of each club in membership of the League that they have an appointed CWO with DBS and safeguarding courses fully up to date.

DBS can now be completed online and all clubs where this is due for renewal are urged to complete as soon as possible.

HISTORIC DATA COLLECTION

This was an ongoing project. Any submissions by clubs should be made directly to Mr Brenkley.

LEAGUE PHOTOGRAPHER

The meeting confirmed the value of having a League photographer and unanimously agreed that Mr Mark Fletcher be asked to continue in this position.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Newsletter

The president asked the meeting whether they wished for the winter/spring newsletters piloted in early 2017 should be produced once more. It was agreed that the newsletter had been well received and that it should be continued, with clubs asked if they wanted anything about their club to feature.

Any club wishing to have pieces include in the January, February, and March newsletters should send their copy to the president – photos to support submissions would be appreciated.

Tea Awards

Mr Dykes, the donor of the awards, would be unable to attend the pre-season meeting of clubs where the awards are presented and wondered whether they might be presented at the presentation evening.

Resolved: The tea awards are best presented at the pre-season meeting.

League Website

Further advances had been made in loading information onto the League website, in particular a significant amount of obituaries from the last decade with supporting photographs were now available to be viewed under the history button.

The president asked for views on whether a member clubs summary should be included as an additional item of value and interest, this to incorporate a page per club which would include a photograph of the ground, club logo, address of the ground, direct link to the club website and a brief written history of the club. The meeting agreed this would be a worthwhile project and the president should pursue this with Steve Charlton.

The president advised the meeting of the current website statistics which showed that on current usage the site has around 1 million views per year, and with the ECB recently indicating that there were further significant improvements planned for Play-Cricket platforms in the next 12 months, these two factors combined demonstrated the value of the League's continued commitment to this medium.

Club Aide Memoire

To be forwarded to clubs with the minutes.

This is a crucial aid to club administration and should be read by all appropriate officials with key dates for action noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on Wednesday 21st February.