



THE GORDON RIGG BRADFORD PREMIER LEAGUE



Management Board Meeting
Tuesday 9th August ,2022 at Hanging Heaton
ATTENDEE David Young (President) Mark Heald (Chairman), Chris Leathley (Secretary), Alan Birkinshaw (CEO), Mick Varley (Treasurer), Philip Radcliffe (Cricket Operations), Brian Pearson (Clubs Rep), Neil Johnson (MOA), Lee Birkinshaw (Safeguarding), Bill Holmes (Marketing & Sponsorship) Peter Arundel.
1. APOLOGIES , Chris Marsden(Players Rep), Bob Schofield(Clubs Rep), Naz Hussain(EDI)
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Agreed and approved
3. MATTERS ARISING None
4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MH asked for update on all actions from previous meeting• MH stated he intends to look at the current format of the agenda for future meetings
5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AB reported the following from the recent ECB Premier League's Chairman's meeting held at Lords. Governance:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECB would like all Premier Leagues to conform with the Sport England Code for Sport Governance which sets the size of management boards to 12. The board needs to be diverse, with women, members of different communities and young people. It should also look at the skills that are needed and be aware of succession planning. Boards of Premier Leagues currently vary from 12 to 26. It is felt that boards with more than 12 members become ineffective with too many voices and not enough people performing the required actions. Premier Leagues have to report in September on how to improve diversity and board size can be part of that debate. Action: AB with board members as required• Clubmark:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Of 624 clubs in the top two divisions of Premier Leagues 492 have had their Clubmark applications approved. There are 93 pending with small issues to be resolved. If any are rejected, they will have the right of appeal.• The final list of accredited clubs will be forwarded to leagues before the end of the season.• Accreditation is for three years. Clubs will need to update details on the Safe Hands portal whenever there is a change. Action: CL with SA to continue dialogue with BPL clubs as required• Clubs will not lose Clubmark if they are not up to date with SHMS but leagues are encouraged to incorporate SHMS compliance along with Clubmark to reinforce the importance of Safe hands.• The ECB are working on a downloadable certificate to celebrate the award of Clubmark, and leagues encouraged to celebrate clubs achieving Clubmark through their websites. Action: CL to notify/congratulate clubs once informed by SA• The ECB want all Premier Leagues to insist on Clubmark for their top two divisions from 2024. Through our persistence we are a year ahead.• We are urged to encourage clubs in lower divisions to attain Clubmark. There will be far less applications nationally making it less onerous on the likes of Steve Archer. Action: CL to identify and notify our remaining 18 clubs and encourage to begin the process over the coming winter.• Junior Compliance:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was a consensus that the current standard of three hard ball teams is not in step with the current challenges for clubs. Across the 29 Premier Leagues there were 49 clubs in the top two divisions who didn't have three teams in 2021. Twelve of those are in the BPL. There was a feeling that All Stars, Dynamoes, girls' teams and soft ball sides should be considered but that the measurement should be on participation, inclusion and growing the game.• There will be a further discussion on this at the Autumn regional meetings Action : AB to monitor

- Discussion with Paul Bedford and ECB director Jim Wood about the BPL situation with operating in a confined geographical area. Jim Wood, from Devon, stated they have similar issues with clubs not having the required three teams.
- Devon Premier League liked the BPL wording of a sustained commitment to junior cricket and agree that there is scope for regional variations.
- That commitment should include a mix of hardball and other offerings and needs to be defined.
- Paul Bedford wants to visit Yorkshire and develop the idea along with AB, Chris West and Steve Archer.
- For the moment the majority of Premier Leagues give clubs one year to correct any shortfall then relegate if the target is not achieved.
- Junior cricket must be promoted, and participation increased. It was agreed that junior cricket is essential for a healthy and thriving club.

Managed Migration:

- There are 15 players under investigation but none from our league.

Discipline:

- We are one of the 16 Premier Leagues recording our disciplinary findings on Play Cricket, There is a review of the General Conduct Regulations being carried out by ECB and a revised version of the code will be issued before next season. The summary process was praised but the late and hurried implementation of the GCR created an administrative headache for leagues. The ECB want to extend it to all leagues.

Umpiring:

- The ECB have a new head of officiating who wants to grow numbers and establish a development pathway from grassroots to First Class for umpires and scorers. They want to have more observers to improve standards and they want no roadblocks to progress.
- It is important a targeted approach is used to ensure the best umpires get the best games.
- It was felt by ECB that producing appointments for months in advance stifled the objectives of progression and matching the best umpires to the best games.
- A better education programme is needed with more in-season courses to develop playcraft rather than obsessing on the details of every law.
- Managing the players and the game are core skills which need strengthening.
- Leagues were encouraged to reflect on training and assessment as part of their plans for recruiting new umpires which must be done by the end of September.

Pitch Marks:

- It was agreed that pitch marks are currently an unreliable source of data on which to base any real conclusions.
- Better training of umpires was seen as one area that could bring about improvement and the ECB have agreed to work on making the data more usable and informed for leagues.

Injury surveillance:

- Premier Leagues were reminded that use of this by clubs is a PRP objective. Philip Radcliffe has written to clubs this week to remind them how to record injuries.

Inflation:

- This is going to put clubs, particularly the smaller ones, at risk. Heating, cricket balls, ground maintenance, umpires' fees, travel and food costs were highlighted as some of the areas of concern. Leagues asked to monitor and highlight any serious issues that arise.

Sustainability:

- ECB are issuing guidance and there are grants for projects which reduce the impact on the environment. These include recycling rainwater for irrigation, car sharing when travelling to matches and eliminating the use of single use plastic.

EDI:

- It is crucial that the steps already taken become longer strides. It is essential that cricket is an inclusive sport that embraces diversity with no discrimination.
- The ECB are promoting their Raising The Game initiative which is aimed at creating a better cricketing world around us.

- Premier Leagues were warned to brace themselves for a turbulent Autumn when the report of the Independent Cricket Commission is published and is expected to have strong criticism of past practices and recommendations for changes across the game.

Alternative presentation events:

- A presentation was made by Dean Morrison of Lasswho, a company launched in the pandemic, to provide speakers for events from anywhere in the world without them needing to be there. They have top cricketers such as Eoin Morgan, Simon Doull and David Gower and you simply book them for say a 20-minute spot and it is delivered digitally to the event. The cost of David Gower for example starts at £180, a big saving on an in-person appearance. Even if he was in Pakistan he could still speak to the dinner. Blended events are becoming more and more common. You can take a look at what it is all about at www.lasswho.com

AB then suggested the following :

- Management Boards to develop and to be made up of 12 in number and be fully inclusive and embrace diversity.
- ECB state the Clubmark accreditation is to be for 3 years and Premier Leagues now have until 2024 to fulfil Clubmark compliance which places the BPL not only 'ahead of the requirements' but also time to discuss and encourage the remaining 18 clubs in Division 2 and 3 to achieve Clubmark by 2024.
- AB emphasised that a club without Juniors is an 'unhealthy club'
- The BPL has a 'clean bill of health' in relation to 'managed migration'
- AB proposed we accept the offer of Jer Lane CC playing at Park Avenue – DY to speak with Lord Patel and BP to speak with Omars CC. Ongoing.
- CM has circulated a summary paper of the Players survey to the Management Board for their information and consideration

6. CRICKET OPERATIONS UPDATE PR

- PR reported that fixtures affected by Eid have been rearranged except for Bankfoot v New Farnley CC which was postponed due to the return of travellers to the proximity of the Bankfoot CC ground.
- Battershaw St Pauls now playing Bowling Old Lane on another date.
- Wakefield St Michael's CC have conceded their 2ndXI fixture with Keighley CC due to insufficient players available
- Registration and Transfer deadline date has now passed
- PR reported that one club had attempted to 'loan' a player when he had played all the games, which in effect meant this application was 'a transfer' and not a 'loan' – application denied.
- PR has now passed on all the relevant financial papers/documents to MV
- Clubs beginning to ask about player eligibility for 2ndXI games with the approach of the 'last four games' rule.
- Bankfoot v New Farnley 2ndXI Premier fixture – the Board considered the request from New Farnley(John Baldwin) to reverse the venue of the fixture. Request denied and PR/CL to notify New Farnley CC.

7. SECRETARY REPORT

Compliance

- CL provided an excel sheet which shows dates when our clubs achieved Clubmark accreditation or reaccreditation as provided by Steve Archer.

Premier Clubs still not accredited

- Batley: Just waiting for Billy to email me a copy of the club accounts, no concerns, he is aware and dealing with it.
- Farsley: Still awaiting Matthew Lumb's DBS, last communicated this to the club on 21st July.

Division One clubs still not accredited

- Keighley: This is a system error as CSO Jonathan Coppen is compliant, but system shows not, this will be resolved.

Division 2 clubs still not accredited but could possibly be in a promotion place

- Hopton Mills CC

Clubs operating junior teams during 2022 season, kindly collated by PR.

- CL submitted to Management Board a spreadsheet which shows 2021 and 2022 junior team entries.
- For 2022 columns are also included for Under 9 and Under 18, in addition to U11, U13 , U15 as this is the full global picture of Junior Cricket played within the League..

- There are no girls only teams included at the moment. PR will also add where teams play at an age group in more than one league

Junior Leagues competed in by our member clubs include

Bradford Junior League
 Heavy Woollen Junior League
 Leeds Wetherby Junior League
 Wakefield Junior League
 Upper Airedale Junior League
 Aire Wharfe Junior League
 Halifax Junior League

Update from Keighley CC Chairman Mr Max Davidson

- Email received from Keighley Chairman, confirming actions taken with the thanks from Keighley for the way in which the matter had been conducted by BPL Management Board

Meeting with Buttershaw St Pauls

- Chris Marsden, Mick Varley and Chris Leathley to meet with Chairman and Sec of Buttershaw St Pauls (re recent issues relating to 1st XI player conduct and 4 MOA refusing to officiate at B. St. P.) on Monday 8th August and will report outcome to Management Board on Tuesday 9th August.

Information from Jer Lane CC

- Jer Lane CC informed the League of their recent actions in an attempt to overcome the difficulties encountered this year with their local neighbours and in preparation for their impending promotion to the Premier Division. Ongiong
 Action: NH/AB in communications with Jer Lane as required.

Trophy returns required from the following clubs.

- 1st XI and 2nd XI Champions trophies now returned to Pennine except one outstanding from Jer Lane CC. **Action:** CL/BP to chase

Annual Dinner

- **Action:** CL/MV to finalise details of the contract for this years Annual Dinner on Friday November 18.
- Fiona Bishop at Headingley is provisionally holding Friday November 17th for next years Dinner, subject to me confirming or cancelling after our August meeting. Agreed to release the date. **Action:** CL to notify Fiona Bishop

Cup Final Guest invitations

- Invitations to the Priestley Cup Final have gone out. Final numbers to be given to New Farnley no later than Wednesday August 10.
- Invitations to the 40th Jack Hampshire Cup Final on Sunday 21st August and the Priestley Shield Final at Hartshead Moor CC on Sept 4 will go out on Sun August 7 and 21st respectively.

8 TREASURER REPORT

- Current Bank Balances total £82K.
- Debtors outstanding £2650. Nobody has paid yet for Website Advertising. I have sent reminders twice. **Action:** Bill Holmes is now chasing them.
 Suggest we pull all unpaid adverts off website until paid and going forward we should not show any advertising until agreed amounts paid.
- No Expenses outstanding.
 All trophies paid for (£2250).
 Sound system, Priestley Cup Final banner and a dozen new polo shirts again all paid for.
- ECB Funding received £8K.

Phil Allen.

- Agreed to pay £100 per month from September 2022 until his current loans are paid which is December 2023. He will then get a new loan to pay us all outstanding monies.

9. MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP REPORT

Sponsorship & Marketing

6 advertisers including all 5 website banner advertisers have yet to pay. Outstanding fees total £2,650

BH has emailed all six and chased them up for payment given we are approaching the season's end.

MV informed BH me that Gordon Rigg sales total £1,116.54 from 9 clubs. Given over 25% of this figure comes from purchases by Board members it is very clear that clubs are not supporting our main sponsor and that we need to decide what we need to do to encourage clubs and individuals to travel to Todmorden to boost this figure.

Discipline

- BH reported the unacceptable level of disciplinary cases reported and actioned. It may get worse before it gets better as BH is encouraging umpires to make reports should they be faced with misconduct during the game. Hopefully the message will get through over time and that, if players step out of line, the disciplinary process will click in and bans will follow.
- BH has also issued cautions to 2 clubs for failing to control their spectators with another 3 ongoing. This is part of the ECB General Conduct Regulations that the BPL have signed up to and reflected in our Disrepute policy, page 8 of the League Handbook.
- BH not sure how clubs can address this regulation, given the social aspect of a number of our clubs. **Action:** BH to approach YCB and/or ECB for guidance as to how clubs should be deal with “lively” people watching the game (not necessarily interested in cricket) given clubs “shall be held responsible for disorderly behaviour on any part of the cricket ground on any match day”.
- Discussion re conduct of Hanging Heaton CC players and spectators. In line with other cases the club are to be contacted and informed their Club Chairman and Secretary are required to meet with three members of the Management Board to discuss. **Action:** CL to contact HHCC Chairman John Carruthers to arrange a meeting with board members

10. EDI REPORT

- No report submitted but to confirm the organisation of an EDI panel is ongoing
Action: NH to update AB as required

11. AOB

- BP brought notice to the Management Board that Woodlands 2ndXI have been removed from the Crowther Cup competition for the playing of an ineligible player due to an administrative error.
- BP apologised for the error which was accepted and noted.
- Email received from Scholes CC Captain re appointment of umpires to their recent fixture with Liversedge CC
Action: Neil Johnson to contact Scholes Captain.
- Chairman MH thanked all board members for their efforts.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.10pm
- Date of next Meeting Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.30pm at Hanging Heaton CC