

2014 AGM Minutes of Meeting held on 4 December 2014.

Sellers International Huddersfield Junior Cricket League

At Kirkheaton Cricket Club

1. Attendance and apologies

A roll call of clubs was taken. Clubs not represented were: Armitage Bridge, Delph and Lepton.

2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM

The minutes of the 2013 AGM were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's report.

Mr Senior welcomed everyone to the meeting including our guest Ian Dews, Director of Cricket Development at Yorkshire Cricket Club. The Chairman thanked all sponsors, executive committee members, representative team managers and the Huddersfield Examiner for their efforts on behalf of the League. He asked all clubs to support our sponsors who provide vital financial assistance to the League and he was pleased to announce that Sellers International had agreed to continue their sponsorship for the 2015 season.

Mr Senior expressed his appreciation to all clubs that had offered their facilities for meetings and had hosted representative fixtures to a high standard. The number of players (both male and female) who had represented their district and county, and the success of our representative teams was a tribute to the hard work and support shown by coaches and managers at both club and League level.

Mr Senior reported that the League had no disciplinary meetings for the last three seasons. He hoped this excellent record would continue and asked all clubs to ensure the highest standard of behaviour amongst players and spectators.

There had been problems with the website during 2014 but Lee Booth was working hard to resolve these and he was thanked for his work on this.

The vast majority of results had been submitted on time but there had been significant problems at under 11 level. Mr Senior urged all clubs to ensure that results were submitted on schedule as this enabled current league tables to be produced and reduced the time spent by officials chasing up the missing information.

5. Secretary's report.

Mr Thorpe stated that the HJCL had 161 entries from 36 clubs for the 2015 season (161 teams finished the 2014 season, an increase of 21 on 2011). This was very commendable in view of the recent ECB survey that showed numbers participating in cricket during 2014 were 7% down from 2013. In 2014 10 clubs (11 in 2013) won at least one league or cup trophy. Mirfield have withdrawn in 2015 citing problems due to distances travelled to games.

Approximately 27% of the league fixtures were abandoned due to bad weather (10% in 2013). The under 13 section was particularly badly hit with almost half of their scheduled games being cancelled.

The League under 15 team won the Yorkshire Junior Cricket Festival and there were individual awards for Jack Hinchliffe (Bowling), Siraj Sajid (All Rounder) and Nathan Jones (Man of the Match in Final). Nathan scored 100, 203 and 147 in successive innings, a remarkable achievement. The under 13 team lost by 14 runs in their semi final, the under 11 team failed to progress beyond the group stage. The Joe Lumb team were relegated to Division 2, particularly disappointing was the late withdrawal of players in the last two games which disrupted the team. There were further individual awards for Harry Finch (under 11 batting) and Harry Quarmbury (under 13 batting). The under 9 team played friendlies and the under 10 team lost in the final of their competition. Mr Thorpe thanked the managers and coaches of the representative teams for their time and commitment.

20 clubs have nominated 131 players for the 2015 representative teams. Any clubs that haven't nominated players on their entry forms and still wish to do so should provide nominations direct to the team manager with contact details for the player. The under 9-age group are most short of nominations.

Mr Thorpe reported that the League had received excellent support from umpires of both the Drakes and Central Leagues who had supported junior cricket by officiating at representative games and cup semi finals and finals.

The number of girls playing cricket is increasing and the Secretary asked clubs to give them opportunities to play by actively encouraging them to join clubs. The League has a good number of girls playing at West Yorkshire or County level, where Yorkshire are very strong, but we could have more and clubs should ensure suitable players are put forward for consideration at these levels.

Entry forms for the 2015 season are still outstanding for several clubs. Mr Thorpe urged clubs to forward these as soon as possible. Any changes to coach/manager details should also be sent to the Secretary.

Several teams withdrew from the League in 2014 after the fixtures for the season had been agreed and some teams failed to fulfil scheduled fixtures during the season. This has a major impact on the remaining teams and the Secretary urged clubs to keep the League Executive Committee informed if they had any doubts about their ability to raise a team in 2015.

Mr Thorpe concluded by thanking, on behalf of the League, all our clubs for their support and promoting of junior cricket. He also thanked the Chairman and Executive

Committee who do a vast amount of work 'behind the scenes' to ensure the smooth running of the League.

6. Treasurer's report.

Mr Rothery presented the accounts for the period from 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2014. These included a summary of income and expenditure and further analysis for each age group. He thanked Sellers International, Drakes Huddersfield League and the Huddersfield Umpires association for their generous sponsorship.

The balance in hand of £9861 compared with £8659 at the start of the year. The surplus of £1202 compared with a surplus of £1283 in 2013 and a deficit of £1347 in 2012. The balance of £9861 represented approximately 15 months of expenditure, which was considered a reasonable ratio. The prize money for winning teams was increased from £85 to £100.

Mr Rothery proposed that subscriptions for 2015 are to be £25 per team (each team at under 9 receives 3 windballs and under 11/13 teams receive 3 junior cricket balls). The meeting unanimously agreed the subscriptions for 2015 and that the accounts be adopted. The Treasurer was thanked for his work during 2014.

7. Child welfare report.

The meeting was reminded that all coaches, managers and volunteers involved with children had to be CRB checked and it was each club's responsibility to ensure this happened. Forms are available from Mr R Peaker and it is anticipated that he and Mr Senior will be available prior to the season to sign off forms. Clubs must have a Child Welfare Officer registered with their Senior League.

8. Proposed rule changes for 2015.

The proposal to amend rule 4a, under 13 to read: Morning matches to start by 9.30am, *and no match shall be called off before 8am* was defeated by 15 votes to 10.

The proposal to change the format of the under 11 cup to that employed in under 13 league fixtures was unanimously defeated.

9. Entries for 2015 season.

Completed entry forms were still required from some clubs and these should be sent to the Secretary and Chris Hinks as soon as possible. There would be no penalty if teams withdrew before January 1, which is the date when fixture planning will commence. All changes to manager details must be received by 1 February to meet the deadline for the 2015 handbook. Mr Hinks was thanked for his continuing work in producing the League's handbook.

10. Election of officers.

All officers are willing to stand again. The meeting unanimously re-elected the executive committee on that basis. There are vacancies for an under 11 Secretary and under 15/17 Results Secretary (interested, to contact Chairman).

11. Development League

This was initially raised at the 2013 AGM. Discussion again took place about the possibility of a 'Development League' where teams would play fewer matches, avoiding school holidays and starting later in the season (no clashes with football). The meeting had no objection to this if sufficient teams were interested.

It was suggested that teams should be able to name more than 11 players for a game if they had additional players available (only 11 to bat/field). There were no objections to this.

12. County pathways.

Mr Ian Dews, Director of Cricket Development at Yorkshire County Cricket Club attended the meeting and gave an interesting and informative talk about possible changes to the county pathway structure. It was expected that the number of bronze pathway centres would increase from 9 to 16 and the gold pathway would accept 40 cricketers in two sets. The gold pathway would be run by county coaches and could possibly have 10 players from each of 4 age groups and 5 players from 4 other age groups.

There was also discussion about the pros and cons of county players competing in the Joe Lumb and Yorkshire Junior Cricket Festival.

Mr Dews was thanked for taking time out from his busy schedule at Yorkshire to inform the League about the proposed developments in the County for young cricketers.

13. Any other business.

An update on coaching courses provided by the Huddersfield Association of Cricket Coaches was given to the meeting. There would be courses suitable for both parents and club coaches/managers. Details are available on the association's website.

14. Date of the 2015 AGM.

This will take place at Kirkheaton Cricket Club on Thursday 3 December with a 7.30pm start.

David Thorpe.