



Yorkshire Cricket Southern Premier League

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League Executive Board

33rd meeting – Monday 29 January 2024 – 7.00pm by Zoom

Note of meeting

Present: David Ward (chairman), Terry Bateman, Ashley Boothman, Chris Froggett, Mel Mahmood, Lindsay Pepper, Roger Pugh, Matt Summerhill, Nelson Windle

Apologies: Steve Ward

1. **Welcome & apologies.** RP said that there had been apologies from SW (running a scorers' course).
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** No matters arising that were not on the agenda.
3. **Reports from Members**
 - i. *Equity & Diversity Group representative's report.* NW referred to the update in Premier Section meeting notes attached (appendix 1), and there were no matters arising. GD complimented the project at Caribbean Sports to improve the facilities.
 - ii. *Safeguarding Managers' report*
 - LP voiced concerns, on behalf of SW and herself, about the decision to remove the need for scorers to have DBS checks. After discussion, it was agreed that it was clubs' responsibility to manage the situation, and that the League would provide as much guidance to clubs as possible. The issue of policing the rules would be discussed at the next meeting. **RP to include the ECB guidance in the next bulletin.**
 - LP said that the close season Safeguarding courses are now well underway.
 - iii. *Treasurer's report*
 - AB had provided a financial report – attached at appendix 2.
 - GD asked if AB had received any information on YCB subs. AB said not, and GD said he would follow up. **GD to ensure that AB is sent the necessary information.**
 - DW said that enquiries about the ECB performance-related payment had ascertained that the payment has been made, but not to the right account. ECB are following up.
 - iv. *Participation Manager's report.* MM had provided a report – attached at appendix 3. GD commented on how well women's and girls' cricket is going in South Yorkshire.
 - v. *Umpires' representative's report.* TB said that three umpires' refresher courses had been arranged and the first went very well. He complimented Philip Hulme, who was the course trainer.
 - vi. *Scoring Manager's report.* SW had provided a report – attached at appendix 4. There were no matters arising.
 - vii. *Premier Section report.* RP had provided the notes of the PSC meeting the week before – attached at appendix 1. He said there were no matters he wanted to discuss that were not on the agenda.
 - viii. *Senior Section report.* DW had provided the notes of the meeting from the week before – attached at appendix 5. There were no matters arising.

- ix. *Compliance Manager's report.* CF referred to the fine-tuning of the admin rule relating to refugees and asylum seekers, to reflect the new ECB guidance that an asylum seeker who had played as a professional within the previous four years could now be treated as an amateur. He was currently dealing with the usual club queries at this time of year, about the qualification and status of overseas players.
- x. *Competitions Manager's report.* MS said that there were seven outstanding fixture rearrangements, and reminders had been issued to the clubs
- xi. *Chairmans'/ECB update.* DW said that he had attended the PLMB AGM at Headingley on 18 January and reported back on two issues in particular:
- It had been decided that the PLMB would be disbanded as it was no longer serving a purpose; the YCB would rule on club movement issues;
 - the future of the play-offs had been discussed, and delegates had been asked to feedback to Alan Birkinshaw whether their clubs wanted these to continue; RP said that clubs had been asked this question a year ago, and they wanted the play-offs to continue then, and that the PS committee remained of that of the same view;
 - RP also said that the committee were also of the view that if the play-offs continue, as the PLMB was being disbanded, a small committee should be set up to organise them, comprising one representative from each league;
 - DW added that, subsequent to the meeting, GD was confirmed as being the YCB representative on our LEB, as Ian Cotterhill is now the chairman of the YCB.
- xii. *YCB update.* GD reported on two main items:
- A serious situation has arisen at Handsworth JSC, where the groundsman has sprayed the ground with the wrong kind of weedkiller, and has killed all the grass. It is very doubtful whether cricket will be played on the ground in 2024. GD has met with the council to look for alternative venues, but it is unlikely that anywhere can be found that will meet the required standard. ECB are sending a pitch inspector to advise on possible action. GD referred to the good work that the club are doing with All Stars and juniors, and did not want to see this lost.
 - Clubs with Clubmark will have four areas that need addressing by 30 April to fulfil the club mark and he was very pleased with progress so far. The areas are;
 - the Safe Hands Management System is a fair and accurate reflection of the size of the club
 - AGM Minutes from October 2023 onwards to be uploaded
 - evidence of valid and up to date insurance (Public/Employee Liability) – if the club is not on the ECB Central Scheme with Howdens insurance
 - upload a signed safeguarding policy for club's statement.
4. **Club communications.** RP said that the 2024 club information sheets had been issued. The clubs were being asked whom they wanted communications sending to, and the generic email and bulletin lists would be updated.
5. **Code of Sports Governance.** RP clarified that the nine-year restriction on time in office applied to members of a league's main decision-making body, in our case, the LEB. He said that the nine-year term started from when the individual the initially took up their role, and that they could not simply take a year's break and return in a different role. He emphasised that whilst the ECB had decided that Premier League clubs must sign up to the Code as a condition of receiving funding, they had not set the specific requirements, such as the 'nine-year' rule.
- RP said that he thought there were a number of things that we now need to do:
- look critically at the roles currently on the LEB and decide whether they actually need to be LEB roles – if not, they can be removed and thus allow the position-holder to continue to serve the League in that capacity
 - for the roles that must be on the LEB, for example, the two Section heads, we need to pro-actively look at succession planning, so that when an officer had to stand down from the LEB, we have a suitable candidate primed to take over
- MS said that we need a small working party to look at the issue and make proposals. This was agreed. **DW/RP to take forward.**

6. **Cup draws.** MS said that following feedback from a small number of clubs about the need to advise ground availability to other leagues, he proposed that the cup draws should be done at the AGM. It was agreed that these would be done prior to the AGM starting, so that if people were interested in seeing the draws done, they could arrive early. RP offered to assist MS with the organisation.
7. **Delegates to the YCB Committee of Representatives.** Following Maurice Gilliatt's decision to stand down from this role, DW proposed that AB should take his place, alongside Melvyn Bond. AB agreed to fill the vacancy on an interim basis.
8. **Match photography.** RP said that John Hobson, who did the photography for the umpiring video and the presentation dinner, has asked if he could be recognised as the League's official photographer and do matchday photography for us. RP said that he had a vested interest in this, because Kirsty and he enjoy doing Saturday matchday photography and posting the results on the league website. He did, however, feel that John Hobson could be engaged to do all cup finals and the T20 finals day, that Kirsty and he could not commit to. John Hobson said that his normal rate for this work would be £150, but that he could offer a discounted rate to the League. It was agreed that the existing Saturday arrangements should continue, but that it could be beneficial to engage a photographer for cup finals. CF suggested that we need to investigate what the going rate would be, before signing up with John Hobson. **RP to take forward.**
9. **Other business**
 - i. *Sponsorship*
 - RP said that Jimmy Pearson at S20 The Boundary had asked if he could sponsor a cup or division in the League, and had offered £250. It was agreed that he could be offered the President's Cup on a short-term deal. **RP to take forward.**
 - MS said that he thought that the league was underselling itself and that we need to try and get as much money in from sponsorship as possible to minimise what clubs need to pay in subs. He said that he thought we need to form a small sub-committee to take forward and that there must be people in the League who have sales or promotional backgrounds who may be able to help or advise. **RP to arrange a bulletin item to ask for volunteers.**
 - ii. *Cup-ties interrupted by weather.* DW & RP proposed that the cup rules be changed to allow the same rules used in league games to be used to determine the number of overs lost in cup-ties. This simplification will go some way towards addressing concerns expressed by umpires about rules complexity. This was agreed. RP to amend.
 - iii. *T20 Charity Challenge game.* Andrew Ivill at Elsecar has asked the League to endorse a charity T20 game to be played at Elsecar CC for the benefit of the Weston Park Hospital. He would like the game to be between a YCSPL XI and a Bradford League XI, and has already negotiated for coloured kits to be provided. This was agreed; the League will also provide match balls and pay for umpires. **RP to advise Andrew and be the point of contact in the YCSPL.**
 - iv. *Vice-chairman.* DW said that he did not currently have a deputy, and nominated RP as League vice-chairman. This was agreed.
 - v. *Wadworth CC.* MS said that the club had agreed at an emergency meeting to put in an application to join the YCSPL.
 - vi. *Newbery cricket balls.* DW said that he had been sent some trial balls by Newbery which we will try out in the coming season.
 - vii. *Administration.* DW referred to two further instances of poor administration at one club, and said that he was losing patience. A points deduction might have to be considered. **RP said that he would speak to the vice-chairman at the club.**
10. **Closure.** The meeting closed at 8.40pm. The next meeting will be by Zoom on Monday 26 February (7.00pm).

Premier Section Cricket Committee

16th meeting – Wednesday 24th January 2024 – 7.30pm by Zoom

Note of Meeting

Present: Roger Pugh (chair), Jason Booth, Chris Froggett, Mick Forrester, Alex Fletcher, Bryan Lowe, Steve Ward
 Apologies: Mark Beardshall, Nick Kendall

1. **Welcome & apologies.** Apologies were received from Mark Beardshall (delayed at work) and Nick Kendall (conflicting club meeting).
2. **Matters arising from last meeting.** RP said that there were no matters arising not already covered by the agenda.
3. **Equity & Diversity update.** JB gave an update as follows:
 - the work of the group had paused recently, due in part to changes in his personal circumstances
 - over the period in which the group had been in operation, Milton Samuels, Nelson Windle and himself have shouldered most of the work and have been largely disappointed with the lack of response from others; they felt that some of the others have wanted to be members of the group without the realisation of what it really entailed and the commitment required
 - the plan now is to advertise for new membership, to ensure representation not just from the race perspective, but the other diversity characteristics within the League; an advert is being prepared
 - the group will then work with Gareth Davis and Mo Mohammed at the YCB, to align the group's work with the response to the ICEC report
 - one issue being considered is the recommendation that there should be an E&D lead in each of the clubs, in order to improve accountability
4. **Overseas players.** CF followed up on two issues raised at the last meeting:
 - i. The promised rule amendment on asylum seekers has been made, in line with new ECB guidance that an asylum seeker, who has in the last four years played as a professional, can now be treated as an amateur. CF also clarified that once an asylum seeker was given refugee status, they were deemed ordinarily resident in the country and would no longer be treated as an overseas player.
 - ii. The promised rule change to permit a replacement overseas player when the contracted overseas player unexpectedly returns home early has been included in circumstances as follows:
 - where a team's registered overseas player has to return home earlier than had originally been agreed between the player and the relevant club at the time when he was registered;
 - where the return was requested by his club in the country in which he normally plays, in order to play or prepare for a first class, A List or T20 competition sanctioned by the governing body in an ICC Full member country;
 - where the replacement player will be registered by the end of business on 14 August; *and*
 - satisfactory supporting evidence of the above is provided to the Compliance Manager and approved by the Head of Premier Section.
5. **Officials recruitment.** RP said that a letter has now gone to all clubs, asking them to nominate a contact person within their club with whom we can liaise on officials' recruitment activity. In order to support activity, a recruitment video has been produced, a flyer for reproduction or use on electronic media is being prepared, and a menu of recommended recruitment activity will be made available prior to the start of the season. RP stressed the importance of this activity against a background of Premier Section clubs being accused of lack of interest in recruitment of officials, and the need for club recruitment activity to be assessed.
6. **Play-Cricket checking.** MF has volunteered to take on the responsibility of checking Premier Section results on Play-Cricket, following the sad passing of Kevin Motley, who had previously undertaken this work. RP thanked MF for agreeing to take on this important role. **RP to advise Melvyn Bond.**
7. **Finals days.** SW confirmed the arrangements for Premier Section finals days as below, and said that discussions have now been opened with the host clubs:
 - Area T20 Blast finals – Doncaster Town CC
 - Whitworth Cup final – Sprotbrough CC
 - K3 Dental KO Cup final – Barnsley Woolley M CC
 - T20 finals – Cawthorne CC

8. **Cup-tie start times.** RP said that there had been an approach from the W&GL to allow start times in Sunday cup-ties to be put back to accommodate morning W&GL games. DW and RP had discussed and were of the view that this could be done by agreement with both clubs for Senior Section cup-ties, but not for the K3 Dental or Whitworth Cup games, which are our most prestigious cup games, save that Whitworth games could be put back to 12.30 in line with the K3 Dental. This was agreed. **RP to include in forthcoming bulletin.**
9. **Cup-ties interrupted by the weather.** SW had asked RP to produce a simple guide to DLS for scorers and umpires who will have to deal with it for the first time this season. RP had noted that the rules on deducting overs in the ECB generic 40-over playing conditions was very loose, and needed clarification. He had suggested to DW that we should align cup-ties with what we do in league games, which would be simpler for all concerned. DW agreed in principle subject to LEB approval. The committee agreed this approach. **RP to take proposal to LEB.**
10. **Premier Leagues Management Board.** RP reported that DW & MB went to the PLMB AGM last week and fed back as follows:
 - i. There is a proposal to discontinue the championship play-offs at the end of the season, and leagues were asked to consider and report their wishes back to Alan Birkinshaw. Asked about the rationale behind this, RP said that he understood that the relevance of the play-offs had been questioned, and there was a feeling that the September Saturdays could be used for league games, to the benefit of all clubs. AF said that he had spoken to a prominent player in one of the other leagues, who knew nothing of this, and was keen that the play-offs continue. The committees' view was that since we canvassed our clubs on this issue a year ago, and they wanted the play-offs to continue, that should remain our position. The committee felt that the other leagues should also consult their players.
 - ii. RP reported that it is the intention to disband the PLMB, its role being taken over by the YCB. RP said that it has not met since the previous AGM in early 2023, and that its primary role is to manage the play-offs. It was agreed that if the play-offs continue, and there is no PLMB, there needs to be a small committee to manage them in as transparent way, with representation from each league.
 - iii. SW asked about the balance of the funds paid by leagues to the PLMB, and whether this would be shared out. **RP to feed back on above at next week's LEB.**
11. **Premier Section restructure.** RP referred to the proposals to restructure the Premier Section made in 2023. He said that there was clearly some division on this issue, so he wanted to flag it up as an issue for full debate at our next meeting. The following comments were made:
 - i. RP explained the rationale behind the proposals as being to improve playing standards and competitiveness amongst our top clubs, to put them on par with the top clubs in the country. CF added that reduction to ten-club divisions would also enable other formats, in particular T20, to be played on Saturdays, thereby responding to the wishes of players for less Sunday cricket.
 - ii. MF said that he knew that players from another Premier League had said they were envious of the competitiveness in our league, and that he inclined to the 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' view. This was supported by JB and AF.
 - iii. CF said that he believed that there were a number of other things that we can do in order to improve standards.
 - iv. **RP asked members to think and talk to others about the issue, and agreed to table a full discussion at our next meeting.**
12. **Umpires fees.** MF asked about umpires' fees and RP undertook to clarify. **RP to include in feedback from the meeting.**
13. **DBS for scorers.** SW raised his concerns that DBS checks for scorers were to be discontinued. This is an ECB decision, following legal advice. He had spoken to Lindsay Pepper, as League Safeguarding Officer, who shared his concerns, and who would raise the issue at next week's LEB.
14. **Umpires' refresher courses.** BL said that three courses had been arranged, for all South Yorkshire umpires, as follows:
 - 27 January (10.00-15.00) at Elsecar CC
 - 18 February (10.00-15.00) at Elsecar CC
 - 2 March (10.00-15.00) at Tickhill CC
15. **Close.** The meeting closed at 9.00pm. The next meeting is arranged for Wednesday 20 March, face-to-face at Shaw Lane Sports Club, Barnsley (7.30pm).



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Financial statement January 2024

Year to date income & expenditure

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Ball sales	-	Ball costs	-
Clothing sales	-	Banking services	20.00
Disciplinary hearing costs	167.40	Clothing	-
ECB monies	-	Communications	283.16
Handbook adverts	-	Cup finals/finals days-Catering Costs	-
Interest at bank	104.19	Digital Laptop Scoring	-
Penalties	5,567.00	Disciplinary hearing costs	142.40
Presentation evening tickets 2023	11,126.10	Donation	-
Sponsorship	1,000.00	ECB monies to clubs	-
Subscriptions	-	Electronic media	1,800.00
		Entertaining at cup finals/finals days	-
		Honoraria	1,800.00
		Insurance	-
		Payment Refunds	-
		Phone & broadband costs	-
		Presentation evening 2023 costs	11,372.34
		Presentation evening 2024 costs	500.00
		Professional Services	200.00
		Representative Match(s) costs	-
		Room hire	25.00
		Stationery & printing	804.75
		SYCUA	885.00
		Training costs(Rule 59,60)	30.00
		Travel costs	82.40
		Trophies & medals Annual Awards	5,438.91
		Trophies & Medals -Cup finals/finals day	-
		YCB fees	-
		YPLMB subscription	-
Total	17,964.69	Total	23,383.96
Excess income over expenditure	(5,419.57)		

Development Fund

Income	£	Expenditure	£
c/f	2,844.40	Grants	-
ECB monies			
less expenditure	400.00		
Available balance	2,444.40	Total	-

Balance sheet

Current a/c at 30 September 2023	32,027.67
Deposit a/c at 30 September 2023	24,776.69
Excess income o/expend to date	(5,419.57)
Total	51,384.79

Represented by

Current account	26,471.91
Savings account (inc Dev't Fund)	24,480.88
Total	51,384.79

Ashley Boothman
Treasurer
02 February 2024

Participation Report January 2024

Current/2023 Indoor Season:

57 Teams entered the Indoor Leagues which included 9 entirely new teams/clubs. Efforts are ongoing with regards to sponsorship, and we have managed to get Braun onboard who are a key sponsor moving forward.

Summer/2024 Season Update:

41 Softball Teams have signed up for the Summer season, Hardball has 5 teams in Division 1, 11 Super 8 Teams and 3 Teams have now moved up and into the Premier League – Sheffield Collegiate, Rockingham and Doncaster Town – so we are starting to see the progression into the hardball game, which I am very pleased to report and want to see this expand further as the W&G's League also progresses. 19 Teams now have Teams in multiple formats. With a total of 60 W&G's Teams this year.

The Ben Jessop Cup/ League is also wanting to support this by setting up Girl's specific Cricket festivals this year specifically – U14 Hardball. U12 & U10 Softball in similar vein to the Dynamo's Style Festivals and I have offered to advertise this through the YCSPL Bulletin when the information comes through – hoping we can send it out to Junior / W&G's Coordinators at all clubs.

Match balls – via the recent player survey – the poor quality of the hard ball's kindly provided by the YCSPL for the indoor season – has been highlighted – I have assured the W&G's executive that this is an issue that is already on the YCSPL radar and new suppliers are being identified – and I will report back when we have a decision on suppliers this year. Jim informed me that some balls have been provided for the interim period.

Advertising for Communications Officer and Events/ Presentation Evening subcommittee members needed - to join the W&G's Executive – to highlight the W&G's League achievements via all Social Media platforms and to disseminate YCSPL / W&G's Executive information to all clubs. May I send this to RP to send out please?

Umpires Association:

Mr T Bateman contacted me offering our 22 newly recruited Umpires to the W&G's league - admission to the League Umpires Association at a discounted rate £3– which I table to the W&G's Executive – which was left to be a very good idea and means to protect, insure and support our new recruits – I am awaiting the list of contacts which I can then send on to Terry Bateman. There may be an opportunity to progress people on from this.

University Umpires:

As you are aware £60 was very generously gifted to the W&G's League to get the two University Umpires onto and completing the Level 1 ECB/ACO course -as was. It has come to my attention via complaints of inconsistency of umpiring decisions, that neither Uni Umpire took up the offer and have, disappointingly, not enrolled or completed the required course – this is being addressed and in some cases the University Teams have withdrawn teams etc. However, in the spirit of openness, honesty and transparency - the money provided has not been allocated as desired and as such – will be returned to the YCSPL, if someone could direct me as to how to complete this – I would be very grateful.

Mel Mahmood

Scorer Manager's Report

January 2024

1. The first of the DLS sessions for scorers/captains/players in Division 1 and 2 will take place tonight, with a further three sessions arranged. I will do a sweep-up session nearer the start of the season.
2. Four sessions for the W&GL have been arranged, although the first one last week had to be cancelled due to an issue with the water at the venue. That session has been rearranged.
3. A Play-Cricket Scorer Pro course took place at Barnsley last week, with nine candidates attending, three of which were under 16. A further course will be scheduled in March.
4. four candidates from this League attended a Level 2 course in Wakefield earlier this month, with a further three attended a Level 2 in Bolton in March.
5. One candidate from this League attended a Level 3 Education Day in Derby last weekend.
6. I am getting a few enquiries from clubs about one-to-one sessions with scorers, which will be arranged in due course.
7. ECB ACO have published information that scorers over 16 do **not** now need DBS. I will work with Lindsay to compile a guideline for scorers/clubs on this matter ASAP.

Steve Ward

29 January 2024

Senior Section committee

30th Meeting – Monday 15 January 2024 – 7.00pm

Blackburn & Wincobank Conservative Club

Notes of Meeting

Present: David Ward (chair), Melvyn Bond, Richard Fidler, Lindsay Pepper, Linzey Scothern, Matt Summerhill, Graham Swallow (secretary), Nelson Windle

Apologies: Bryan Lowe, Richard North

1. **E D & I** – NW said that he had been in a meeting with Milton Samuels and Jason Booth earlier in the evening and that they were currently seeking new recruits.
2. **Safeguarding**
 - LP was very concerned, as were all members of the committee, that the ECB had decided to withdraw the need for DBS checks for scorers. She stated that DW would discuss at the PLMB meeting later in the week.
 - She confirmed that two courses were booked for February and March at Whitley Hall and Whiston PC and that a further one was being organized by the Pontefract League.
3. **Cup Draws** – DW confirmed that all the Cup draws had now been completed and it was hoped to bring them forward to an earlier date in future.
4. **Request for fixture changes 2024** – MS stated that the season could be extended to Saturday 21 September. He confirmed that 10 fixture rearrangements were still outstanding after the deadline. DW reported that Ridgeway CC has withdrawn their application to join the YCSPL.
 - It was agreed that the Oughtibridge 2 v Thorpe Hesley & High Green fixture could start at 11am.
 - It was agreed that the Coal Aston 2 v Rotherham Town 2 fixture would be switched from 7 September to 21 September.
 - It was agreed that the Caribbean fixture could be played on the same date as the festival with no teas or be moved to 21 September at Higham. DW to contact clubs.
 - It was decided that Warmsworth 2 and Whiston Forge's request to change the date of a fixture due to a wedding should not be accepted.
 - It was decided that Frecheville 2 request to change the date of a fixture for a stag do should not be accepted.
 - Handsworth Junior 2 v Hatfield Town fixture on 24 August. MS suggested it be moved to 21 September at Hatfield Town.
5. **Frickley Colliery CC application** (*where will they be placed*) – DW confirmed that Frickley Colliery will complete their Clubmark application by April 2024, that they had nominated two umpires, and therefore could be placed in division 2 in 2025.
6. **Sheffield University Staff 2 application for 2025** – no issues, application accepted. In addition:
 - DW confirmed that the Waverley CC had been provisionally accepted but a further ground inspection was required in the coming months.

- MS had received an unofficial approach from Wadworth CC who are currently playing in the Bassetlaw League.
7. **Ground facilities at Wentworth** – DW reported that no facilities will be available for 2024 including toilet facilities. Thorncliffe & Wentworth CC are looking into the possibility of hiring a Portaloo for the season. DW to speak to Elsecar and Wickersley.
 8. **Umpire training and courses** – Three refresher courses are being held, two at Elsecar and one at Tickhill. To date only two ‘new’ umpires have been recruited.
 9. **Play Cricket** – MB reported ongoing scorecard issues with a refugee player at Barnsley Woolley despite several emails and reminders. DW to follow up. He confirmed that all fixtures were now available on Play Cricket and MS asked for an email to be sent all clubs to ask them to check their fixtures.
 10. **Cricket Ball orders** - MB reported that the order forms had been sent to clubs.
 11. **Handbook update** – GS reported that the Club contact form was being finalised and would send to clubs for completion shortly.
 12. **Other business**
 - DW said that Mel Mahmood had requested that start times for Cup fixtures be delayed when they clashed with Sunday W & G matches.
 - MB reported that Maurice Gilliatt and himself had attended the quarterly management meeting at Headingley in December, and that MG had now resigned. It was agreed that Ashley Boothman be asked if he would be prepared to take up this position.
 - MS voiced his concerns over the nine-year term which had been placed on Premier League committee members by the ECB, and queried when this period started. DW said that Roger Pugh had consulted with Paul Bedford about this and it will be discussed at LEB.
 - LS asked GS to provide him with numbers of team cards, etc, by clubs from the YCB.
 13. **Close.** The meeting closed at 8.25pm

