

THE ALL ROUNDER CRICKET ECB YORKSHIRE SOUTH PREMIER LEAGUE

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Chairman's blog



The above photo just about sums up the wet day that we had on Saturday, and despite Clubs doing their best to **Get the Game on**, the only victor was the weather, with no positive results in any of the games in the League.

I was at Abbeydale, undertaking scoring duties for Sheffield Collegiate, and it was good to note that all parties, Umpires, Captains, Players and Groundstaff, were keen to give the weather a chance to improve, but to no avail, and the game was finally called off just after tea, with only 14 overs being bowled.

My heart was in my mouth when, during the second period of play, one of the Wickersley fielders slipped on the wet outfield and appeared to injure his knee. Thankfully, after some TLC from the umpires, he made a full recovery.

I must have taken over 25 calls during the day from scorers and umpires at other games, in different Leagues, all wanting clarification and advice on the Duckworth Lewis Stern system. It was one of those days! As a result of this, I have arranged a couple of refresher sessions this week, at Darfield CC on Wednesday, and Wath CC on Thursday. Both start at 7pm. These are open to all players scorers and umpires.

Had a chat with Josh Varley, who does a wonderful job at Abbeydale, about the season so far, and it was good to see how enthusiastic he is about the way things are going for his team, and the Club in general.

During the rain break, I noticed that the Collegiate dressing room had 3 visitors. The first one was one of the finest batsmen that I have seen in the Yorkshire League, Ed McKenna. He always scored runs against Doncaster Town, and he was passing on words of wisdom to the younger Collegiate players. I am sure that they were listening to all his words, and taking it all in (!)

The other 2 visitors were Joe Root, and his young son, Alfred. I am assured that Alfred has signed a contract to play for Collegiate! Wont be long now !  
Joe is a perfect gentleman, who has time for everyone, and spent some time signing cricket bats and shirts for Wickersley OV CC, for auction at their forthcoming Charity Day. I couldn't help but notice the banter between Joe and the players from both sides!

Had a call from Kevin Motley, who hasn't been very well recently. He was taking a weekend off from scoring, but made himself available for his other duties, including DLS guru. Hopefully he will be back to full fitness soon.

I will be contacting clubs this week to talk about the U/19s t20 competition. ECB are very keen to get this competition at the forefront of all our minds, and hopefully it will be a great success. We have 8 Clubs entered in our competition.

So, despite being thousands of miles away, Roger has managed to tear himself away from his books and beer to email and text me, to ensure that I haven't caused too much havoc in his absence. If there are any problems, I will blame Paul McFarlane!

This weekend sees a double header, and I will be at Abbeydale on Saturday and Monday, when the visitors will be Walefield Thornes, and Whitley Hall. Both games will be crackers, Im sure!

Steve Ward  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017