



**ECB Yorkshire South Premier League**

[www.yspl.co.uk](http://www.yspl.co.uk)



## January 2018 News update

### 1 YSPL t20 Competition 2018

The draw has now been made for our 2018 t20 competition. This is as follows:

#### i Group stage - Sunday 10th June

Group 1: *at Treeton*

10.00 am	Aston Hall	v	Wakefield Thornes
1.15 pm	Treeton	v	Cleethorpes
4.15 pm	Final		

Group 2: *at Doncaster Town*

10.00 am	Doncaster Town	v	Whiston Parish Church
1.15 pm	Appleby Frodingham	v	Hallam
4.15 pm	Final		

Group 3: *at Whitley Hall*

10.00 am	Whitley Hall	v	Sheffield Collegiate
1.15 pm	Barnsley Woolley M	v	Wickersley Old Village
4.15 pm	Final		

#### ii Finals Day - 1st July

*at Cleethorpes*

### 2 under 19s t20 competition

Andrew Tipple has taken over as organiser of the YSPL competition and will be working with the YCB organiser, Richard Wilkinson. Andrew will shortly be writing out to YSPL clubs and the SYSL to ask clubs to participate.

At the ECB Premier Leagues meeting last October, Paul Bedford, ECB Head of Recreational Cricket, indicated that he was disappointed with the low level of participation in the competition across the whole of Yorkshire, and I encourage all our clubs to participate if at all possible.

### 3 Scoring systems

ECB have announced that a laptop scoring package has been developed, as part of the Play-Cricket suite, that will meet the needs of Premier Leagues. The package, *Play-Cricket Scorer Pro*, is currently being tested and a final version will be released in time for the season. Steve Ward is part of a group that is testing the system.

We have made the decision to use this new system, rather than continue with Total Cricket Scorer, because the owners of TCS, CricHQ, are in receivership and there are no guarantees about its future availability. In addition, the process of downloading onto Play-Cricket will no longer be necessary – this will be automatic under the new system. The First Class Scorers will also be using this system in the coming season.

Steve will arrange plenty of training for club scorers in pre-season and plans to run a training day on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April. In addition, a Scorers Roadshow has been arranged at Headingley on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April, when representatives of ECB and NV Interactive will be exhibiting the new system.

A Live Scores app will be available as part of the new system.

#### **4 Overseas players**

We understand that the Home Office will be applying stricter guidelines in how they determine whether an individual is a professional sportsperson – if they do determine someone is a professional sportsperson under their strict definitions, and he is playing cricket under an amateur visa or as a Non Visa National, the club and player could potentially be considered in breach of the visa, something that could have significant repercussions, so it is important that due diligence is undertaken if you are considering registering an overseas amateur for the 2018 season.

The key areas where greater scrutiny is being applied by the Home Office are as follows:

- The use of agents – if an individual coming into the country on an amateur visa (usually YMS, SVV or NVN) uses an agent to advertise and find a club, he may be considered to be a professional sportsperson by the HO.
- Some amateur visas allow payment of air fare and living expenses within their terms (although this shouldn't be happening anyway in our League as NYSD amateur regulations do not allow this) – any such payments could be deemed by the HO to make that individual receiving those benefits a 'professional sportsperson'. This also brings the provision of free accommodation, which does not involve the club in any payment, into closer scrutiny as a potential benefit in kind.

The Home Office have also confirmed that the payment of a player's airfare or accommodation and/or the use of an agent to promote the availability of players, is likely to increase the prospect of the Home Office considering the player to be a 'professional' and, as a consequence, the risk of that player being deemed ineligible to participate in accredited ECB Leagues.

It is possible that many individuals will simply not be issued with a visa if the HO pick these things up at the application stage, however Australians and New Zealanders can come in as Non Visa Nationals (although still subject to Sports Visitor Visa regulations) so it may then be a League decision as to whether an individual is eligible.

#### **5 Results secretary**

I am delighted to announce that Kevin Motley has decided that he will be able to continue in his role as results secretary in 2018. I will continue to compile the weekly newsletters.

#### **6 Representative games**

The YSPL has been asked by Mark Arthur at YCCC to host a t20 warm-up game on 2 July at Abbeydale. As agreed last year, we will seek nominations for the team from clubs in the run-up to the game.

There will be another MCC game in 2018 and we are in discussions about further representative games.

## **7 2018 Handbook**

Work will shortly be started on the 2018 handbook. I would be very pleased to receive copy for adverts to be included in the handbook. As in the last two years, a full page advert will cost £50. The more adverts we can generate, the more we keep the cost of the handbook down.

## **8 2018 Dinner**

The 2018 League presentation dinner will take place at Shaw Lane Sports Club, Barnsley on Friday 9 November. The guest speaker will be the leading cricket speaker, Geoff Miller OBE. At the dinner, we plan to induct six more people into the YSPL Hall of Fame, and will be seeking nominations during the season.

Roger Pugh  
Chairman  
24 January 2018