

## ECB Yorkshire South Premier League

### Chairman's blog – 8 May 2018

Welcome to the first of my blog for the 2018 season. Let us hope that the weather we enjoyed this last weekend will be more typical of our summer than the first weekend of the season.

That first weekend, I was at least fortunate to see the only one of our games that was completed, and to enjoy the company of the Froggetts, Chris and Tom, Keith Haynes, and Chris Cobb at various stages of the afternoon – I did not think that I was fortunate to spend a few hours in that rather unpleasant weather.

Thornes overcame a poor start to dominate their opening encounter with Treeton, thanks to the wily old pair of Faisal Irfan, who batted patiently until deciding to unleash the 'big man's swipe' in the closing overs, and Mahmood Rasool, who reveled in the conditions to make a mess of the Treeton innings. So Thornes stole an early march on their rivals, who either were unable to reach a result, or to start at all.

I have been finishing off an editing job that I have been doing for a friend who is writing his life story, and this took up a lot of last week. On the cricket front, we received further guidance on the new General Data Protection Regulations that are coming in, and Steve will be writing to clubs about this. I consulted the committee about our May meeting, for which the agenda appeared somewhat thin. We have, therefore decided to cancel – there is no point in meeting for meeting's sake, and we can deal with any urgent issues by correspondence.

We have been asked if our clubs would be prepared to make their grounds available to host some junior finals in South Yorkshire this season, and I hope that our clubs will co-operate if at all possible. Matt Summerhill said that he remembered as a young cricketer aspiring to play at Premier League grounds, and I am sure he is right. Juniors are our future, and I am determined that we should support the development of young players as much as we possibly can. We shall be writing to clubs with more details shortly.

The glorious weekend we have just enjoyed was more than welcome – I still wonder at the difference a bit of sun makes to our game. On Saturday, we paid a visit to Shaw Lane to see Doncaster get their season up and running on their return to our league. Congratulations to them on a convincing win, and to Whiston too, on their narrow success over Hallam. I think that there has been some significant strengthening in our league for this season; I expect it to be very competitive at both ends of the table, and getting off to a decent start is very important.

Barnsley will have been disappointed with their performance, but there is no doubt that Doncaster will be a vastly different proposition to the 2016 side. Jimmy Stuart and Duncan Heath led the way for them with both wickets and runs. It was also good to see Jon Trower fit and in the runs again for Barnsley, and with Harpreet Singh returning, the Shaw Lane team can only improve. It was also very pleasing to see Kevin Motley restored to health and back working in the box again – albeit that Keith Hampshire was a very able deputy!



*Barnsley skipper Jason Booth hits our against Doncaster*



*Doncaster overseas signing Ali Waqas cuts Haider Jehangir*

Elsewhere, the game of the day was at Abbeydale, and on what I understand was a very difficult track, run scoring was at a premium. Chris Froggett told me that someone would have to bat very well if Thornes were going to beat Collegiate's score of 90, and Billy Root ensured that this did not happen. Treeton's win got them back on track, whilst Whitley Hall and Wickersley got their seasons off to a good start, and I expect all three to be challenging near the top of the table.

After a drink at Shaw Lane with Harry Fidler and Mick Mann, Kirsty and I made our way home.

Sunday are usually family days for us, with our 19-month old grand-daughter providing our entertainment, and Kirsty's magnificent repasts providing our fortification (my contribution is washing up), and it was lovely to be out in the garden for once. This, of course, meant that I missed Rovers' abject performance at Wakefield, which was an additional bonus. Yesterday, Kirsty and I did a bit of gardening – more Kirsty than I, as I compiled the stats and article for next Sunday's programme for our cup-tie against Wigan. I also kept my eye on the progress of our knock-out cup games, and I noted that, very pleasingly, three of the four games were very closely contested.

This week I am working at Hull University (nothing academic of course), apart from Wednesday, which is our wedding anniversary (watch for rain tomorrow!). This coming Saturday we shall be paying our first visit to Whiston, where Aston Hall are the visitors.

Till next week,

Roger