

ECB Yorkshire South Premier League

Chairman's blog – 12 June 2018

As Roger and Kirsty are taking a well-earned break in Portugal, it has been left for me to deputise for him, and to write his weekly blog. I did say that I would not take the mickey out of him mmmmm!

Volunteers in cricket are the life blood of the game, and when news reached me in the last few days that Rob Richtering was giving up most of his volunteer roles, it made me think that we don't recognize or look after the workers enough. Rob is my counterpart in the Yorkshire League North, amongst his



Baxter Fields looks a picture for the t20 group games

other roles, and when he gives up the role at the end of the season, he will be a hard act to follow.

It's always good to know that good quality cricketers want to play in this League, and the early hours of Saturday morning were spent dealing with a transfer application to enable a good player to return to the League. Eventually, after many emails, phone calls and texts, including correspondence with ECB, the matter was concluded, and the player did play for his new club on Saturday.

I spent a good 45 minutes over a coffee with the two umpires at Abbeydale Park on Saturday, Michael Clarke and Duncan Jones were good company, as was Kevin Motley. Duncan was one of the finest bowlers to play in the Yorkshire League, and was a one-club man, as he reminded us. We all agreed that gone are the days of one club players! Have a guess who paid for the drinks?!

The game at Abbeydale included a superb piece of sportsmanship by Sheffield Collegiate's Australian skipper, Tom Rowley, who called back the young Barnsley batsman Beck Frostrick, after he was given out by the umpire. Tom was reminded by his team mates that it did make a change to see an Aussie do the right thing on a cricket field!! I couldn't possibly comment!

If Carlsberg did cricket days, then Sunday was probably it! The venue was Whitley Hall CC for the T20 Group games. The day had everything, superb bowling, catches on the boundary, plenty of wickets, plenty of runs and an upset at the end! The hitting was superb, and the 3 or 4 youngsters who patrolled the field at the back of the bowlers arm to retrieve the balls did a sterling job!



I have seen lots of big sixes, but Michael Simpson hit a ball that sailed over the Whitley Hall chairman's house, and almost hit the house at the back of that! It went miles! Steve Fletcher said it was the biggest hit that he'd seen on the ground!

It was superb entertainment for the good crowd, who made full use of the bar, BBQ, and mobile cake seller, who looked remarkably like Daniel Rafiq!

Barnsley Woolley Miners were worthy winners of the day, and will meet Cleethorpes, Hallam, and Tickhill from the South Yorkshire League in the Finals Day at Cleethorpes on Sunday July 1st. I think it is safe to say that those clubs weren't expected to reach the Finals Day prior to Sunday. The draw for the Finals Day will be held this weekend, at the Barnsley Woolley Miners vs Hallam game at Shaw Lane.

There is a lot coming up for the Leagues officials to think about in the coming weeks. As well as the T20 Finals Day, Roger will be attending the Premier Leagues Chairmen's meeting at Lords, where amongst other things, the issues of the ECB National Cup Competitions will be raised. All our Clubs have been asked to complete a survey, giving their views on the competitions, and whether overseas and County players should be allowed to play. It's important that all clubs share their views on the matter.

There is a League committee meeting on July 18, and two weeks earlier, on July 4th, there is the captains meeting, where all captains have the opportunity to air their views on how the League is doing, and any rule changes that they would like to see coming up. Busy times!

Another important event for the League is the Annual T20 game against Yorkshire CCC at Abbeydale on Monday July 2nd. Historically, the games have been very entertaining, and it is hoped that a large crowd will witness another good game. It is hoped that both teams will field strong teams, indeed I will be speaking to Roger about this on his return.

Hope you've enjoyed my ramblings, I think that I have behaved, and not taken the mickey out of Roger too much!

Until next time

Steve Ward