

ECB Yorkshire South Premier League

Chairman's blog – 19 June 2018

Kirsty and I have spent most of the last couple of weeks having a lovely break on the beautiful Greek island of Kefalonia (it is a long way from Portugal, but Steve rarely ventures outside the UK, so his world geography is a bit sketchy).

We did a bit of exploring round the island and returned to some favourite places; we took a boat trip to nearby Zakynthos; Kirsty took a lot of photos (a couple of which I have used here); and of course we spent a lot of time in the restaurants enjoying the local dishes. As I think I have remarked before, I think the cuisine there is most under-rated, and I can never understand why so many of our compatriots want to eat burgers and pizzas when there is so much tastier food on offer. I cannot say the same about the beer though



The much-photographed Myrtos beach from the mountain road high above

I am always an 'early riser' so I was able to keep up-to-date with cricket emails and produce the weekly bulletins and newsletters before Kirsty awoke. I also did my blog in the first week, before giving way to Steve for the last edition. He always enjoys his annual 'guest contribution' – and I got off quite lightly I thought!

Whilst I have been away, the race for the championship has developed even more into a 'two horse race,' with Collegiate and Thornes now 28 points clear of third place at the top – their clash on 21 July is most eagerly anticipated. Sadly though, Whitley Hall's miserable run continues, and they and my old friends at Brumby Hall currently occupy the bottom two places. If I say that both sides look to me too good to go down, it begs the question of who will? As I said a couple of weeks ago, it is going to be quite a fight down there, and I am sure that there will be several twists and turns yet. I wish them all luck.

I was pleased to see two new teams (Barnsley and Cleethorpes) reach our t20 finals day on 1 July – the third, Hallam, represented the SYSCL at our inaugural t20 finals in 2016. These three are joined by our old friends from Tickhill, whom I note are now in pole position in their quest to rejoin our ranks next season. I really look forward to the day – I am sure that Cleethorpes will again do a great job of hosting, and hopefully their team's presence will swell the attendance. But I do really wish that our overseas players could be there to add that little extra spice to the day – I am presently writing a paper for discussion at the ECB chairmen's meeting next month on the subject.

I am also working, with Gareth Davis and Steve, on a proposal for a new best club award, to be made at the end of season presentation dinner, and hope to be writing out to clubs on this and a couple of other matters shortly. One of the issues will be to seek nominations for further inductions to our Hall of Fame – which proved so popular at the



Kefalonian sunset

dinner last year. We have many excellent ambassadors and tireless workers for our clubs and the game in general – and it is a great pleasure to be able to recognise them in this way.

Last Sunday saw the final games in the second round of our knock-out cup. The big game at Abbeydale between our top two went the way of Thornes. As Steve said to me, they have a very impressive bowling unit, which was where they won the game against a weakened Collegiate side.

Appleby Frodingham had a most impressive and emphatic win over Stamford Bridge – a top five team in Yorkshire League North – following up

their equally fine performance against Doncaster in the first round. As Matt Morland has said to me, they now need to replicate that cup form in the League. It is also very pleasing to note that there are four sides each from Yorkshire League North and our league in the last eight of the competition.

One of my immediate tasks, working with our team manager, Mark Beardshall, is to organise our League team to play a Yorkshire XI in the annual t20 warm-up game, which this year will be held at Abbeydale Park on Monday 2nd July (5.30pm start). Richard Ibbotson, the chairman at Collegiate, is ably looking after arrangements at the ground, which is the more difficult task, particularly given the improvement works ongoing there – all we have to do is to provide a team, umpires and scorers! Our previous attempts to play this game at Abbeydale have with one exception been foiled by the weather – so I hope that our current decent weather continues.

After my break, I will be resuming my tour of our grounds this Saturday, when I will be at Green Lane, to see Aston Hall take on Barnsley – a game that brings together our two of our more explosive overseas players. I look forward to some entertainment!

Till next week,

Roger