

ECB Yorkshire South Premier League

Chairman's blog – 10 July 2018

Last Wednesday, we had a most useful and productive captains' meeting at the *Toby* in Doncaster. I have published a [note of the meeting](#) on our website, so I will not go through all the issues discussed here, but I will say that I am always very much heartened by the commitment shown and the constructive views expressed at these meetings. I believe that cricket leagues are run for the benefit of those who play in them, and the least we administrators can do is to listen and act accordingly whenever possible.

Just after lunch on Thursday, I received a text from a friend in London, that I know from my time working there. For 18 years, I spent a lot of my working life in London and

my experience was that the depiction of Londoners as unfriendly was far from the case. Spending a couple of nights a week in hotels down there was never a hardship because there was always someone to meet and go for a drink with. James was one of those, and we have remained friends since, even though we usually meet only once a year at the Great British Beer Festival. So I was surprised, to say the least, to hear that he was spending the day in my old office in Hull. It was an unexpected pleasure to dash off into town to meet him after work and take him into three of our better hostelries. He must have been impressed, because he said he would like to come back for a proper session!

I always thrived on all the travel I did, but that is not the case for everyone, and Kirsty finds it all very tiring. We therefore opted to minimise our journey and visit our 'home ground' on Saturday – at 29 miles from our house it is 20 miles nearer than any other YSPL ground. I did not expect to see very many people there because of the football, but a couple of dozen souls were there, enjoying the cricket and another warm afternoon. As neutrals, we also enjoyed another fine innings from Harpreet Singh – his 118 was comfortably the highest score of the match and was the foundation of Barnsley's win. It was not really the easiest pitch to bat on, and 252-6 was a formidable target. In the end, Kieran Lindley (who had bowled a very good 15-over spell earlier), Liam Grimes and Jake Smith battled to earn a very valuable two points for the home side.

Whilst walking round the boundary, I once again got Matt Morland into trouble with his captain for talking to me and decided to move on for his sake! I always get a good welcome at Brumby Hall and I don't want to make myself unpopular – there were after all other people to talk to, including the four gentlemen in their chairs at the bottom end who wanted to see Kirsty's pictures of them (all the pictures from the day can be seen on our [Flickr](#) site).

All our outfielders are feeling the effects of the long dry spell, and I reflected that I have not seen such a parched playing area since the summer of 1976.



Four men at the match – not all the spectators deserted last Saturday



Kieran Lindley bowls to Harpreet Singh under the watchful eye of Gordon Prescott

After lunch on Sunday, Gavin and I went to watch Rovers. The game was all over by half-time – and it was actually Rovers who led 36-6 and then went on to record a second successive Super League win, for the first time since 2015. Can they now beat bottom club Widnes on Saturday to make it three on the trot!? Nothing can ever be taken for granted with the Robins. Anyway, I enjoyed the moment and put my feet up afterwards with the infamous beer and sandwiches!

Whilst I was at rugby, Aston Hall and Barnsley

reached our KO Cup semi-finals – Barnsley by beating Wakefield Thornes in what Ray Knowles told me was a great game, with Harpreet to the fore again; and Aston Hall with a resounding win over Harrogate. It is the first time that we have had two teams in the semi-final stage. Both will have to travel, Barnsley to the Yorkshire Academy and Aston Hall to Woodhouse Grange. It will not be easy for either, but it would be great if both could win through to the final at Treeton at the end of August.

I spent most of Monday doing cricket work of one sort or another – there was some work to do on the website, preparations for next week's committee meeting, a couple of minor disciplinary issues, and some work for the forthcoming under 23s games. Unfortunately though, after doing Saturday's photos and some late spring cleaning yesterday morning, my perpetual poor sleeping caught up with me and I had to postpone doing this blog.

This coming weekend, I look forward to my first visit of the season to Whitley Hall on Saturday, after which I shall be in Beverley with my old friends for a few pints. There has been a lot of talk about a game that will be taking place on Sunday – at the time of writing one of the two competing teams is not known – but I do know that Doncaster Town will be playing Richmondshire in the last 16 of the ECB National Club Championship that day. On behalf of everyone in the YSPL, I wish them all the very best and hope they will progress to the quarter-finals.

Till next week,

Roger