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|  | **The** |  |
|  | Liverpool Gin logo_oneline_**Liverpool & District** **Cricket Competition****The ECB Premier League in Lancashire**[**www.lpoolcomp.co.uk**](file:///C%3A%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5CAdministrator%5CMy%20Documents%5CCricket%20June%202010%5C001%20ldcc%20post%20June%202010%5C1%20Minutes%5C12%202013%20Minutes%5C006%20Jun%2013%5Cwww.lpoolcomp.co.uk) |  |

**MI L&DCC 3rd XI End of Season 2017 Special General Meeting:**

**Sefton Park Cricket Club Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 7.30pm**

**Agenda:**

1. **Welcome**

Apologies

Roll call.

1. **Chairman's opening remarks**
2. Congratulations to all
3. Possible Dual Registration in 2s and 3s  in 2018

 [http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/uploaded\_files/documents/V10\_Dual\_Registration\_L&DCC\_and\_S&D\_ACL\_\_\_Sept\_2017\_.docx](http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/uploaded_files/documents/V10_Dual_Registration_L%26DCC_and_S%26D_ACL___Sept_2017_.docx)

1. Changes to Laws
2. Training more umpires
3. **Discussion of matters relating to season 2017 and plans for 2018**
4. League structures in 3rd XIs
5. Regionalisation of Sat/Sun Structures
6. Dates for the season: ∑24 weeks in total : 22 1st and 2nd XI League fixtures from Saturday 14th April to Saturday 15th Sept with “Cup Saturday” 12th May 2018 and 16th/22nd/23rd Sept as spare days.
7. Conceded Games and Unsures
8. Timings for 3rd XI registrations post-game
9. Fines 2017
10. Start times / Format of games
11. Discipline
12. **Cups**
13. The Embee Cup Trophy 2017 and plans for 2018
14. The Mike Leddy Cup Trophy 2017 and plans for 2018
15. **Any Other Business**
16. Requests for special consideration for fixtures
17. Ground Inspections

**6**.         **Closure of proceedings**.

Re-check of Roll call

Safe Journey Home

*7.31pm*

1. **Welcome Apologies Roll Call**
2. The Chair, John Williams (JW), opened the meeting and briefly welcomed everyone to it.

JW stated that the primary purpose of this meeting was for it to be a consultative meeting, one aimed at improving our decision-making going forward to next year. M/C sought feedback from representatives, this was their opportunity to have their say.

He also made clear that when we referred to “3rd XIs” in this meeting this was a shorthand and collective term referring to all our 3rd / 4th / 5th and 6th XIs. He further reminded that this meeting did not make changes to the regulations, the AGM did that, but the collective views from this meeting would be taken into account in the shaping of proposals to AGM 2018.

The Chair then called on the Hon Sec Chris Weston (CW) to record apologies and to call the roll.

* 1. *Apologies*

The Hon Treasurer Alan Bristow (AB) had given his apologies.

* 1. *Roll Call*

See **Appendix 1 P7**

CW requested club representatives to switch their ‘phones to silent or to off and called the roll.

33 clubs out of a possible 37 were represented. 4 clubs were not represented at this meeting; a further 3 clubs, correctly, were not represented as they did not currently enter a 3rd XI into the MiL&DCC structure.

CW further requested that representatives indicated their club by using their card on the table when wishing to speak to the meeting so that the minutes could accurately represent their view as expressed.

1. **Chairman's opening remarks**
2. Congratulations to all

The Chair JW resumed and again congratulated all our winners. They had all been celebrated at the Annual Dinner a month ago. <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/notice_board.php?id=3001> JW also particularly thanked those that had attended that had not won anything but attended anyway. It was sometimes hard to celebrate the success of others but it was the right thing to do.

The Chair proposed to alter the sequence in which the meeting followed the agenda moving the meeting directly on to consider Item 3 which contained the main items for discussion at this meeting, we would return to 2.2 to 2.4 after Item 3

1. **Discussion of matters relating to season 2017 and plans for 2018**

*3.1* League Structures *3.2* Regionalisation of Sat/Sun Structures *3.3* Dates for the season *3.4* Conceded Games and Unsures *3.5* Timings for 3rd XI “unsures” to be corrected *3.7* Start times / Format of games, were to be taken together as they were closely linked.

3.6 and 3.8 would be taken separately afterwards.

Representatives had hard copy of the discussion paper. See **Appendix 2 P8**

The projector – an innovation for us all at this meeting - would show the same paper in albeit in slide form

Eric Hadfield led and took the meeting through the possible proposals in detail.

*3.1.1* *Sundays*

There were too many conceded matches and unsure players in the 3rd XIs. Exact data was highlighted from the paper e.g. 100 teams had unsure players in 2017. Conceded games peaked at different times of the year, there was a Sunday peak in May/June – presumably examinations driven and another for Saturdays later in August – presumably holiday driven.

M/C was considering changing the playing regulations for 3rd XIs so that they had more time to clear up “unsures”, the 48 hours to register players post game would stay but the point at which fines were to be imposed for not clearing up unsures would be extended perhaps to 96 hours i.e. 4 days after a game, to allow time for registrations on play cricket to catch up and prevent fining. There were a number of nods in the room at this suggestion.

Possible changes in structures for Saturday and Sunday cricket were proposed as set out in the paper.

Sunday 2018 could be fully regionalised into four regions NE/NW/SE/SW each of 7 clubs. Premier/Division 1NE and SW distinctions would disappear, as would promotion relegation. The composition of the 4 groups was based on geography and positions achieved in the leagues in 2017. There had been a lot of very one sided games in 2017 there was deliberately a mix of standards in the 4x7, there would be more properly competitive games. All matches would be finished by August, the 4 winners would then play off in two semis and a final. We would need new Cups ……. The Sundays in Sept would be free for rearrangement as usual, an extra blank week end was also being built-in in 2018, that of the 22nd and 23rd Sept.

15/21 of the conceded games were early season therefore the 4x7 would start later, probably on Sunday 29th April. Father’s Day would be avoided, as would Bank Holidays.

Dates for 1st and 2nd XI Cup competitions were given and were already recorded on the agenda.

Each club would have a blank week in the rotation of 7, specific blanks could be requested by clubs. There would be fewer games overall.

The Chair JW thanked EH and called for discussion.

*Rainford*: localisation will help, but we might start on the 22nd perhaps to get the cups going or to create more rearrangement space later.

*Sefton Park*: noted that they were travelling both to Northop Hall and to Colwyn Bay on this 4x7. We could use the blanks for cup games e.g. the Mike Leddy T40. JW replied that under existing regulations we could already change start times to help with distance travelling etc. by up to 2 hours if both clubs agreed. There was also and already to be a proposal on start times to AGM 2018. CW noted on request from the Chair that this was covered under playing regulation 4.2.2 P 47 in the 2017 Handbook.

*Bootle:* noted that they could *not* shift and play earlier because of am Sunday age group coaching commitments.

*Rainford:* suggested scheduling “big travelling games” for school holidays to take the pressure off late returns on Sundays if there was no school the next day. This was thought to be a good idea.

*Liverpool*: the 4x7 SW area was very similar to the Div 1 SW. EH commented that this simply reflected the geography.

*Colwyn Bay*: liked the idea, it would help enormously but noted that they had offered early starts in the past but these had been refused.

*Alder*: Alder played on Saturdays but were concerned by the reduction in Sunday fixtures from 18 to 12. Were we happy with that? There had been problems with games being conceded on Saturdays too. EH noted that we were coming to Saturdays in a moment.

*Caldy*: also only played on a Saturday. They had two comments (i) we could organise friendlies in the gaps (ii) play-offs were a great idea but it should be based on 8 not 4 teams i.e. the top two in each league play-off not just the top one in each league. Several clubs immediately agreed that that was a good suggestion. It would need an extra week at least and minimum criteria for eligibility to play in the play offs e.g. having played a minimum of 4 games in the 4x7 already. That suggestion was further welcomed. A club suggested that with fewer games we could be more strict over availability.

JW summarised: we were comfortable with full regionality and fewer games on Sundays, this was a positive message to carry forward to the AGM

*3.1.2 Saturdays*

EH again led. Saturdays were less certain. Possible changes here were more based on Get the Game On rather than on conceded games. This was for 2019 but we would need a proposal to AGM 2018 so that clubs in 2018 would know what they were playing for the year after.

The Premier/Div 1 differentiation would stay but Div 1 would be regionalised NE/SW rather like the 2017 structure. The Prem would be reduced to 10 teams the two Divisions 1 would have 7 or 8 teams, again giving fewer games. 4 teams would be relegated in 2018. In 2018 Ormskirk were to put in a new 4th XI, Wavertree may put in a 4th XI too, we were losing Irby 3s. The two Divisions 1 would each have 2 blanks. Saturday conceded games were in August. A break of 3-4 weeks on Saturdays in August was suggested as being possible to help here.

It was repeated that, to help reduce the level of fines, M/C was considering changing the playing regulations for 3rd XIs so that they had more time to clear up “unsures”, the 48 hours to register players post game would stay but the point at which fines were imposed for not clearing up unsures would be extended perhaps to 96 hours i.e. 4 days after a game to allow time for registrations on play cricket to catch up.

Rearranging because of player unavailability was not currently permitted, it could only be for ground unavailability. It was possible that a proposal could go to AGM 2018 that would allow player unavailability to be the basis for a limited number of rearrangements in 3rd XI, possibly on 3 occasions. CW noted that this would prevent many conceded games and as much distortion as we had at the moment to league tables with the familiar -10 and +25 points regulation being applied.

*Caldy:* wanted more flexibility with Cup games as well, this would be welcome. They had found difficulties with “play-on” dates. Availability rearrangements should be allowed there too.

JW again called for comments from club representatives:

*Goodlass:* ran only one XI on a Saturday, they were one of the few surviving Works Teams from many years ago, they had played in a number of other leagues on their way to the L&DCC as Associate Members. If they were in the Premier Division a reduction to 18 fixtures was acceptable but if relegated to Division 1 they would only play 11 fixtures, that was not enough. In previous leagues they had experienced the same pattern before i.e. that of making the league smaller, it was usually the precursor to the league folding in their experience. It was also less enticing to keep playing the same teams week after week.

*Sefton Park*: agreed with Goodlass. Division 1 losing half its fixtures was not acceptable. Clubs needed people drinking at the bar to survive financially. Fewer games was a problem, there were many nods in the room.

*Caldy*: agreed, they would be against this change to Saturday Division 1 if put as a proposal, there were not enough games.

*Liverpool*: had little appetite for the proposal, particularly the 3 week break, clubs would never get the players back after it. There were a lot of nods in the room to this comment.

JW summarised the mood in the room as that the proposed reductions in games on a Saturday was too much. No one spoke to disagree with this summary

*3.1.3 Start times / Format of games*

JW led. L&DCC seemed to prefer time cricket. Not one L&DCC club had come forward over changing the format of the cricket we played to one of a limited overs format. It had not been suggested by any of our committees either.

A club representative disagreed he felt that 3rd XIs would benefit from such a change to limited overs cricket and gave an example of an age group bowler wanting to be taken off as the player he was bowling at was being so defensive.

JW wanted the meeting to understand the amount of pressure we were under from ECB to change to limited overs cricket, 40 overs was said by ECB to be the most popular format but said that we would not propose changes in format in the L&DCC unless there was pressure to change coming from our clubs.. Other leagues locally had changed e.g. North Wales and North Staffs but there was much more time cricket played in the south of England.

Discussion followed. Perhaps limited overs was right for 3rd and 4th XIs?

Multiple comments were made by clubs. Time cricket was in the DNA of the L&DCC. The L&DCC prided itself on the whole structure of the L&DCC being based on the same format, age group players could then develop within the L&DCC playing the same game from 6th XI to 1st XI. Changes to the points structure might be tried but there had been no suggestions for this. L&DCC *attracted* players. If players wanted to play limited overs there were plenty of leagues they could go to. The L&DCC was a democratic league, proposals for change would be needed followed by a vote or votes.

*Wallasey*: it would be the beginning of the end for the L&DCC if we went away from time cricket.

Unsures were mentioned again, the intention to have a proposal to AGM 2018 was repeated.

*Rainford:* fining at 3rd XI level was not helpful, rearranging without penalty because of player unavailability was a good idea.

*Orrell Red Triangle*: a time scale for notification of rearranging would have to be set. There were nods in the room at this suggestion. The reasons for rearrangement were discussed. Some were allowable, some were not. Examples were given.

*Newton le Willows* felt that rearrangement because of unavailable District Cricket players playing on a Sunday should be allowed. Such games were not supposed to be played on a Sunday but were because they needed volunteers to run them who were not available during the week owing to work commitments. JW saw no problem with that being allowable. The proposal would need to be worded very carefully. “Was watching your favourite football team permissible?” Only (Wembley) Finals were thought sufficiently rare as to justify that. “It should be between captains”; JW disagreed, M/C would not accept that, that it would be too inconsistent and unfair. There were nods in the room, a club said “it would put captains under too much pressure”.

*Orrell Red Triangle:* agreed with NleW, rearrangement should be allowed for unavailable District-Cricket age group players.

*Birchfield Park*: rearranging conflicted with the idea of GTGO. Clubs would rearrange rather than risk a limited game with very few points being achievable. There were nods of agreement in the room.

*Rainford:*-10 +25 points was too much with a “conceder” giving +25 to the opposition. At one point Rainford 3s had been top of the league with 3 conceded games in their favour without having played a game at all.

*Caldy*: suggested taking it down to 20 points. The matter was debated.+25 was fair in that that was the maximum that the innocent club could have gained. Average points were unfair as the points allocated would depend on the date in the season. The points should be last year’s average points. Players changed, that was not fair either. If the number of games conceded was reduced by the proposals the -10+25 was OK, we needed to look at what happened in the season and then make a change if that was needed as well.

*3.1.4 Start times*

JW led. The start times for 3rd XIs seemed odd and did not match the overs. CW supplied the history, these were arranged like this so that finish times for all league games that went the duration of the last hour came at about the same time. This mean that the bar was full and there was good atmosphere, people stayed. JW went on to say that ECB maintained that early starts helped clubs financially with getting more players and officials to stay in the game. They maintained that early starts would appeal and be more in tune with what people now wanted. ECB felt it was more family friendly to start earlier. There were mixed responses to this, JW commented that this meeting did not seem to reflect the ECB position.

*Sefton Park* : felt that they were OK with earlier finishes for 3rd XIs they could then watch the 1st or 2nd XI and have a drink as they did do.

*Rainford:* commented that when 2nd XI games finished early, people then left early and the club was empty.

JW added that umpires were being lost with late finishes, we had few enough umpires as it was, starting earlier may keep some of them in the game.

*Orrell Red Triangle:* early starts worked for some clubs but not for all.

*Colwyn Bay*: early starts made for Tea being taken at some odd times.

*Bootle:* we could already have early starts if we wanted but both teams had to agree.

*Sefton Park:* queried the proposal to be made to AGM 2018 over start times. JW clarified, all 2nd and 3rd XI games would also start at 1.00pm like the 1st XIs, there would be standardisation.

*Goodlass*: checked that this meant starting at 12.00 noon in late August and in September. It did.

1. *Fines 2017*

These had already been covered, they were too high in the 3rd XIs, M/C had set out ways to reduce these with proposals to AGM 2018, extension of times for “unsures”, more flexibility over rearranging league game to avoid conceded games etc.

1. *Discipline*

EH led. There had been a lot more reports from within the 2s and 3s this year. This was very welcome, we had the same standards in all games, our disciplinary regulations applied equally to all. A big concern was that of umpiring standards in the 2s and 3s.

JW added that the L&DCC, working with the MCUA, intended to run some training for player umpires this winter based on the resources from ECB ACO aimed at “10 over umpires” i.e. the players who came out to do a 10 over stint as there were no club umpires let alone MCUA appointed ones. This video was very good and he strongly recommended it to all, it was on the ECB ACO website. <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/c/express/6d26adb0-0537-4f81-907f-d6233180fbb5>.

The L&DCC/MCUA would also be running seminars in the New Year for players based on the New Laws of Cricket

1. (Continued)

The Chair JW returned to Agenda Item 2 as promised.

1. *Possible Dual Registration in 2s and 3s  in 2018* ***See Appendix 3 P9***

 [http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/uploaded\_files/documents/V10\_Dual\_Registration\_L&DCC\_and\_S&D\_ACL\_\_\_Sept\_2017\_.docx](http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/uploaded_files/documents/V10_Dual_Registration_L%26DCC_and_S%26D_ACL___Sept_2017_.docx)

JW led. Representatives had hard copies of this. It had been written working in close conjunction with the Southport and District Amateur Cricket League having first been raised through the Cricket Committee. It was a bit “wordy” but simple in principle. If a player was not “picked” for his home club he could play for another in a different league if Dual Registration was set up. It was designed to provide more opportunities for players to get a game and for clubs to get access to more players when they were

 “short”. JW described the process in detail using an example based on Orrell Red Triangle and Norley Hall. It was player led. It would be monitored closely Once set up all it took was an email from the club that was “borrowing” the dual Registered Player to the player’s club. The L&DCC and S&D ACL had carefully agreed this document and were both presenting it at their End of Season meetings.

The Cheshire Leagues were not participating in 2018 but were monitoring its progress. Nothing had been set up with the North Wales Leagues or with the Palace Shield.

*Wigan*: will this affect eligibility in Cup Games? It would not, eligibility was based on the games played for the players own club only.

CW added that this was a “toe in the water” exercise, it was deliberately being kept very simple. It only worked between two different leagues not inside the L&DCC. It was player led, it was not compulsory. JW supported this clarification. It was possible the system might develop but changes would be based on evaluation and feedback.

*Goodlass*: noted that this had arisen from the Cricket Committee over Fleetwood Hesketh CC 2s and Churchtown CC . Goodlass had opposed this initiative and written at length on this subject to the Hon Sec CW and to the Cr Co when the matter had been raised there. Goodlass did not want the impression to be given that the Dual Registration scheme had arisen with unanimous consent on Cr Co, it had not and they had concerns about the possible implications of its introduction. Big clubs might swallow up smaller ones.

JW thanked Goodlass and replied that this was driven by GTGO and should not affect the Saturday status quo, on the contrary it might benefit Goodlass if a bigger club close to them e.g. Sefton, Liverpool or Bootle had spare players on a Saturday who were not getting picked, they could play for Goodlass via Dual Registration. The ban on clubs in the L&DCC being able to Dual Register only applied to full member clubs and not to Associate Member Clubs.

JW continued. Monitoring would be important. E.g. Prescott and Odyssey would need to be monitored now that they were in the S&D ACL again , it would not be acceptable for their 1st XI players to start playing in our 3rd XI structure via Dual Registration.

1. *Changes to Laws*

See 3.8

1. *Training more umpires*

See 3.8

1. **Cups**
2. The Embee Cup Trophy 2017 and plans for 2018
3. The Mike Leddy Cup Trophy 2017 and plans for 2018

The two cup competitions had again seemingly worked well this year, there were no plans to change them and we were to carry on with the same formats in 2018. No club representative objected and the meeting moved on.

1. **Any Other Business**
2. *Requests for special consideration for fixtures* <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management_bulletins.php?id=2997>

JW led. These needed to be made as soon as possible as per this website posting

1. *Ground* Inspections

EH led. There had been some complaints about 3rd XI pitches in 2017 perhaps these would need to be inspected too.

1. *Player Development Programme* <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/youth_cricket.php?id=3005>

This was now full and indeed oversubscribed, we had a total of 46 players on this programme, the most ever. All single player requests would be accommodated. Two player requests were likely to be met too, there was one request for three players from a club, the outcome from that had not been decided.

1. *Indoor League 2018* <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management_bulletins.php?id=2995>

This started in February 2018 and ran to April and the start of the season proper, on Sundays from 10-2, teams played two games per session. Finals were on the Tuesday before the season started,

Clubs were asked to tell JW asap if they wanted to enter, we had 11 teams so far including 4 universities and Chorley CC.

Facilities were better at St Bedes, there was a viewing area and tea and coffee were available.

ECB rules were followed. We were entered into the LCB/ECB National Competition as well.

1. *Eligibility rules in the Embee T20*

*Bootle:*  - wanted eligibility rules in the Embee T20 looking at. One age-group player had been judged eligible early in the season and had scored over 100 runs against them. A complaint had been made but nothing had happened. The countback rule was confirmed as being applicable, we would look into this.

1. *Regionalisation of the Embee in early rounds.*

*Leigh:* asked if the Embee was regionalised in the early rounds? It was impossible with traffic to get from Leigh to Formby by 6.00pm on a Friday evening. EH said he would look into this. JW commented that the rules allowed “down to” a 15 over game to be played in situations such as this.

1. *Start of 3rd XI season*

*Liverpool:* asked what the date was. EH noted that the known dates were as stated earlier in both this meeting and at the meeting on the 10th October i.e.: ∑24 weeks in total : 22 1st and 2nd XI League fixtures from Saturday 14th April to Saturday 15th Sept with “Cup Saturday” 12th May 2018 and 16th/22nd/23rd Sept as spare days. Decisions over the 3rd XI start dates were dependent to some extent on the 3rd XI league formats to be agreed at AGM 2018 as the number of games could alter markedly.

**6**.         **Closure of proceedings**.

CW re-checked the roll call, thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a safe journey home.

*9.16 pm*

**Appendix 1**

**LG Liverpool & District Cricket Competition.**

Roll Call of Clubs with 3rd XI Division Clubs.

Date 7th November 2017 Venue: Sefton Park CC

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **CRICKET CLUB** | Present/ absent |
| **1** | **AINSDALE**  |  |
| **2** | **ALDER** |  |
| **3** | ***BIRCHFIELD PARK*** |  |
| **4** | **BIRKENHEAD PARK** |  |
| **5** | **BOOTLE** |  |
| **6** | **CALDY** |  |
| **7** | **COLWYN BAY** |  |
| **8** | **FLEETWOOD HESKETH** |  |
| **9** | **FORMBY** |  |
| **10** | ***GOODLASS*** |  |
| **11** | **HIGHFIELD** |  |
| **12** | **HIGHTOWN** |  |
| **13** | ***IRBY***  |  |
| **14** | **LEIGH** |  |
| **15** | **LIVERPOOL** |  |
| **16** | **LYTHAM** |  |
| **17** | **MAGHULL** |  |
| **18** | ***MERSEYSIDE CULTURAL AND CRICKET***  |  |
| **19** | **NEW BRIGHTON** |  |
| **20** | **NEWTON le WILLOWS** |  |
| **21** | **NEWTON le WILLOWS** |  |
| **22** | **NORTHERN** |  |
| **23** | **NORTHOP HALL** |  |
| **24** | **OLD XAVERIANS** |  |
| **25** | **ORMSKIRK** |  |
| **26** | **ORRELL RED TRIANGLE** |  |
| **27** | **PRESCOT & ODYSSEY**  |  |
| **28** | **PRESTATYN** |  |
| **29** | **RAINFORD** |  |
| **30** | **RAINHILL** |  |
| **31** | **SEFTON PARK** |  |
| **32** | **SOUTHPORT AND BIRKDALE** |  |
| **33** | **SOUTHPORT TRINITY** |  |
| **34** | **SPRING VIEW** |  |
| **35** | **ST. HELENS TOWN** |  |
| **36** | **WALLASEY** |  |
| ***37*** | **WAVERTREE** |  |
| ***38*** | **WIGAN** |  |

**Appendix 2**

**Proposed changes to 3rd XI Sunday League Structures 2018**

Introduction

2017 has seen an unacceptable number of conceded matches, 15 on Saturdays and 21 on Sundays. Also 75 teams were unable to field a full team of 11 players and over a hundred teams were recorded with ‘unsure’ players. These facts clearly demonstrate the difficulty clubs are having with 3rd XI team selections. Various reasons for this have been given by clubs; junior players missing for exam revision or family holidays and early season involvement with football. Reasons for concessions aren’t solely attributed to lack of players but ground availability on Sundays with the increased number of cup fixtures leads to inability to rearrange matches. Some of these problems can be reduced by rule changes, which will be considered, but it is felt that restructuring might be welcomed by many clubs.

**Restructuring Proposal – Sundays**

To reduce the pressure on grounds it is proposed that the 28 teams are rearranged into four divisions of seven teams. This requires four less Sundays than the present divisions of 9 and 10 teams. A couple of these Sundays would coincide with the 2nd XI KO rounds. Four divisions also allows regionalised divisions throughout to reduce travelling distances and times. Each week four teams would have a blank Sunday and it may be possible to schedule these with the needs of their club’s senior teams for cup matches.

A proposed set of groupings is below which attempts to recognise geography as well as 2017 league positions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **North West Division** | **South East Division** | **North East Division** | **South West Division** |
| Ainsdale 3 | Bootle (AE) | Highfield 3 | Colwyn Bay 3 |
| Alder 4 | Formby 4 | Leigh 3 | Liverpool 4 |
| Fleetwood Hesketh 3 | Newton le Willows 4 | Lytham 3 | Northop Hall 3 |
| Formby 3 | Rainhill 3 | Newton le Willows 3 | Old Xaverians 3 |
| Hightown St Marys 3 | St Helens Town 3 | Orrell Red Triangle 3 | Prestatyn 3 |
| Southport & Birkdale 3 | Rainford 3 | Spring View 3 | Sefton Park Sunday XI |
| Southport Trinity 3 | Hightown St Marys 4 | Wigan 3 | Wavertree 3 |

These divisions would complete their league fixtures by the end of August and the winners of each division would go forward to a semi-final play-off followed by a final in September.

The fixture schedule is clearly something which clubs need to discuss but from the evidence of this year, when 15 of the 21 conceded matches were early season with six in both May and June, the initial proposal below is to start on the last weekend in April and there would be no matches scheduled for the May and August Bank Holiday Sundays or Father’s Day. Any of the free dates would be available for rearranged matches, including due to lack of players for an acceptable reason.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| April | May | June | July | August | September |
|  | 6 Fixture 2 | 3 Free | 1 Fixture 7 | 5 Fixture 12 | 2 Free |
|  | 13 Fixture 3 | 10 Fixture 5 | 8 Fixture 8 | 12 Fixture 13 | 9 Play-offs |
| 15 Free | 20 Fixture 4 | 17 Fathers’ Day | 15 Fixture 9 | 19 Fixture 14 | 16 Final |
| 22 Free | 27 Free | 24 Fixture 6 | 22 Fixture 10 | 26 Free |  |
| 29 Fixture 1 |  |  | 29 Fixture 11 |  |  |

**Possible Restructuring Proposal – Saturdays**

This proposal has more to do with ‘getting the game on’ than worries about ground availability, principally the reduction in travelling distance and time and scheduling when players are more likely to be available. The aim is to regionalise Division 1 along the same lines as in the existing Sunday structure, i.e. two divisions of teams in the North East and South West. If it is accepted by the clubs it would brought into the structure in 2019 so that teams playing in 2018 know what they are playing for as far as promotion and relegation.

Depending on the number of teams playing on Saturdays (currently 24) the Premier Division would be reduced to 10 teams, i.e. 4 teams would be relegated at the end of 2018. These four teams would join the remaining 10 in Division 1 plus any new entries (Ormskirk CC has asked if their 4th XI can join the league next year). The new regionalised first divisions would consist of 7 or 8 teams. The reduction in fixtures gives the possibility of reducing fixture congestion when players are less available. Unlike the Sunday 3rd XIs the conceded matches occurred late in the season mainly in July (5) and August (9) so perhaps the lack of players is more to do with annual holidays than examinations. Is was also interesting that 13 of the 15 conceded matches were in Division 1. A fixture schedule ending in early August for the Premier Division and at the end of July for First Divisions would allow several weeks when cancelled or friendly matches could be rearranged.

**Conclusion**

These proposals are offered in an attempt to generate discussion at the End of Season 3rd XI SGM about the solutions to the problems of loss of players and conceded matches.

**Appendix 3**

**Proposed Dual Registration Agreement for players between the L&DCC and the S&D ACL**

**Introduction**

This document confirms the principle of Dual Registration between clubs in both leagues and is a response to the need to increase the participation and retention of players. It is believed that it will benefit **Clubs** by making more players available to them and **players** by creating more opportunities for them to play.

1. These arrangements will apply to the playing of cricket on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays in the L&DCC and the S&D ACL.
2. Dual Registration will operate under this agreement between the L&DCC and the S&D ACL. Players may be loaned or received in either direction between the two leagues, the processes will be identical, it will apply equally to all participating clubs.

*Should any other leagues wish to participate, separate and full agreement must be obtained between those leagues in Lancashire, Cheshire or North Wales. The L&DCC will separately consider the principle of Dual Registration between clubs in its own league.*

1. Dual Registration is therefore open to all member clubs of the L&DCC and the S&D ACL and to players of all ages subject to the ECB Guidance on playing of Juniors in Open Age Cricket.
2. In the L&DCC, dual registrations will only be permitted for players from 2nd and 3rd XI (or lower) teams and is specifically not permitted for 1st XI players or 1st X1 teams as defined on play cricket under the L&DCC 11 contiguous league game count back system as set out in its playing regulations.
3. The registration of players will be by play-cricket and will be player specific. The player will choose which club he or she may be loaned to under dual registration. Players in the donor club may be lent to different clubs according to player choice.  Any club may therefore loan to or receive from more than one club at the same time.
4. Any player whether adult or junior, involved in a dual registration shall not be permitted to permanently sign for the borrowing club in the current season of the agreement.
5. This being a Registration scheme, in the L&DCC the 31st July transfer rules will apply for that season i.e. there can be no new loans for 2nd XI players in the L&DCC agreed after the 31st July in a given year. New loans however will be permitted for 3rd XI players and teams.
6. Dual Registered players will be able to play for either club on Saturday and/or Sunday and/or Bank Holiday Monday.
7. In any dispute over dual registration the parent club’s position will be respected and they may withdraw a player from Dual Registration at any time.
8. Any abuses of the system as agreed between the two leagues by players or by clubs will be considered and dealt with by both league Management Committee’s working together.
9. Any disciplinary offence by a loan player will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the league in which the offence was committed. Acceptance of same will be documented in the dual registration papers. The partner league will be kept fully notified of all and any such offences. The outcomes will be fully binding on both leagues.
10. **Registration mechanisms**:

12.1. Players may be dual registered with one club only, Written permission from the parent club holding that player’s registration must be received by both leagues Registration Officers in advance before any loan period may be considered..

12.2. The player to be loaned must already be fully registered in either the L&DCC or in the S&D ACL on play-cricket according to their own and separate registration procedures which will remain unchanged by this agreement.

12.3. The loaned player will be added to the recipient league’s list of players by the recipient league’s registration official into the recipient club’s players on that club’s play-cricket data base with a double dagger **‡** attached to their name to make their status clear.

12.4. In the case of a junior player aged under 15 at the beginning of the playing year i.e. on the 1st September in the previous year being offered as a loan player, a mandatory written note of consent from the parents/guardians is also required.

* 1. There will be no charge(s) levied for any such dual registrations.
	2. After the Dual Registration has been agreed and a loan has taken place, any subsequent loan will require only an email to the two league Registration Secretaries no less than 24 hours before the game commences to confirm a loan for each individual game.

Henry Roberts John Williams

Chairman S+D ACL Chairman L&DCC

12th September 2017