

**MEETING OF ALL CLUBS TUESDAY 9th MARCH via ZOOM at 7.00pm**

1. **Roll Call**

The Chair John Williams (JW) delayed the start of the meeting a little as there were initial difficulties for clubs attempting to log in. The “reminder” for this meeting had been sent with the details for a different meeting attached, the Secretary Chris Weston (CW) apologised, he had now sent out corrected details.

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|  | **FULL MEMBER CRICKET CLUB:** | Present/ absent | **ASSOCIATE MEMBER CRICKET CLUB:** | Present/ absent |
| **1** | **AINSDALE**  |  | **BIRCHFIELD PARK 3rd XI** |  |
| **2** | **ALDER** |  | ***BURSCOUGH JL*** | N/A |
| **3** | **BIRKENHEAD PARK** |  | **GOODLASS 3rd XI** |  |
| **4** | **BOOTLE** |  | ***MAWDESLEY JL*** | N/A |
| **5** | **CALDY** |  | **MERSEYSIDE CULTURAL & CRICKET 3rd XI**  |  |
| **6** | **COLWYN BAY** |  | **OXTON 3rd XI** |  |
| **7** | **FLEETWOOD HESKETH** |  | ***SKELMERSDALE JL*** | N/A |
| **8** | **FORMBY** |  | **SOUTH LIVERPOOL 3rd XI** |  |
| **9** | **HIGHFIELD** |  | ***WIDNES JL*** | N/A |
| **10** | **HIGHTOWN ST MARYS** |  |  |  |
| **11** | **LEIGH** |  |  |  |
| **12** | **LIVERPOOL** |  |  |  |
| **13** | **LYTHAM** |  |  |  |
| **14** | **MAGHULL** |  |  |  |
| **15** | **NEW BRIGHTON** |  |  |  |
| **16** | **NEWTON le WILLOWS** |  |  |  |
| **17** | **NORLEY HALL** |  |  |  |
| **18** | **NORTHERN** |  |  |  |
| **19** | **NORTHOP HALL** |  |  |  |
| **20** | **OLD XAVERIANS** |  |  |  |
| **21** | **ORMSKIRK** |  |  |  |
| **22** | **ORRELL RED TRIANGLE** |  |  |  |
| **23** | **PARKFIELD LISCARD** |  |  |  |
| **24** | **PRESTATYN** |  |  |  |
| **25** | **RAINFORD** |  |  |  |
| **26** | **RAINHILL** |  |  |  |
| **27** | **ST. HELENS TOWN** |  |  |  |
| **28** | **SEFTON PARK** |  |  |  |
| **29** | **SOUTHPORT AND BIRKDALE**  |  |  |  |
| **30** | **SOUTHPORT TRINITY** |  |  |  |
| **31** | **SPRING VIEW** |  |  |  |
| **32** | **SUTTON** |  |  |  |
| **33** | **WALLASEY** |  |  |  |
| **34** | **WAVERTREE** |  |  |  |
| **35** | **WIGAN** |  |  |  |
| **36** |  |  |  |  |

7.09pm

1. **Welcome to all and introduction.**

The Chair welcomed to everyone to the meeting. Clubs were encouraged to use the “Chat box” system for written questions, we would also call for open i.e. verbal questions at regular intervals during the meeting having asked representatives to unmute themselves.

This meeting was unusual for the L&DCC, it was purely specific to “Pandemic Season” 2021.The guidance to be provided by this meeting was specific to this season, any permanent changes to our playing regulations would need to go through a full AGM meeting.

1. **Posting as on 26 February.** [**http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/news.php?id=3655**](http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/news.php?id=3655)

M/C had said for some time now that we would plan to start “as normal” in season 2021 if we could. Recent news from The Government indicated that organised recreational sports could start from the 29th of March if current progress with COVID-19 was maintained. We would only “not start” on the 24th of April if National Guidance said that we could not.

We had already had two meetings of the L&DCC 2021 “Restart Group”.

We were all to some extent handicapped here because we still awaited the promised ECB detailed guidance on adaptions for season 2021.This was due at any time now and it had been hoped that it would be available to this meeting. As soon as we knew more we would share it. All Sports were in the same position as that of cricket.

1. **ECB and LCF Updates**

CW reported on our links.

We were lucky in that we were both a PCL and a League based largely in Lancashire. This gave us excellent access to up-to-date information from both ECB and LCF. Paul Bedford provided that from ECB, John Murphy that from LCF. We had regular meetings with both, our last with LCF had been last Monday, our next with ECB was tomorrow.

There were excellent links between ECB and the Data, Media, Culture and Sport Department (DCMS) that kept cricket as up to date as it could possibly be with government legislation and guidance. There was a WhatsApp Group for leagues in Lancashire hosted by LCF.

CW ran through briefly some dates as we understood them. We had been made aware that on the 8th of March schools and schools cricket would return.

On the 22nd of March, the decision would be made in respect of COVID-19 for the return of outdoor recreational cricket on the 29th of March.

A similar pattern was then likely for the next three months i.e. an evidence-based decision would be made based on COVID-19 data a week before a change was allowed.

On the 5th of April, the decision would be made if cricket could be allowed indoors for juniors and for outdoor services to be resumed for licenced premises on the 12th of April .

On the 10th of May, a decision would be made if adult indoor cricket could restart and clubhouses could reopen with social distancing on the 17th of May.

On the 14th of June, a decision would be made if it would be possible to lift all the adaptions for cricket being required on the 21st of June.

If the data were moving in the wrong direction and there was delay, all the dates following would be delayed by the same amount.

There was probably a need to treat anything on Twitter with caution as information there could be misleading.

All the leagues in Lancashire were following a similar process. L&DCC was starting a little later than other leagues in Lancashire who were mainly starting on 17th April; many clubs will be starting with friendly games. It was important to stress that the matches must be played from the perspective that clubs were still L&DCC clubs in such fixtures and that they should be still compliant with the all the statutory guidance. We had been warned that there would be much more checking by Local Authorities on how the release from lockdown was actually rolling out.

1. **Formats**

JW made clear that that the playing environment during the season would change in line with the guidance changing as we went along.

JW had spoken to the Welsh clubs separately, we are starting on the basis that there will be free travel allowed on the 24th of April. If this were not the case we would sit down with them and see how we could work round any difficulties . The Premier Division would not be affected as no team from Wales was in it, there were two teams in Division One and one in Division Two.

We would be playing time cricket in all divisions with 1s, 2s with 12.00 noon starts and normal points, there would be three L&DCC 2021 “adaptions”:

(i) Last 20 overs put back by 15 minutes for as long as the expected ECB adaptions lasted (ii) Can be 1.00 pm start if both teams agree and notification to fixture secretary by Thursday evening (iii) Over rate penalties to be reduced to 16 per over for as long as expected ECB adaptions last.

The 3s would also play time cricket starting at 1.00pm, again this start time could be varied if both teams agreed and notification was made to the fixtures secretary by Thursday evening

We would be following the playing regulations in Handbook 2019 - which were also all on the website under

<http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/admin_docs.php?id=33>

The four matches between 24/04 through to 17/05 would be played on the same basis as those in September 2020 and certainly those right at the beginning would have no changing rooms, everything outside, no teas and in bubbles of 30 again i.e. 2x15 again with 2x11 players 2 umpires 2 scorers and 2 officials . These would be the only people in the bubble. It was the use of this bubble that had enabled ECB to get permission to play in 2020. Splitting one bubble of 30 into 2 teams of 15 as we did last year would also be fine.

It was repeated, we would be playing a full i.e. 22-match etc. season in the 1s, 2s and 3s, playing time cricket throughout.

Were there any verbal questions? Southport Trinity CC asked when the vote had been taken to start at 12 noon? JW and CW clarified that we had been clear: we were starting in April 2021 as we had finished in September 2020, i.e. with all the adaptions in place. One of those had been an ECB steer to start early. We were continuing exactly as we had said that we would do, there had been no vote of the clubs. In addition, if we started early playing time-cricket, it gave greater flexibility to the umpires in the management of the game. There was also the ability to start at 1:00 PM because of travelling distances, if both clubs agreed. There were no further questions.

**5.2 Teas:**

Should we have them or not? It would not be possible to have them under the 2020 adaptions that would be in place early in the season but what should we do if the adaptions were lifted, perhaps on the 17th of May or the 21st of June?

It was understood that this could be a contentious issue. It was intended to provide clubs with a vote on this at this meeting using the same mechanism that had been used at AGM 2021.

A voting paper would be circulated by the Secretary after this meeting, this paper was then screen shared and time was given to representatives to digest the information thereon.

Extract:

*There will be no voting at the All-Clubs meeting 2021 itself. The Voting Process will take place after the motion has been presented.*

***Clubs will have one vote per club*** *exactly as usual, this vote may be made by either the Chair or the Secretary of a club on the voting form as provided to this meeting by close of business on* ***Thursday 11th March 2021.*** *Voting papers must be sent to the LL L&DCC Secretary Chris Weston by email using* ***chrislizweston@talk21.com***

*This vote on Teas is for the 2021 Cricket Season only with a further permanent vote planned to be taken in advance of Season 2022.*

*Although we are still awaiting guidance it seems certain (as clubhouses are unlikely to be fully open until 17 May) that No Teas will be provided by clubs on the restart on 24 April.*

*This vote assumes that unless the guidance says otherwise, Clubs could be in a position to provide teas (presumably still with Covid restrictions on seating etc.) from 17 May or sometime after that. In order to establish certainty of practice throughout the season please indicate which of the two options your club would prefer when that time comes:*

* ***NO TEAS to continue through to the end of the season***
* ***YES TEAS to be provided from 17 May or a time to be established***

*NOTE: If No Teas is the outcome there will still be a mandatory 30-minute break between play and the Home Club will be required to make hot and cold drinks available for all players, umpires and scorers.*

*Please note this will be decided by majority of votes cast.*

The details here were considered in detail. This vote was necessary to give some certainty of practise once and if it became possible for teas to be served again in 2021. The outcome would be put in writing to the clubs.

There were no questions and the Chair continued with the agenda.

**5.3 Fines:**

These would return in 2021, representatives were reminded that we were planning for a normal season. This would be put in writing to the clubs . It was likely that there would be leniency in respect of basic administrative tasks such as that of getting results on to play cricket by a particular time.

**5.4 Discipline:**

This would operate as in 2019 i.e. as normal. It was business as usual.

The carry-over playing bans from 2019 had been rescinded. The clubs that were affected had already been written to.

1. **Overseas Players**

A number of queries had been received;

The precise impact of the HMG Red Zones on the 24th of April was unknown but clubs had to ensure that such players (i) conformed to all L&DCC regulations in the Handbook in respect of being registered and having played for their club by 31/05/2021 and (ii) ensured that their player had fully abided by all then current UK law on Immigration.

If an overseas player could get here having properly fulfilled all the criteria, L&DCC would register him and he could play.

In essence it was again a M/C “business as usual” approach. M/C was happy to try and help clubs in respect of overseas players if we could, we had had a lot of experience in these areas but could only offer guidance. Clubs should contact M/C if they felt they had a problem .

1. **Promotion and Relegation**

If we played a full season we would have “two up and two down” promotion/relegation, again clubs would get this in writing. If the government changed its plans and, for example, another lockdown was reimposed we would re-evaluate, there were no final decisions yet. If this happened it might need a vote of all the clubs over what was to happen if we could not finish the season - but we would evaluate this at the time.

1. **3rd X1s**

Eddie Shiff the 3rd XI sub-Committee Chair informed that the intention was to play as much as we could, the fixtures would be out in the next 48 hours. There was a full programme of Saturday and Sunday League fixtures. If a club had any suggestions they should let the 3rd XI sub-Committee know.

1. **Cup Competitions**

We were prioritising the ECB Vitality T20 KO, the ECB National KO and the LCF KO competitions. The early rounds would be regionalised as usual after 24th April. There would be a posting in terms of entries. All Premier Division clubs were automatically entered into the ECB T20, if any clubs from other divisions also wished to be entered they would need to get their entries in as per the posting.

Not having Cup competitions at all had been considered as one option but the Restart Group had wanted as many Cup competitions to be played as was possible as clubs needed to be used as much as possible. It was felt that we also needed to be flexible, we also had to think about the space needed for W&G and Junior League fixtures.

The Cup competitions to be run in 2021 were ; the Tyler, Digman, Chester and Tittershill (1s and 2s) plus Chrysalis and Leddy

( 2s and 3s - the Embee would not be run) and would all be run as T20s. Cups would be awarded etc. Again the games would be regionalised in their early rounds. Fixtures could be played on Sunday or as midweek games. CW added that this gave L&DCC maximum flexibility - particularly at the start of the season - which might be needed if for example the Welsh clubs could not start the season and needed to rearrange fixtures into Sundays and Bank Holidays all whilst still playing as much cricket as was possible for everyone.

There were no questions.

1. **Women’s and Girls Cricket**

Paul Bate the Women's and Girls sub-Committee Chair gave a brief report.

The 2021 programme of fixtures was now live <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/youth_cricket.php?id=3659> . It was our intention to maximise the amount of playing at all levels. The range of playing opportunities was outlined, there had been considerable progression from 2020 to 2021 e.g. there was now U15 hardball available and both softball and hardball forms of the game were available to women. There was more provision for U9s girls which was designed to integrate with All Stars and Dynamos. There was a short window for clubs to make their entries into the various competitions as set out in the posting and PBa encouraged clubs to cascade to the relevant people in their clubs to get the entries in by the deadline of 22/03/2021

JW thanked PBa. The growth in W&Gs in the L&DCC had been phenomenal mainly due to PBa but this also reflected well on the clubs. JW strongly encouraged clubs to have a go at W&Gs softball cricket it was good fun and very popular.

1. **Umpires**

Dave Laybourne, the MCUA Secretary and Chair of Hightown St Mary's CC, gave a brief report.

MCUA had lost some umpires but it had gained some too and they hoped to be able to support the LDCC in 2021 as they had done in 2020.The ECB ACO on-line Stage 1 and Stage 2 courses had been very successful. DL encouraged people to try them - there was still time for season 2021!

DL was thanked together with all the umpires and it was noted that clubs would be notified in writing of umpires expenses fees in 2021 which were:

Saturday games £50 (as voted in at AGM 2020 but not enforced in season 2020).

Sunday T20 game £30

Midweek T20 games £25

1. **Junior Cricket – including Inter League**

Phill O'Brien, the Chair of the L&DCC Junior Leagues gave a brief report.

Junior leagues now had an enhanced role in LCF’s structures. District Cricket had become the LCF Inter-League cricket.

Clubs had been invited to make entries for boys to the L&DCC leagues system at U11, U13, U15, and U18. Those for girls would follow.

All Junior League club representatives had already had a meeting.

POB asked clubs to share by cascade the following dates.

May 3rd start of league's programme; we were trying two things this season having entries into either a development League or a more competitive format League. The league structures would be regionalised . The deadlines for entries were 10/03 i.e. tomorrow!

March 22nd , the groupings for the regions would be released.

March 29th ,the regionalisation would be finalised.

The L&DCC interleague programme would need coaches and managers. This would probably involve an overall 6-to-8-hour commitment for participants

The L&DCC interleague players in our various teams would be finalised.

The Chair thanked POB said how pleased he was with progress within the Junior Leagues and went on to say that we also had a commitment to Senior Representative Cricket in Lancashire. This side would be playing in a fixture against other leagues in Lancashire on the second Bank Holiday in May. The competition had a T20 format. There was also U21s cricket as well , this would be advised later.

POB added that was very happy to listen to clubs and for them to get in touch with him.

This was the first time for 29 years that JW was not running one of the junior leagues and he was very grateful to POB for having taken over the running of them. Neil Crew would continue to help us with junior leagues management electronically from Kuwait.

There was a question from Northop Hall CC. Could their Junior XIs also take part in this L&DCC system? It was possible for them still to contribute players into the interleague competition structure playing against other leagues in Lancashire but it was not possible for the club to be part of the ordinary structure of the junior leagues in L&DCC as the travelling distances were too big. It was suggested that it might be possible for them to play in the Wirral/ Cheshire junior leagues system as the distances were much shorter. Eddie Shiff - who was also the Chair of the Wirral Junior Cricket system - said he would look into this and invited Northop Hall CC to contact him.

It was noted that Lytham CC was also an exception to L&DCC, they played their Junior League cricket in the Palace Shield system again because of the distances in terms of travel involved.

1. **Safe Hands - requirements and responsibilities**

Attention was drawn to recent postings on this. The system had changed and it was very important for clubs to be aware of the changes . Premier Division clubs had all been written to by LCF, they had until the 31st of July 2021 to re accredit their Clubmark status. They would lose this status if they had not satisfied the safeguarding requirements now needed under Safe Hands. Clubs could not be in the Premier Division without current Clubmark. 4 out of the 12 clubs had already been re accredited.

Particular attention was drawn to the posting <http://www.lpoolcomp.co.uk/management_bulletins.php?id=3657> and the link to the Safeguarding-in-National-Local-COVID-19-Restrictions.pdf , this was a very good document.

1. **Registrations**

Rob Durand, the L&DCC Registration Secretary, made clear that it was also business as usual in terms of registrations in 2021, we were back to normal, this was a full season and full registrations of all 1st team and 2nd team players by the Wednesday before the game would be in full operation. There will be no exceptions made in 2021.

 3rd XI players had a little more leeway as set out in the Handbook.

Clubs needed to get a move on with these registrations as it would not be possible to process large numbers at the very last moment. Wednesday 21st April 2021 was the last possible date for the registration of players for the first game of the season and Wednesday 26th May was the last possible date for the registration of overseas players - they also had to play in a 1st XI fixture during the following weekend to confirm their registration status.

The Chair repeated, there would be no exceptions in 2021.

1. **Date for a pre-season Meeting in April**

**Tuesday 6th April 2021** via ZOOM at 7.00pm.

1. **Anything else wishing to be discussed**

**16.1 Roll Call:**

CW called the Roll again and repeated his apologies for the difficulties at the start of the meeting, he had tried to be helpful with

the reminder and only caused difficulties!

A maximum total of 46 representatives had been present at this meeting, only Ormskirk and Rainhill CC were missing

**16.2 Financial:**

There were some notifications in respect of financial matters to be made and handed over to the L&DCC Treasurer Peter Fleetwood (PF).

PF restated the financial procedures of the L&DCC in April and October in detail, it would not be possible physically to distribute copies of the April statements or to distribute pink cricket balls - of which we had 170 in stock. It would be necessary to send the statements electronically to clubs.

The L&DCC subscription in 2021 is £160 and in 2022 is £200.

The Junior League subscription is £15 per team.

The W&Gs subscription is taken through Festivals.

Plus the LCF club Affiliation Fee collected by L&DCC on behalf of LCF, details of which were to be notified.

**16.3 Club and Ground**.

This would also return to normal in 2021 and Jim Hathaway would be busy once we all return. Visits to clubs would be recommencing.

**16.4 Help with Fixtures for Visually Impaired teams.**

Phill O'Brien reminded representative that Wavertree CC ran a team for the visually impaired. COVID-19 had made it very difficult for them to get fixtures. The club would welcome offers from other clubs to play against them to give this team some fixtures; all the necessary kit for those not visually impaired to be able to compete fairly against this team would be supplied.Please contactPhill O'Brien on T: 07903032668, **E:** pctzobrien@gmail.com

**The meeting closed at 8:44 PM**