



Dear Club Secretary

4 October 2013

National Club Championship 2014

We would like to invite you to enter the 2014 ECB National Club Championship, dates of which I am pleased to provide below.

The entry for next season's competition will remain at £50 if paying by BACS but will be £55 if paying by cheque. Details of how to do this are on the entry form itself which you will find attached which is to be completed and returned no later than **Friday 29 November 2013**.

We are once again limited by the busy summer schedule to a competition of just 8 rounds; therefore only 256 clubs can enter. All participating clubs from the 2013 competition have been invited and demand traditionally exceeds supply so it will be necessary to limit the number of clubs that are included. The following criteria will be used in judging suitable entries (***please note the requirement to be ECB Clubmark accredited is being introduced for the 2014 season across all ECB club competitions as agreed by the ECB Recreational Cricket Group and Recreational Assembly***):

- 1) ECB Clubmark accredited club
- 2) The League and Division that the Club plays in on a Saturday
- 3) Standard of the Club's ground and ancillary facilities
- 4) Previous history of the Club in the competition.

As such this invitation and your completion of the entry form is not a guarantee that your club will be included in the competition for 2014 as the above entry criteria will to be invoked.

The draw for each Group will be released in January 2014 at the latest and seeded based on the record of the club in the previous season both in this competition and in the ECB Premier Leagues.

The First Round is to be played by Saturday 3 May 2014 at the latest although fixtures will be scheduled for Sunday 27 April 2014. Clubs involved in 10 team groups, i.e. those starting later on in the season, are encouraged to play these matches as early as possible and one option is for clubs to utilise the Saturday prior to the start of their League season for these First Round matches or any team may agree to play their first round match on any Sunday in April if they wish.

Clubs will be required to meet the costs of umpires until the Group Finals stage, at which point ECB will assume this responsibility. Each host club will receive match balls for all home matches throughout the competition, please indicate on the entry form whether you would prefer to have these balls sent to your club or contact person's home address.

The National Final will be held at a first class ground to be confirmed once the First Class Fixture List is published in December 2013 by the ECB First Class Cricket Department.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Campbell
Competitions Executive

Provisional Dates for 2014

| <u>Round</u> | <u>Scheduled Date</u> | <u>Wet Weather Reserve Date</u> |
|----------------------|---|---|
| First | 27 April 2014 (<i>played by 3 May</i>) | 5 May 2014 (<i>can be earlier if agreed</i>) |
| Second | 11 May 2014 | 18 May 2014 |
| Third | 1 June 2014 | 8 June 2014 |
| Fourth (Group Final) | 22 June 2014 | 29 June 2014 |
| Fifth | 13 July 2014 | 20 July 2014 |
| Quarter final | 3 August 2014 | 10 or 17 August 2014 (<i>depending on T20 matches</i>) |
| Semi final | 31 August 2014 | 7 September 2014 |
| Final | TBC (<i>14 or 21 September 2014</i>) | TBC |