



THE GORDON RIGG BRADFORD PREMIER LEAGUE



Newsletter, July 9

At last the Government have approved the return of recreational cricket from this Saturday so now the hard work begins.

The league Management Board have studied the adaptations listed in the ECB Plan for the Move from Step 3 to Step 4 on their roadmap for the return of recreational cricket.

They have agreed that due to the uncertainties caused by Covid-19 and the prospect that it could cause disruption to our competitions at any time that all regular first and second team league competitions, the Priestley Cup, Jack Hampshire Cup and Priestley Shield have been cancelled.

It was felt that the integrity and standing of those competitions would be forever tarnished if they were played with teams missing, overseas players absent and alterations to the norms we have come to expect in Bradford Premier League cricket.

There are adaptations to the game regarding players arriving at the ground changed, players having to provide their own food and drink, regular ball sanitation breaks and running marks alongside the pitch for batsmen. However, these are not as extreme as we initially feared and that is why we believe we can offer you the chance to return to action at Step 4.

It was clear from the recent survey we conducted that there is an appetite for competitive cricket, however limited that might be, and therefore we propose to put in place new competitions for 2020.

Each first and second team division will have its own league cup which will be played initially on a league basis before advancing ultimately to a final. All matches will be played on Saturdays with the season starting on Saturday, July 25.

All matches will be 40 overs per side with bowlers limited to eight overs each. There will be one power play of eight overs.

How it works

First teams:

- We plan to split each division into groups of six – except where clubs exercise their right not to compete – and this will be done on a regional basis to limit travel. Each team will play five matches. Points will be awarded as in league games except that in the event of a tie the team losing the least wickets will be the winner.
- The top two in each group will form Pool One in the second round and will play three more games.
- The teams finishing third and fourth in each of the first-round groups will form Pool Two and play for positions 5-8
- The teams finishing fifth and sixth in each of the first-round groups will form Pool 3 and will play for positions 9-12
- The top two in Pool 1 will contest the final

Second teams:

- We plan to split each division into groups of six – except where clubs exercise their right not to compete – and this will be done on a regional basis to limit travel. Each team will play five matches. Points will be awarded as in league games except that in the event of a tie the team losing the least wickets will be the winner.
- The top two in each group will proceed to the semi finals
- The teams finishing third, fourth, fifth and sixth will face the team finishing in the identical position in the other group.
- The final will be contested by the two winning semi-finalists.

Full competition rules plus fixtures will be released once clubs have indicated.

*The exact formats of these competitions may have to be modified if teams opt not to play.

T20 Cups

We propose to run both the Group A and Group B competitions on Sundays. We plan a regionalised group stage followed by quarter finals, semi-finals, and finals. Judging by the response to our recent survey, each club can expect to have at least three games.

Survey

We are today launching another survey in which we are asking all clubs to indicate what competitions they feel able to commit to. Nobody is compelled to play and there will be no punishment for anybody who feels unable to play.

In our previous survey some of you indicated it was hard to commit without knowing the format of the competitions on offer. Now that we have given you the outline of what we are prepared to offer, we need you to carefully consider what you want to do.

The survey also includes questions regarding the ECB Guidelines plus the readiness of each club for a resumption in play.

We need you to complete the survey by midnight on Sunday so that we can finalise the competition format and fixtures.

Again, we ask you to think carefully and answer honestly.

Urgent requirements for clubs

It is imperative the club officials read thoroughly the ECB guidelines and implement them fully. Covid-19 has not gone away and permission to play does not mean there is no risk.

The number one aim must be the health and safety of all participants in Bradford Premier League cricket. There is no mistaking that some of the requirements and responsibilities on clubs are tough, but that is understandable given that Covid 19 is such a deadly and invisible enemy.

If you commit to play you are also committing to abide by the guidelines. Cricket will be under the microscope and you do not want to be the club that has an Environmental Health official turn up and discover you have not taken the required measures to guarantee a safe environment.

- All clubs **must** carry out a Covid 19 Risk Assessment and submit it to league secretary Chris Leathley, email secretary@bradfordcl.com before playing any cricket.
- All clubs must appoint a Covid-19 official who ensures the details in the plan are carried out. His name must also be notified to league secretary Chris Leathley, email secretary@bradfordcl.com before playing any cricket.

DO NOT PLAY ANY GAME WITHOUT HAVING THESE TWO ITEMS IN PLACE. NOT OBSERVING GOVERNMENT AND ECB REGULATIONS MAY INVALIDATE YOUR CLUB INSURANCE.

IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT THE ECB ACO INSURANCE SCHEME FOR UMPIRES COVERS THEM FOR HANDLING FRIENDLY AND LEAGUE MATCHES PROVIDED THEY ARE PLAYED IN ADHERENCE TO GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

Guidance from ECB

The ECB have issued guidance documents for clubs and leagues, players and umpires and scorers. All three are being emailed to clubs and will be posted on the league website in the Covid 19 section of the website.

These are extremely informative, and I would urge you all to read them carefully to understand fully the challenges that lie ahead.

Please can clubs ensure that all their players are made aware of the specific guidance for them. Either email it to them or post it on a club website. This is a learning experience for all of us.

Umpires

As we have indicated in previous newsletters that 24 of the long-standing members of our umpiring panel are over 70 and we need to plan for the fact that they may feel unable to officiate this season. Whether to umpire or not is also a personal decision for all members of the panel and it is important we respect and support the decision each individual takes.

However, if we are to get the game on, there must be a shared responsibility from everybody to step up to the plate. It is why we have been requesting for the past month for clubs to get people to take the online umpires' course. A big thank you to all of those who have responded, but now we need an even bigger effort. We need every club that opts to play to have somebody who is prepared to act as a club umpire to be ready to bolster our numbers.

These are exceptional times and therefore require exceptional measures. If we want to avoid players having to stand in as umpires, please take this requirement seriously. It is important that we value and respect the umpires we have, and this is an opportunity to support them.

No club can assume they will always have two panel umpires, so this is an appeal for everybody to do their bit as we come to terms with the challenges of this exceptional season.

...and finally,

Cheers to all those hard-working officials who put in long hours to ensure their club bars opened safely last week. We hope your efforts brought their rewards.