



THE GORDON RIGG BRADFORD PREMIER LEAGUE



Newsletter April 19, 2020

Dear Colleagues

Yesterday should have been the start to the new season and it is surely a sense of frustration for everybody in the Bradford Premier League community that we have not been able to take advantage of the recent good weather.

When the season will start is still a subject of much conjecture and will be based on the advice from Government and the ECB.

We have now formally cancelled all league and cup matches in May along with the Match Officials Association meeting due for May 14.

The prospects of any play in June are extremely remote but we will wait for the ECB announcement which is due in the coming week before taking any further action.

Our aim is to provide us much competitive and our current preferred option would be an 11-game league season – every team playing each other once – and cup competitions.

The starting date is critical and until we know that we cannot be more specific about our scheduling. However, if it is not possible to play what we consider to be a viable league programme with cups as outlined above, our aim would be to provide a guaranteed minimum of matches to all clubs by adjusting the formats of the cup competitions.

If the sole focus is cups and T20s we will not allow a situation where a club's season is over after just one game. To achieve this, we would split the teams into groups of six and after five league games the four group winners would go forward to the knockout semi-finals.

This format ensures each club a minimum of five cup games. We can extend that to a total of 11 by entering everybody into the two T20 competitions where teams would be split into threes and matches would be played on Saturdays or Sundays with each team having a home day where they host the other two clubs. This would guarantee a minimum of six T20 games for any club. There will be no midweek dates being used due to insufficient light in August. The eight group winners in each T20 competition would go forward to the knockout stages.

The beauty of the plan set out above is it can be completed in seven weeks and if it were to start on August 1 it would ensure the season finishes on September 13 with the fitting climax of the Priestley Cup final.

We feel it is important to share with you the sort of planning we have been doing and the efforts we are making to achieve a programme that has both challenge and integrity. We will only be able to provide more detail when we know the exact timescale we will be working to.



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We all have to accept that some of the things we take for granted may not be possible and therefore we need to be both flexible and imaginative in adapting to any given situation. It is fair to say that the 2020 season will be unlike any other that any of us have experienced, but if we pull together, we can rise to the challenges it will present.

The biggest of those challenges is ensuring that our entire Bradford Premier League cricket community stays safe and well. We will not compromise the health and well being of our officials, players, umpires, scorers, tea ladies, groundsmen and followers.

ECB and Sport England funding

On Friday all clubs were emailed details of how to apply for the ECB Emergency Support for Clubs and Leagues and the Sport England Emergency Community fund. If you did not receive the email or would like to check out the details, links to the appropriate documentation can be found in the Covid 19 section of the league website and at the bottom of this newsletter.

Don't forget to let us know

We will continue to do all we can to keep clubs fully updated on any new funding initiatives or guidance. Communication is key during the Coronavirus Pandemic. In addition to this newsletter, the league website and regular emails, we have now added one-to-one club calls involving our Club Representatives Bob Schofield and Brian Pearson. Bob has already completed his round of calls and wishes to thank all of the club officials who spoke to him for making it what he called "an uplifting experience." The purpose of the calls is to make sure clubs have no issues which require the league's help and to ensure they know how to find details of available funding.

Please Remember

- 1 If your club has a problem or needs help please let us know.
- 2 Do not be afraid to speak up as hiding a problem can make the situation harder to resolve
- 3 Remember those members and followers of your clubs who are in the at-risk categories. Give them a call and offer help where you can.

Home training for players

On what should have been the first weekend of our season we can only ponder as to when the season might start. For players one of the challenges of lockdown is working on our fitness in anticipation of the forthcoming season, whenever that might be.

With this in mind, Chief Executive Mark Heald, has been in touch with Sports Performance Coach Dan Farr who has offered to run a cricket specific fitness session based around the biomechanics needed for the sport and the specific energy systems needed for cricket. The sessions are available to all abilities, with the emphasis on improving your personal performance whether that be as a batsmen or bowler.

Dan is a cricketer himself and was recently named in the Manchester Evening News as one of the online fitness influencers to watch in Manchester. Dan's specialism is sports performance and injury recovery/pain management – all of his home workout exercises are on his instagram which is @dan_chasehp.



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The sessions can be accessed via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85435487262?pwd=ZkNsZ1NxTkNHdDk0azE0WWRoazY0QT09>

Password : 874444

The first one which will be a free taster session will take place [on Thursday 23rd April at 6pm.](#) and will last for 45 minutes.

Subsequent sessions will be run each [Thursday at 6.00 p.m.](#) – 45 minutes at a cost of £6 per session.

Home training for scorers

Just a reminder for those scorers who missed out on our final Play Cricket Scorer Pro session due to the lockdown that on-line resources are available. In order to help with scorer familiarity on PCS Pro (Laptop) and Play Cricket Scorer (Tablet and Phone) please see the Youtube links below, These give an insight into specific occurrences which can and will happen during a game. They should be used for refresher training for those who attended the courses and for those who have not yet attended it will give a flavour of the systems

Play Cricket Scorer Pro (Laptop) 61 videos

PCS Pro is **mandatory** for all first elevens games) and optional for 2nd eleven games)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NB2Fxc0UsQQ&list=PLKHiPQIRv8bzbv4yzzK5pDyYPPUxzt-vEh&utm_campaign=11462218_070420_Over%26Out&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Email_ACO&utm_content=PCS+Pro

Play Cricket scorer (Tablet and Phone) 23 videos

(optional for second eleven games)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02M3qgNgdBw&list=PLKHiPQIRv8bxLpZpNdGAejOyWbd-rTg5x&utm_campaign=11462218_070420_Over%26Out&utm_medium=Email&utm_source=Email_ACO&utm_content=PCS

Insurance

Thank you to those clubs who responded to last week's request to submit a copy of their insurance certificate to the league. If you still haven't done so, please take this as another nudge to do this as it should have been submitted by March 31. League Rule Nine states: *The Secretary of every club is responsible for ensuring that a copy of its current insurance certificate is forwarded to the League Secretary by March 31 each year. No Club will be allowed to fulfil fixtures until a valid certificate is produced. Each club must ensure that insurance provides adequate protection for its players, officials, and club umpires. The insurance must also cover clubs for public liability.*



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Overseas players

Thank you to those clubs that have confirmed to the league that they are no longer pursuing the signing of an overseas player. If your club is not continuing with the signing of an overseas player we need to know as we need to remove them from the list of potential signings. Contact overseas@bradfordcl.com

Contact point

The first point of contact for league matters is currently Alan Birkinshaw, email: editor@bradfordcl.com Phone: 07758 8861632.

Useful information

All of these documents are available on the league website.

[ECB Emergency Funding for Clubs and Leagues](#)

[Emergency Community Funding](#)

[IOG Interim Pitch Advice](#)

[Business Support Advice](#)

[ECB Advice on Ground Maintenance](#)

[How to close down your beer dispensing system](#)

[ECB Update on Covid 19](#)

...and finally

Thank you to all the people who have sent kind messages to our chairman David Young and secretary Chris Leathley as they recover from Covid 19. Both are making steady recoveries and we all hope they will soon be returned to full health.

Alan Birkinshaw Communications & Data Officer.