



THE GORDON RIGG BRADFORD PREMIER LEAGUE



Newsletter 5, 2021

The league's officers are awaiting with interest the publication of the ECB roadmap for the playing of league cricket in 2021. Talks between the ECB and the Department of Digital, Media, & Sport are on going and we expect to receive the guidelines shortly.

During the coming week, David Young will be taking part in an on-line meeting for the chairmen of all the ECB Premier Leagues and we may know more information about the way ahead after that.

The league's officials continue to plan for a full league season offering promotion and relegation which will start on Saturday, April 17.

As league secretary Chris Leathley pointed out in a statement to clubs on Friday, we cannot release cup dates until we know exactly what the ECB roadmap looks like.

We have planned for several scenarios and do have a draft cup schedule which we will only publish once we know if we must move any league fixtures to Sundays.

It must be remembered that every round of Saturday fixtures we have to move will block out two Sundays due to the reduced availability of umpires and that will necessitate a change to our draft cup plans.

We appreciate that this is all very frustrating, but we want to be able to deliver a schedule which does not require further change. Please bear with us and we will ensure you receive the information you require as soon as it possible for us to provide it.

The league officials are also looking at the rule changes and amendments to playing conditions which will be required. They are also assessing changes that may be required to compensate for potential Covid-19 directives.

Once again, ECB guidance will determine when we can release these, but we will be explaining the changes at the agm on March 18.

There are many important factors we have had to consider and there are still important pieces of information we require from the ECB to be able to complete our work.

Please rest assured that we will pass on the ECB roadmap, our cup schedule, and the revised rules at the earliest opportunity by email, newsletter and via the league website.





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ECB Newsletters

We urge clubs to make sure they take notice of the content of the weekly ECB Newsletter for Clubs and Leagues. This is sent out by email every Friday and every club should receive it. If your club does not receive this, please email editor@bradfordcl.com

There were two useful pieces of advice regarding the current Covid-19 regulations which clubs should take note of. These came from questions from clubs and are listed below.

Q. Can I deliver 1:1 coaching sessions?

A. Not currently. Sports venues (including cricket facilities) must remain closed as instructed by the government until at least 29/3/21 (subject to review) and you may currently only exercise in a public outdoor space with one other person. ECB is clear that the definition of exercise in a public space is not intended to include cricket activity. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#exercising>

Q. Can I meet with other club committee members to get the ground ready for the start of the season?

A. Not currently. 'Stay at Home where possible' is still in force, so grounds maintenance should be limited to essential preparation tasks with essential staff only. Large working parties are not appropriate at this stage. Clubs should risk assess any lifting or lone working that would be a health and safety risk, and delay that until Step 1b (29/3/21) when the Rule of Six will apply and 'Stay at Home' will be replaced with 'Stay Local', then sub-grouped (max 6) working parties would be more appropriate. For more information, please see the latest [Sport England Guidance](#)

International plea

League chairman David Young has received a plea for help from Richard Black who is Head Coach to the Serbian National Cricket Team and is looking to recruit players of Serbian/Yugoslavian descent, aged between 16-25, who would be keen to represent Serbia in future tournaments, including the ICC World Cup Qualifiers. To be eligible, players must have either a parent or a grandparent born in Serbia or Yugoslavia.

If any club believes that they might have an eligible player, they should contact Richard Black directly on (richard@serbiacricket.com) to express interest.



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Focus on league photographer



We are delighted to learn that two of Ray Spencer's photographs have received recognition from his peers.

His dramatic picture of Jer Lane wicketkeeper Imran Mirza pulling off a run out during the 2019 Group B T20 Cup final at Birstall, was entered in the Yorkshire Photographic Union's (YPU) annual exhibition and was highly commended by the judges.

The photograph was awarded 19 points out of 20 and Ray was told he would have received full marks if it wasn't for the blue shed in the corner. Pity the judges did not know more about cricket as the shed they referred to were the pitch covers.

Ray did receive a maximum from Halifax Photographic Society when he entered his picture of Hanging Heaton's Nick Connolly playing a cover drive against Wrenthorpe in last season's League Cup competition. He took second place, and the picture has been entered in this year's YPU exhibition. With no shed in view let us hope Ray gets another maximum.

Recognition for Ray is well deserved, and we look forward to seeing him out and about taking pictures for the league website this summer.





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League AGM

Could **ALL CLUBS** and the Match Officials Association please notify League Secretary, Chris Leathley as soon as possible of the name of the person from your club who will be participating in the forthcoming League AGM on Thursday 18th March which will be conducted on Microsoft Teams. Thank you to the 18 clubs who have already done so.

Clubs were sent an email on Friday 5th March, with a link, to vote on various resolutions in advance of the meeting on 18 March.

ONLY ONE PERSON PER CLUB CAN TAKE PART in the video meeting and ALL CLUBS MUST BE REPRESENTED. A link with details of how to access the meeting has been sent out.

Raising Standards

Clubs are urged to let us know about the improvements they have made in the past year. Last week we were glad to feature the work undertaken by Northowram Fields and in the coming week we will be looking at the programme of improvements being carried out by Woodlands.

