

Members' Representative Group – Meeting Minutes. 5th March 2024. Headingley Stadium.

In attendance: Graeme Greenfield (Chair), Chris Woodthorpe, Pauline Beesley, Charlotte Evers, Howard Ray, Josh Wilmer (YCCC Customer and Member Liaison Officer), Sam Gascoyne (YCCC Head of Marketing)

MRG Website Updates

1. Josh Wilmer (JW) raised the change of website literature and change of visibility for the group. This would include pictures of each member, a small piece of written word to detail their history, what their objectives in the group are. The email address would be made much more visible on the website. Overriding objective is to ensure greater visibility of the group, ensuring that the membership is aware of who the MRG are and what their role is.
 - 1.1 Minutes of meetings to be formally recorded, published, and made available on the website.
 - 1.2 The group agreed that this would be a positive step forward and that this would be actioned after the AGM, once re-elections had been confirmed.
 - 1.3 JW reiterated that the Club wants the MRG to be visible to all members, so they are aware that their voice can be heard, and opinions made known to the Club's executive.
 - 1.4 Further measures to this end would be for all minutes to be published and made available on the Club website.
 - 1.5 Chris Woodthorpe (CW) raised publishing the agenda ahead of each formal MRG meeting in good time so members can add topics and discussive points to it ahead of each meeting. Agreed this would be a positive action.

Timelines to be generated for when this may be feasible.

AGM Process – Term Limits

2. Confirmation of the AGM MRG procedure. Charlotte Evers (CE) and Howard Ray (HR) to be re-elected. Manifesto and signatories had already been submitted for CE. HR to produce manifesto by 15th March. JW would check with the Club Secretary if this deadline was also solid for the signatories as hesitations had been made regards to a lack of time to generate these.
 - 2.2 Date for the AGM was confirmed for 27th April on morning of Day 2 of the County Championship game. Start time was TBC but likely to be 9.30am
 - 2.3 Graeme Greenfield (GG) gave his apologies for this date as he would be unable to attend due to a holiday.
 - 2.4 Query raised due to term limit given to CE by Club Secretary that due to 2023 seeing no election, CE would only serve a two-year term not 3. JW to take away and double check this was to be the case.
 - 2.5 Confirmation was given that the term limits for the MRG elected members were in line with the Board of Directors as per the Club Rules. Uncertainty as to when this was brought in as working assumption from all members was that the terms were 4 yearly from the date of the AGM everyone was elected.
 - 2.6 Discussion had on formal dates for each MRG meeting. CW advised he would prefer matchdays but did not want to speak for the whole group. HR raised a point about conducting meetings after play had finished on a matchday. GG and JW to speak and agree some dates that could work for MRG meetings. This could then be distributed to executive leadership ahead of time to guarantee attendance.

Member Forums

3. Schedule of member forums and dates distributed. Forum dates agreed with note from JW that confirmed speakers were still TBC.
- 3.1 Discussion was had on how best to keep these fresh and relevant. Clearly a need for members to hear from Colin Graves early in tenure so happy to keep him penciled in for the first members forum in April.
- 3.2 GG made the point that whilst members are keen to hear what is going on and off the field, most want to talk about events on the field. This would be especially prevalent at Scarborough where the crowd are likely more interested in actual cricket.
- 3.3 CE raised previous forums where Academy coaches had attended with some players. This was well received. Similarly in the past when players had popped to the Long Room for 10 or 15 minutes to chat with members during a rain delay. Also raised how Somerset have great buy in from players for events and that they have successfully run a BBQ for years that is attended by both players and members.
- 3.4 JW and Sam Gascoyne (SG) to take this away. Stressed that individual's appearances for upcoming dates were not set in stone and this could be a good chance to repurpose the forums, after a couple of years of 'off-field' issues having dominated.
- 3.5 Bring a Friend initiative welcomed positively as a good way to get new members in at the start of the season and for the following season when done at the end of 2024.
- 3.6 JW reiterated that this was about ensuring members feel both valued, and that there is value in a YCCC membership.
- 3.7 CE raised the Opening Season Lunch and why there was no member's discount. Was £65 pricing some members out from attending? SG and JW unsure about the pricing reasons but something that could be explored for next year's iteration.
- 3.8 SG raised that the Club had initially looked to trial a Members Coffee morning from January but that due to the EGM's, this had to be postponed. This would be something the Club would look to set up again in the 2024 off-season.

Members Surgery

4. Members Surgery to be trialed this year with JW and a member of the MRG to be in the Long Room. Would be distributed across the formats, venues, and months over the course of the season. Positively welcomed with JW and GG to agree some dates that these could take place. GG suggested day 2 of CC games but to also ensure we capture the feelings of T20 crowds.

CE raised a separate point on the PA system and asked if the 12th man for Yorkshire each day could be announced over the tannoy. JW to take away as aware the Club have looked at repurposing the script that the PA announcer plays.

Schedule/Venues in upcoming seasons

5. Discussion on how taking games on the road would be felt across the membership. Agreed that more needed to be done in South Yorkshire to ensure that there is visibility there and buy in from members in that region. Strategically, taking games on the road key for growth of the game. SG discussed some embryonic proposals that could include taking 2xODC games to Sheffield Collegiate, 1xCC game to York with 1xT20 taken to Scarborough.

- 5.1 Hesitations raised over the T20 to Scarborough. Is the infrastructure good enough for the scale of a T20. CW thought that crowds for a previous T20 were disappointing at Scarborough. GG believed that televised games had been discounted due to them not being able to facilitate them because of lack of said infrastructure.
- 5.2 HR asked when this might be brought in. SG thought the earliest would be 2025 but timescales subject to change.
- 5.3 Bradford PA raised as a potential venue. Again, the infrastructure is not up to scratch and would need large-scale improvements for this to be an option. Also raised that this did not solve the issue of the Club being too focused on West and North Yorkshire.

Darwin Project Letter

6. JW closed the meeting asking for approval for the MRG to sign a letter of support, on behalf of all Yorkshire members, for the Club's application for a Tier 1 Women's domestic team. This would need to be signed and submitted by Friday. JW to draft and sign off internally, to be sent to GG for his okay.

Meeting closed.