

Members' Representative Group, Meeting Minutes, 9th March 2026 4PM, Headingley Stadium

In attendance: Graeme Greenfield (Chair), Howard Ray, Ben Sanders, Chris Woodthorpe, Ian Townsend (Member-nominated Non-Executive Director), Sanjay Patel (YCCC Chief Executive Officer), Jon Barnett (YCCC Director of Operations), Josh Wilmer (YCCC Communications Lead), Dan Matson (YCCC Commercial Director)

Apologies: Pauline Beesley, Mark Dexter, Mark Bailey

Club Update

- Cricket: Pre-season tours to UAE cancelled: men rearranged to Spain, women to South Africa. Targeted new signings to be players with experience. Women's team stepping up into tier 1, there will be a bridge to gap. Coaching teams have now had a year together with players.
- Strategy: Just about there with a 10 year plan and a masterplan for ground developments is in draft stage, Club will share when ready (Wednesday 29th April to members).
- Catering: Big focus on Sodexo. YCCC have delivered presentations, documents, and invited representatives to board meetings to make clear that the situation needs improving. Sodexo have made a few changes (including introducing a players' catering manager and a dedicated chef). Hospitality areas just about there, Long Room progressing (MRG members have been invited to a briefing ahead of the season about this). There will be a dedicated area in the long room for people who have purchased food from the counter to eat in.
- Membership: Strong numbers, up on this time last year. Packs to be sent out late March. Members' survey had 1300 responses.
- Ticket sales: going well for Blast and internationals.
- New recreational initiative off to a good start.
- Yearbooks: ready for the first home game.
- Car Parking: comms to come out soon about some changes in use of car parks on matchdays.

2nd XI fixture behind closed doors

- The question of why the game couldn't be open to the public and/or be played at another ground instead was raised.
- Since the meeting, it has been confirmed that the East Stand and Long Room will now be open for the 4 day game against Warwickshire 2nds starting on 5th May, but with no parking due to the stadium lockdown ahead of the Leeds Marathon. This change has been made to the 2nd XI fixture list online, and will be communicated ahead of the game.

Venues for women's 1st XI

- Holding a game at Ampleforth was questioned with the lack of public transport, another game in North Yorkshire etc. It's a question for Gavin Hamilton, Josh Wilmer flagged it with him.
- Gavin explained the reasoning behind playing there, with it having high quality on and off pitch facilities, something that other grounds cannot always accommodate to meet the standards needed for a women's professional game. The club also feels it is a destination ground that people will travel to given its outstanding setting.

Cricket Archive subscription

- It was part of the Yorkshire website up till 2023, and was a good resource for Yorkshire members.
- A general review of the website is being conducted, and this will be considered as part of that.

Outfield access

- The possibility of the re-introduction of this to allow people to wander on a small section of the outfield during intervals on dry days, as happens at other test match grounds.
- To be taken away by Jon Barnett to be looked at; Richard Robinson (Head of Grounds) has been keen in the past.

Dickie Bird tribute

- A couple of ideas have been brainstormed: awarding the Dickie Bird medal to either the men's and women's emerging player of the year (the group's preference), or individual performance of the year. A prominent picture in the Long Room or elsewhere around the ground could be an idea in addition.

50 year membership

- The cost of purchasing new medals is high.
- Ideas were suggested for potential replacements, whilst also considering the permanency of a medal.

Scarborough

- Club are committed to Scarborough, part of the fabric.
- Players enjoy playing at Scarborough and get results there.
- Club are working with the new Scarborough board.
- The Peasholm Park end is a popular area for spectators so with its closure other areas of the ground will get busy, especially the pavilion and Trafalgar Square end.
- The need to steward the pavilion properly was raised so no one enters into PMOA zones, or have non-members sitting in seats reserved for members. And a need for better stewarding generally around the ground.
- Re-introducing a 15 minute priority time window for members' to get seats before non-members are allowed into the ground might be a good idea.

Meeting closed around 5:20PM

Minutes taken by Ben Sanders, next regular meeting scheduled for 12th May.