

26<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## LEAGUE SECRETARY – END OF SEASON REPORT 2021

The 2021 season followed on, from the shortened 2020 “covid season” in which Covid Cups were awarded.

2021 was challenging for the similar reasons to that of 2020. We had to manage the League with moving Covid-19 restrictions, agreed by ECB and HM Government. To this end, the Board organized a meaningful fixture list in lockdown, and agreed parameters for agreeing league tables by average points per game, should Covid-19 ravage the season.

We were acutely aware that we could not go another year, without meaningful promotion and relegation, to this end, we had to come up with rules and contingency plans. Without crystal balls in place for the season, we tried to cover all aspects and eventualities, which maybe thrown at us, at short notice.

The Board used Zoom, to manage the AGM, and pre-season meetings. The Board met numerous times during every month of the season, again by zoom. Cricket balls were distributed locally by League Officials, as Covid-19 restrictions forbid meeting in doors pre-season.

So, we organized 1836 Saturday League fixtures, and all cup competitions ran, as per the 2019 program.

My congratulations firstly go to ECBYPLN winners Castleford CC, who won 14 out of their 16 completed matches. They went on to win the White Rose semi final against Richmondshire by 1 run, at their home ground, to set up another nail-biting encounter against Woodlands CC at Headingley, YCCC HQ. The team won the toss, elected to bat, and posted 241/9 off 50 overs, openers Chesney Hughes and Liam Hyde putting on 103 stand for the first wicket, blunting the Woodlands attack. The middle and lower order all chipped in with crucial runs at the end. In response Woodlands top order in Tim Jackson, Cieran Garner and Liam Collins all scored 30s, but the response lacked a major innings of note. A late order blistering display 40 off 32 balls by Elliot Richardson was not enough, as Woodlands fell an agonizing 6 runs short of the target. Castleford finished their season being Champions of Yorkshire, winners of the White Rose Trophy.

Yorkshire Academy pulled out League fixtures in August, having played 13 fixtures. As they had not played the required 16 games, our covid protocol had to kick in, which meant only one team would move up and down the top two divisions. The League Board did not feel this was correct, so late in the season, so the parameters were redrawn, to allow two teams to be promoted from the second premier division, and four teams up from the two division ones in total. The only negative outcome is there will be more relegation in 2022 to combat the changes made, and the top division will have 13 teams in 2022, which will create the odd free week for each team.

As such, Beverley Town CC were promoted Champions of Y&DSCL Premier Division, with Sessay 1<sup>st</sup> XI finishing runners up, after a solid start to the season, which faded away. The division was



**Philip Robshaw**  
**Secretary – ECB Yorkshire Premier League North**  
**Deputy County Welfare Officer YCB (North & East)**  
**Address: 21 Maple Gardens, Sowerby, Thirsk. YO7 3PY.**  
**Telephone: 01845 440779**  
**Mobile: 07751 220886**  
**Email: philip.robshaw@hotmail.co.uk**

decided on average points, which created a tight second place, with Malton & Old Malton CC at 4<sup>th</sup>, narrowly missing out by 0.55 average points per match.

The promotion alteration for both division ones, saw Easingwold and Cottingham champions of 1 West and 1 East respectively. Dom Rhodes took 55 wickets, Jordan Yeomans also scalped 48 batsmen for Cottingham. With the bat Dom Rhodes hit 1166 runs, and was ably backed up with Danny Moss scoring 604. At founder member club Easingwold territory in the North of the League James Postil was the only batsman to pass 500 runs for the season, in a division which saw 28 matches abandoned, plus those ravaged by Covid-19. With the ball, Stephen Piercy took 33 wickets, from 186 overs bowled.

Runners up of D1 West were Carlton Towers, who were 8<sup>th</sup> in the divisional table at the end of May, saw the retuning Tom Collins hit 1100 runs, and play a big part in their promotion push in the middle to latter end of the season. The evergreen Mark Holmes and Henry Bayston hit 640 and 631 runs respectively, to aid Tom Collins. Captain Robert Holah, bowled a lot of middle innings overs, to pass the 40 wicket mark for the season

Bridlington 1<sup>st</sup> XI finished runners up in Division 1 East, falling just 13 points short of Cottingham at the end of the season. Casey Rudd and Russell Robinson scored 657 and 504 runs respectively, to aid the push for promotion. Casey Rudd's 42 wickets ensured his place as the mainstay of his clubs bowling attack.

Division Twos sees York 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, Yapham 1<sup>st</sup> XI, South Milford 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Pickering 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Brandesburton 1<sup>st</sup> XI and South Holderness 1<sup>st</sup> XI taste Division One cricket next year. My congratulations to York, South Milford and Brandesburton for winning their respective divisions.

Division Threes sees Ovington 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Carlton Towers 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Duncombe Park 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Wetherby 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Kirkella 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Patrington 2<sup>nd</sup> XI all promoted into Division Two next season. Again, my congratulations in particular to Ovington, Duncombe Park and Kirkella for winning their respective divisions.

Division Fours sees Eastrington 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Burn 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Heslington 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, New Earswick 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Cherry Burton 1<sup>st</sup> XI, and Cottingham 3<sup>rd</sup> XI all promoted into Division Threes for next season. Eastrington, Heslington and Cherry Burton were the divisional winners, and my congratulations is extended to them.

Hull Zingari 3<sup>rd</sup> XI were runaway winners of Division 5 Holderness with 417 points, and Bransholme & Kingswood finished a solid second with 380 points, having shaken off Dalton Holme 1<sup>st</sup> XI, who finished 12 points short of promotion. My congratulations to Alastair Markham and Steven Sewell, both workhorses of their respective clubs, whose promotions will mean so much to them.

The Sunday division, through slightly different in concept, was decided on average points, with Sutton on Hull 3<sup>rd</sup> XI racing to the finishing line with 3.42 average. A pleasing 2021 season for captain Ian Peck. Second placed was Howard Kingdom's Welton 3<sup>rd</sup> XI with 2.83 points average



**Philip Robshaw**

**Secretary – ECB Yorkshire Premier League North**

**Deputy County Welfare Officer YCB (North & East)**

**Address: 21 Maple Gardens, Sowerby, Thirsk. YO7 3PY.**

**Telephone: 01845 440779**

**Mobile: 07751 220886**

**Email: philip.robshaw@hotmail.co.uk**

per game. The points system is different to Saturday cricket, in that it represents win/lose cricket, popular with the Sunday teams.

Winners of the U19 T20 competition were York CC, having successfully dominated over a strong Woodhouse Grange team, at York CC. York CC won the toss and elected to bat, scoring 170/6 off their allocated 20 overs. Finlay Bean and Elias Smith were the main aggressors for York, scoring 42 off 25, and 35 off 18 respectively. Christopher Wood had best control of the ball, his four overs costing 7.00 runs a piece. In reply Wood and Harry Jackson put bat to ball with 34 off 29, and 33 of 19 respectively. Some late order hitting from Tom Kirby, 18 off 9, was not enough, as Woodhouse Grange fell agonizingly short, by 11 runs. Elias Smith and Aiden Doeg were the best York bowlers, and the only two bowlers to concede less than 7.00 runs per over during the match.

The winners of the Readman T20 Cup were Scarborough CC, having batted first, scoring 172/5. Prince Beid and Edward Hopper scoring 31 and 38 opening the batting. An aggressive 68 of 46 balls by Adam Hargreaves saw Scarborough post 172, having been pegged back by Grant Van Es and Jack Egget, conceding a mere 21 and 24 runs off their 4 over spells. In reply Patrington were never really in command of the run chase, with no batsman posting 25. The bowling was shared between 7 Scarborough bowlers, the best of whom, was Ryan Hargreaves with 5-15, from his 4 over spell.

The 2021 YPLN T20 blast, became the Simon Lambert show, as his 101 off 65 balls, saw York home with ease, easily eclipsing the Sheriff Hutton bridge score of 165/5 off their allocation of overs. York finishing up with 166/1 off 17.5 overs. Simon Lambert was also pick of the York bowlers, with 3 for 20, off his economical 4 over spell, to win the MOM award.

Beverley Town Cricket Club won the 2021 Hunters Cup in commanding style. Winning the toss and electing to field first, the Beverley bowlers stuck to their task, in what were favourable bowling conditions at Scarborough. Hull Zingari CC capitulated to 73 all out off 34.4 overs, with only Laurance Wilkinson, Tom Jones and Matthew Bunn reaching double figures, 10, 13 and 15 respectively. Pick of the bowlers were Joe Dale and Joey Franklin, with 3 for 6 and 2 for 24 off their allocated overs. In reply Ollie Grantham was bowled in the first over by Callum Hellwig, but this brought Joe Dale to the crease who had other ideas. In the end he and Ben Hadfield put together a majestic partnership of 74, with 31 and 34 runs respectively, as Beverley cruised to victory in 17.1 overs. Only Callum Hellwig and Nathan Johnson stemmed the run flow significantly enough, to register three maiden overs between them.

The 2021 Dave Conner Cup was won by Ovington CC, who posted a short of competitive 131/6 off their allocated 20 overs. The foundation of the innings was built by Thomas Cookson and Matty Roberts, who both posted 26 runs each. Late order flurries from Thomas Irwin and Stefan Littlewood, 23 off 9, and 21 off 11 accelerated the innings to 131 at the close. Beverley 4<sup>th</sup> XI bowler Josh Williams bowled a miserly opening spell, his 4 overs costing 5 runs. In reply Beverley 4<sup>th</sup>s lost wickets at regular intervals. Only No. 7 batsman Dave Parry passed 25, before being bowled by Dom Kitching for 26. The overs were shared by 5 Ovington bowlers, four of whom conceded 5 runs or less per over. Pick of the bowlers were Jack Walmsley with 2 for 18, and



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**Secretary – ECB Yorkshire Premier League North**  
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Benjamin Bushby with 2 for 17 off their 4 over spells. Thanks are also extended to family member Rob Conner for being one of the standing umpires.

Cup Final man of the match awards, went to the following:

- |                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1. ECB Premier League T20</b> | Simon Lambert   |
| <b>2. Hunters Cup</b>            | Joe Dale        |
| <b>3. Readman Trophy</b>         | Adam Hargreaves |
| <b>4. Connor Trophy</b>          | Matty Roberts   |
| <b>5. U19 T20 Blast</b>          | Aiden Doeg      |

Off the field my thanks go to the Management Board, the Yorkshire Cricket Board and other pyramid leagues, who have all played their part this season. Particular thanks should be highlighted in the following areas:

- 1. Rob Smith** YPLN Assistant Secretary has been a tower of strength and support this season, and has taken some matters on whilst other Board members are not yet in the luxury of retirement. His assistance with Covid-19 protocols, managing the presentation night, presenting trophies, and other decision-making matters should not go forgotten. Rob also appointed umpires to Premier and D1 matches, in his role as Umpires Chairman.
- 2. Steve Carr** Disciplinary Chairman YPLN. Steve has had to handle more protests, appeals and hearings this year, and is an unsung hero of the Board, who takes on each task he is presented with, without fear of favour.
- 3. Graham Hursthouse** For stepping in at the last minute, from Vice-Chairman to Full Chairman YPLN, at the last minute resignation of the elected Chairman in April 2021.
- 4. Alan Birkinshaw** Chairman of the Premier League Management Board, has always been there for help and assistance. His organization of the Castleford v Woodlands, White Rose final at Headingley was exemplary.
- 5. Andrew Watson** Managing Director of the YCB, again, always at hand for the League when needed, and a valued Board member.



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- 6. Des Healey** YPLN Grounds & Facilities Chairman – always willing and able to help the league, primarily in this role of visiting new grounds, and those who appear in the bottom 10 of the ground marks, for help and assistance to those clubs.
- 7. Steve Berry** For once again producing a set of fixtures, and being on hand to discuss fixture issues relating to Covid-19, and team strengthening allegations.
- 8. Jonathan Corcoran** Disciplinary Secretary, has worked hard in his first season supporting Steve Carr, and plugging on, in this thankless task.
- 9. Raymond Knowles** Has once again been very supportive, in his role as County Welfare Officer of the Yorkshire Cricket Board. He has also supported the League, sitting on hearing panels.

As we look towards 2022, the League continues to grow, and we welcome Fairburn CC to the League, as agreed at the last AGM. They bring a successful 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI into the League.

We have 5 applications to join the League in 2022-3, as we continue to grow from strength to strength, and they will all need ratifying at the November 2021 AGM.

1. Bridlington 2<sup>nd</sup> XI 2023
2. Nawton Grange 2023
3. Filey 2023
4. Barwick-In-Elmet 2023
5. Kelfield 2022

Sadly, owing to a number of disciplinary issues, Bilton-In-Ainsty CC cease to be members at the end of the 2021 season. The club have applied to rejoin the League in 2022. Again, it is for the clubs to make this decision at the forthcoming AGM.

During the season, we conducted a number of playing surveys, to try to judge direct player opinion, and not those which club Secretaries turn up with to AGMs. The surveys indicated a wish to keep teas in the higher divisions, but perhaps dispense of in the lower divisions. There was varied views on the points system, but it appeared that win/lose cricket maybe the future in the top divisions covered with panel umpires. The start time for Y&DSCL Premier and D1 matches was a frequent moan throughout the course of the season, but looks set to change if player and officials opinions are anything to go by.

We have a number of rule changes proposed by clubs this season, together with the results of the player survey, and beliefs of the Management Board. We are carefully considering each proposal, whilst trying to make sure one proposal does not affect another proposal, similar to the experiences of the 2019 winter AGM, where very little change passed. To this end, we maybe in contact with some clubs about their rule changes over the winter AGM.

The 2021 season saw a number of highlights, and impressive statistics:



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1. We organized 1836 Saturday fixtures, and lost 49 to Covid-19, which were not replayed, which represents 2.67% of Saturday league fixtures.
2. Out of 1836 Saturday fixtures, only 731 were scored manually, the balance, 60.19% of matches were scored electronically, using PCS or PCS Pro.
3. 212 matches did not reach a result, owing to ground, weather and light abandonment, 11.54% of fixtures.
4. Two batters passed 1000 runs for the season, those being Cottingham's Dom Rhodes with 1166 and Carlton Towers' Tom Collins with exactly 1100. My congratulations to both concerned.
5. Four batters passed double centuries, in the order of Dom Rhodes with 224\*, Hardeep Singh with 203\*, Harrison Mussell with 202, and Richard Sansom with 200\*.
6. Seven bowlers took more than 50 wickets in Season 2021. Michael Nicholson lead with 57, Dom Rhodes with 55, Ian Buss and Tom Webb took 52. Isham Abeysekara took 51 wickets, Grant Van Es and Jonathan Ellis took 50 wickets each.
7. 376 bowlers took 5 wicket hauls, with Dom Rhodes achieving the feat on 5 occasions.
8. Three wicket keepers took over 30 victims, the leader being Carlton Towers' Henry Bayston with 38, which included 11 stumpings. Tom Bussey and Darrel Guy both took 34 victims each.
9. Hull Zingari 3<sup>rd</sup> XI won 92.31% of their fixtures, which included 12 wins out of 18.
10. The league held three hearings, and four appeal hearings in Season 2021, and has not finished yet.
11. The league issued 32 summary penalties for administration and discipline infringements in Season 2021.
12. The league website had 1,378,204 visitors this year to date, compared with 465,255 in 2020, and 608,089 in 2019.
13. The League handled 162 transfers from 90 different clubs across England and Wales in 2021.
14. The League sanctioned 1025 new player registrations in the 2021 season.
15. The League removed 423 player registrations during the 2021 season.
16. 22 players received Summary penalties, during the 2021 season, totaling 83 weeks of bans or suspensions
17. 603 U19s participated in Saturday fixtures, during Season 2021.
18. 674 19-25s participated in Saturday fixtures, during Season 2021.
19. 2273 over 25's participated in Saturday fixtures, during Season 2021.
20. Out of the 3550 players who participated in fixtures, 23 were female, compared to only 12 in 2020.
21. A special mention to Stephen Jackson of Dunnington CC, for scoring Y&DSCL Centuries over five decades. He scored 364 runs this season, with an all important 115 v Leadsham, to seal the century in his fifth decade of playing.

Individual award winners for 2021 have seen a number of new names and faces:

### Sportsmanship

#### **Premier Division**

#### **York Umpires' Cup**

#### **Pickering**



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**HUNTERS PROPERTY GROUP**  
**ECB YORKSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE NORTH**  
**YORK & DISTRICT SENIOR CRICKET LEAGUE**

<b>First Division</b>	York Umpires' Trophy	<b>Thirsk</b>
<b><u>Merit Table</u></b>		
<b>Winners</b>	Clive Kay Trophy	<b>York</b>
<b>Most Improved Club</b>	Albert Pattison Trophy	<b>Sheriff Hutton Bridge</b>
<b><u>Grounds</u></b>		
<b>Groundsman's Award</b>	Judy Pattison Award	<b>Mark Goddard</b>
<b>Most Improved Ground</b>	York Brewery Trophy	<b>Humbleton</b>
<b><u>Umpires</u></b>		
<b>Panel Umpire Award</b>	Lance Moore Trophy	<b>Paul Stublely</b>
<b>Club Umpire Award</b>	Don Layfield Trophy	<b>Trevor Markham</b>
<b><u>ECB Premier League</u></b>		
<b>Batting</b>		<b>Chris Bilton</b>
<b>Bowling</b>		<b>Ishan Abeysekera</b>
<b>Wicket Keeping</b>		<b>Jack Timby/Pat Roberts</b>
<b><u>Y&amp;DSCL Other Divisions</u></b>		
<b>Batting</b>	Des Wyrill Award	<b>Dominic Rhodes</b>
<b>Bowling</b>	Alan Shipley Award	<b>Dominic Rhodes</b>
<b>Wicket Keeping</b>	Brian Shirley Award	<b>Henry Bayston</b>
<b>Best Young Player</b>	Bill Pool Memorial Trophy	<b>Henry Bayston</b>

In 2019 I wrote:

*“There is absolutely no doubt, that my time on disciplinary issues, complaints and protests has increased by a third this year, and to this end, it cannot go on at its present level. Not every single niggle can be looked at anymore. Member clubs must learn to get on, and players must accept the Umpires decision, without showing any dissent, by word, gesture or action. My heartfelt thanks go to Steve Carr who has once again supported the League ably, as its disciplinary Chairman, and we would be worse off, without his vast knowledge and fair handed approach to all matters concerning discipline and compliance. Club’s safeguarding deficiencies have added to our workload on this sub-committee.”*

There is no doubt again that disciplinary issues covered by Hearings, Summary Penalties and some Appeal Hearings which sometimes follow have again increased. My thanks this time, to Jonathan Corcoran, Ray Knowles, Steve Carr, Keith Houlston, Denis Lawson and Graham Hursthouse for taking the burden of sitting on these panels as volunteers, travelling across our geography as volunteers to listen to clubs defence, and umpires charges. At the start of this season, with covid in mind, we asked clubs to give each other, and the umpires an inch, a bit of flexibility on top of our normal expectations. However, with the cut and thrust of promotion and



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relegation, this request quickly evaporated, when the going got tough, particularly from the clubs suffering defeat at the bottom of League Tables.

In my twenty-three years of umpiring within this league, observing over 450 Saturday fixtures, I have never been sworn at. This changed during the season, when I was told to “F#ck Off” after turning down a caught behind. I have also been attacked on social media. It is clear times are changing, but it is paramount we all do our best to maintain the very highest of standards we expect, as a leading League in this area of the Country. If players can swear at the League Secretary & Panel Umpire, who is giving all he can to keep the league running, I am not sure what is happening in society, of which cricket is a sliced representation of.

This season, our disciplinary panel again encountered falsification of documents, this time a safeguarding declaration, which was signed by the CWO and Chairman, to state everything was in good order. However, when it transpired there was a lack of administrative accountability within the club, the declaration was quizzed, and found to be falsified, on the back of missing DBS applications and completed certificates. It is therefore the Management Boards intention, to ensure that that declarations in 2022 are evidenced, with a club DBS register, and CWO course certificates. **If your club is deficient, now is the time to start your push to become compliant.**

The Yorkshire Cricket Board, and ECB have made their intentions to go back to “face to face” Safe Hands courses in 2022 for club welfare officers. Your League will be putting on courses in East Yorkshire, and York next February, and will be bringing forward the compliance deadline to focus minds, prior to the pre-season rush.

As we are not holding a League Dinner this season, as we could not tell the Covid-19 situation early enough to commit to York Racecourse, we intend on holding a function at Dunnington CC in place of this. Rob Smith will be in touch with details in due course, which is to be held at Dunnington CC on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

Yours in cricket,

Philip Robshaw  
**League Secretary,**  
**League Welfare Officer**  
**League Registration Secretary**

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