

9th February 2026

Anthony Axford North West Cricket League

Minutes of the Clubs Meeting

Held at Tonge C.C.

Apologies; Atherton, Barnoldswick, Burnley Beldevere, Earby, Kearsley, Karen Knott and Bill Slinger.

Absent; Barrowford, Farnworth S.C. and Walkden.

Minutes of the Last Meeting; These had been circulated and were agreed to be a correct record.

Matters Arising; There was no update on live streaming policy.

Chair's Remarks; At the end of the minutes.

Finance; MG is currently liaising with MB. MG reported National Lottery funding is now £20K per year per project.

Registrations; TB said updating the records was in progress.

Grounds; The survey will be sent to clubs later this month.

Fixtures; These will be released on Tuesday 10th February. Clubs are asked to double check their own fixtures. Third team fixtures can be subject to negotiation between clubs where a club has second and third fixtures on the same day.

T20 Group 1 South, 1. Atherton, 2. Brinscall, 3. Walkden, 4. Farnworth, 5. Farnworth S.C., 6. Little Lever.

Group 2 South, Kearsley, Lostock, Tonge, Astley Bridge, Eagley, Blackrod.

Group 1 North, Read, Earby, Ribblesdale Wanderers, Barnoldswick, Padiham, Foulridge.

Group 2 North, Salesbury, Barrowford, Cherry Tree, Oswaldtwistle Immanuel, Baxenden.

Umpires; Report attached. A date will be arranged for an umpires / captains Zoom meeting.

Scorers: Scorers welcome to join a scorer's community on an app called Signal . Please pass to your scorers, download signal, sign up then use the link to join the NWCL group on signal (if under 14 must be a parent, if under 16 we request a parent be on the group as well).

<https://signal.group/#CjQKIDKZEHrxvHTUOjZl3xc4l2AhzmgaRs9LlvXW2v0hV9NEhAoAgd2eTTJlK2iNcqu4hXA>

EDI&S; Later this week RS will be asking clubs for the contact details for their Welfare and EDI Officers. Emails should be personal and not the club's generic email. TB will send clubs a link to the LCF open weekend taking place 21st and 22nd February. There will be further details about neurodiversity available in March.

Juniors; Indoor competitions and inter league trials are progressing satisfactorily. The leagues for 2026 have been agreed and fixtures will be released soon.

Concessions;

The following Teams have a 12-point deduction suspended until the conclusion of the 2026 season due to concessions in the 2025 season,

Padiham 2nd,

Barrowford 2nd

Barnoldswick 2nd

Feniscowles 2nd

It was agreed at the League Executive meeting, in order to ensure that these matters are dealt with promptly and a record is kept of any suspended points deduction, a sub group made up of League Chairman, Vice Chairman and Andy Scrambler (with his Club perspective, if the matter involved Brinscall another person would be co-opted for that matter) will deal with any Concessions, looking to deal with them within 72 hours of the concession, as the timely conclusion to these matters particularly when a points deduction is involved is critical.

The process will be that the sub group will notify the Offending Club of the sanction and once the Appeals period has lapsed the fine will be imposed and any points deduction updated on Play Cricket.

Dates of Next Meetings; Executive 12th March at Brinscall, Club Meeting 13th April at Tonge.

Chairman's report

"Although it sometimes does not feel like it with the current weather, we are now just over two months away from the start of the season.

As usual a lot of work has been taking place behind the scenes since the AGM in November.

A lot of time has been spent completing the fixtures and this has been a very difficult task due to trying to organise the five Divisions (Premiership, Championship and the three Conferences), six if we include the Development League in a way which gives each team the same number of home and away matches, or as near as possible when there are an odd number of fixtures whilst trying

to avoid teams having a run of home or away fixtures and occasionally accommodating requests from Clubs that their ground is or isn't available on a selected date and looking to have the minimum number of League matches on Sundays.

The Sundays are mainly taken up by the Hamer, Ramsbottom and Lawrenson Cups as well as the Lancashire Knock Out Cup in which we have five teams representing the League, the Birtwistle 20/20 Finals Day, the Birchall Cup 20/20 Finals Day for the Development teams and the ECB 20/20 Competition when we will be represented by the winners of the Birtwistle Cup.

The draw for the Lancashire Knockout Cup First Round has been made with our Clubs given tough draws.

Prestwich v Kearsley

Farnworth SC v Clitheroe

Garstang v Salesbury

Read v Royton

Walsden v Little Lever

As always, we give our best wishes to all our representatives and hope they progress in the competition.

The draw for the First Round of the Hamer Cup was made at the League Presentation and is as follows,

The Hamer Cup Draw 1st Round:

Padiham v Astley Bridge

Lostock v Cherry Tree

Oswaldtwistle v Atherton

Blackrod v Farnworth

Baxenden v Walkden

FSC, Read, Little Lever, Kearsley and Salesbury are our representatives in the LCF KO Cup.

Tonge, Eagley, Barnoldswick, Ribblesdale Wanderers, Earby and Brinscall all have byes.

The First Round of the Hamer Cup will take place on Sunday 17th May with the Reserve date of Sunday 24th May.

As agreed at a previous meeting, Clubs were contacted and asked to fill in a form in relation to entering the Ramsbottom and Lawrenson Cups due to these competitions being played exclusively on Sundays, with a view to stop the number of concessions.

We received the following:

Chatburn are not entering either Cup, Kearsley entering Ramsbottom Cup but if they lose in 1st Round not entering Lawrenson Cup, Foulridge and Burnley Belvedere are only entering one team as a Club, if they lose the one team will play in the Lawrenson Cup.

Therefore, the Ramsbottom Cup 1st Round will involve 27 teams, therefore 11 matches and 5 Byes, the numbers for the Lawrenson Cup 1st Round will depend on who wins in the Ramsbottom Cup 1st Round.

The draw for the 1st Round of the Ramsbottom Cup has been made and is as follows,

Ribblesdale Wanderers v Astley Bridge

Walkden v Atherton

FSC v Barrowford 2

Little Lever v Oswaldtwistle

Feniscowles 2 v Feniscowles 1

Read v Barrowford 1

Salesbury v Kearsley

Eagley v Burnley Belvedere

Barnoldswick v Earby

Tonge v Baxenden

Brinscall v Blackrod

Matches to take place on Sunday 3rd May, No Reserve Date for the 1st Round of the Ramsbottom Cup.

Byes

Cherry Tree

Foulridge

Farnworth

Lostock

Padiham

A meeting took place with the Clubs with teams in the Development League at Brinscall on 28th January. The number of teams in the Development Division has increased to 15.

Several matters that specifically involve the Development Division were discussed, which included the new Rule passed at the AGM in relation to the use of First Team Players, the provision and protocol for the providing of Umpires and Scorers for Development Division matches and amongst others.

The summary of the meeting has been circulated to Clubs.

I would like to thank all of the executive committee for their work over the winter as well as the work they will continue to do throughout the season and best wishes for a successful 2026 season".

Birtwistle Cup

South Groups

The two South Groups are groups of six, the original 11 Bolton League Teams plus Brinscall.

The 12 teams will be subject to a draw to put the teams in the two Groups of 6.

North Groups

The two North Groups, one of six and one of five, 9 original Ribblesdale League Teams plus Barrowford and Foulridge from the Conference.

The teams have been placed in two groups geographically due to the potential distances involved.

Barrowford and Foulridge have been placed in separate groups and will play all their fixtures away and in these fixtures the home team will pay both Umpires.

Number 6 is Free Week

The top two in each Group qualify for the Quarter Finals, with the Group Winner at Home and the Group Runner Up Away.

Round 1 = Friday 22nd May

1 v 6

2 v 5

3 v 4

Round 2 = Friday 29th May

6 v 4

5 v 3

1 v 2

Round 3 = Friday 5th June

2 v 6

3 v 1

4 v 5

Round 4 = Friday 12th June

6 v 5

1 v 4

2 v 3

Round 5 = Friday 19th June

3 v 6

4 v 2

5 v 1

The dates above are all Fridays. If a team chooses to play on a Thursday, their fixture will take place the day before the dates given above.

Quarter Finals

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The Quarter Finals will take place on Friday 26th June with a Reserve Date of Friday 3rd July.

North 1 Winners v North 2 Runners Up

North 2 Winners v North 1 Runners Up

South 1 Winners v South 2 Runners Up

South 2 Winners v South 2 Runners Up

Birtwistle Cup 20/20 Finals Day

This will take place on Sunday 26th July at a venue drawn between the winners of the Quarter Finals.

No Reserve Date has currently been set to allow flexibility of this date due to Clubs progress in the Lancashire KO Cup, Hamer Cup etc.

The winners of the Birtwistle Cup will be our League Representative in the ECB 20/20 Competition in the Area Final in August.

Best wishes,

Bill

