

Development Clubs Meeting

Wednesday 28th January 2026

At Brinscall CC

Opening Remarks – League Chairman and Apologies
William Jaques, Tracey Brooks, Earby

Present

Barnoldswick
Baxenden
Brinscall
Cherry Tree
Earby X – apology recieved
Farnworth
Feniscowles
Little Lever
Oswaldtwistle
Padiham
Read
Ribblesdale Wanderers
Salesbury

Teams

All teams confirmed that they were entering teams into the Development League except Earby who were not present. (Email containing apology, confirmed that Earby are entering both the Development league and Birchall Cup.) Cherry Tree will be entering two teams as are Salesbury. Little Lever are not entering the Birchall Cup and Salesbury will only be entering one team into the Birchall Cup.

Fixtures

The fixtures for the Premiership, Championship and the 3 Conferences are almost completed, there was a meeting last night looking to complete the process, but a few issues remain to be resolved, it is hoped that the fixtures for the above can be finalised over the next few days.

The format for the Sunday fixtures, including Lancashire KO Cup, the Hamer Cup, the Ramsbottom and Lawrenson Cup and the Championship fixtures that need to be played on Sundays is complete.

This will have an impact on the Development League fixtures however the impact of the Cups will very much depend on the success of Clubs First and Second Teams in the various Cups.

Sunday 19th April

Sunday 26th April

Sunday 3rd May = Ramsbottom Cup 1st Round(12/14 matches)- No Reserve Date

Sunday 10th May = Championship Sunday(1)(4 matches)

Sunday 17th May = Lancashire KO Cup 1st Round/Hamer Cup 1st Round(5 matches)

Sunday 24th May = Hamer Cup Reserve Date(5 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup 2nd Round (8 matches)

Sunday 31st May = Lawrenson Cup 1st Round(4/6 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup Reserve Date 2nd Round (8 matches)

Sunday 7th June = Lancashire KO Cup 2nd Round/Lawrenson Cup 1st Round Reserve Date(4/6 matches)/Championship Sunday(2)(4 matches)

Sunday 14th June = Hamer Cup 2nd Round(8 matches)

Sunday 21st June = Hamer Cup 2nd Round Reserve Date(8 matches)/Lawrenson Cup Quarter Finals(4 matches)

Sunday 28th June = Lancashire KO Cup Quarter Finals/Lawrenson Cup Quarter Finals. Reserve Date(4 matches)

Sunday 5th July = Hamer Cup Quarter Finals(4 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup Quarter Finals. (4 matches)

Sunday 12th July = Hamer Cup Quarter Finals Reserve Date(4 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup Quarter Final Reserve Date (4 matches)

Sunday 19th July = Lancashire KO Cup Semi Finals/Championship Sunday(2)(3 matches)/Ramsbottom Cup Semi Finals (2 matches)/Lawrenson Cup Semi Finals(2 matches)

Sunday 26th July = Birtwistle Cup 20/20 Finals Day/Ramsbottom Cup Semi Finals Reserve Date(2

matches)/Lawrenson Cup Semi Finals Reserve Date(2 matches)

Sunday 2nd August = Hamer Cup Semi Finals (2 matches)

Sunday 9th August = Hamer Cup Semi Finals Reserve Date(2 matches)

Ramsbottom Cup Final(1 match)

Lawrenson Cup Final(1 match)

Sunday 16th August = Ramsbottom Cup Final(1 match)/
Lawrenson Cup Final(1 match) Reserve Dates

Sunday 23rd August = Hamer Cup Final(1 match)

Sunday 30th August = Lancashire KO Cup Final/Hamer Cup
Final Reserve Date(1 match)

Sunday 6th September

Sunday 13th September

Sunday 20th September

There will also be a small number of Conference Fixtures that will need to be played on Sunday's as there are occasions that there are not enough grounds to play the matches on some Sunday's.

As soon as the Premiership/Championship and Conference fixtures are finalised, the Development League fixtures will be completed but will as previously stated be subject to the

success of Clubs First and Second Team and the weather if we need to use Reserve Dates.

The procedure if a Development Fixture cannot be played at the original home ground, then, if possible, the fixture should be reversed.

If this is not possible the teams need to agree an alternative date and INFORM THE LEAGUE OF THIS DATE, this must be done as soon as possible so that Play Cricket can be updated.

If when the fixtures are published, the teams involved in a fixture wish to move a fixture these need be done with the agreement of both teams, before the start of the season and the League informed of the new date so that Play Cricket can be updated.

Change to League Rule - 18(7)

Eligibility of players.

All registered players will be eligible for selection in Division with the exception of the players registered as the Club as their Professional (Rule 5B).

However, Clubs are expected to act in the spirit of the competition in regard to the use of players with 1st team experience both in the selection and participation in matches.

Any player who has played for the Clubs 1st XI (either Prem & Championship) in that season cannot bat higher than number 7 & may only bowl a maximum for 4 overs. This rule does not apply to players in the Under 18 age group or younger.

Umpires and Scorers

There were several complaints last season about Teams arriving for fixtures, with either no Umpire, no Scorer and no Scorebook.

The League does not allocate Panel Umpires to Development League matches, however the NWCLOA will be approached at its next meeting in order to obtain a list of Umpires and their contact numbers, who when they are available will be willing to Umpire Development League Matches. This will be distributed to the Clubs.

It was agreed that the Expenses for a Panel Umpire would be £60.00, and £90 if they were on their own and had to do both ends.

Umpires fee/Communication/standards

It was agreed that the procedure for not having an umpire is as follows:

The team without an umpire to contact the other team to inform them that they do not have an umpire as soon as possible. There is then the chance that the opposition team may have the contact of a possible umpire. If a team turns up without an umpire, it was voted in that the club without an umpire will pay £50 to the one umpire. It was discussed that if this protocol is not followed, clubs need to report this to the league.

The league rule in regard to turning up without a scorer will be followed by the development league.

Birchall Cup 20/20 Competition

As in previous seasons, once the number of Clubs who are entering this competition is confirmed, the teams will be divided into Groups and the fixtures finalised.

These fixtures will not be allocated dates, these will be organised between the Clubs as they are in the best position in relation to ground availability, Junior Fixtures, etc.

Once the date of a fixture has been agreed, the League need to be aware of that date so that the matches can be put onto Play Cricket.

There will be a cut of date for fixtures so that the Quarter Finals and Finals Day can be organised before the end of the season.

The venue for Finals Day will be drawn from the four Clubs who qualify for the Semi Finals.

(It has been confirmed that 13 teams are entering the Birchall Cup - all teams other than Little Lever and Salesbury 4th's.

AOB

Pink balls to be used and they do not have to be new balls.

Please can all clubs remember that they need to bat their own balls.

It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that their Club Nominated Umpire who is regularly umpiring must have a valid DBS check.

