



# Halifax Junior Cricket League

Junior Managers Presentation 2016

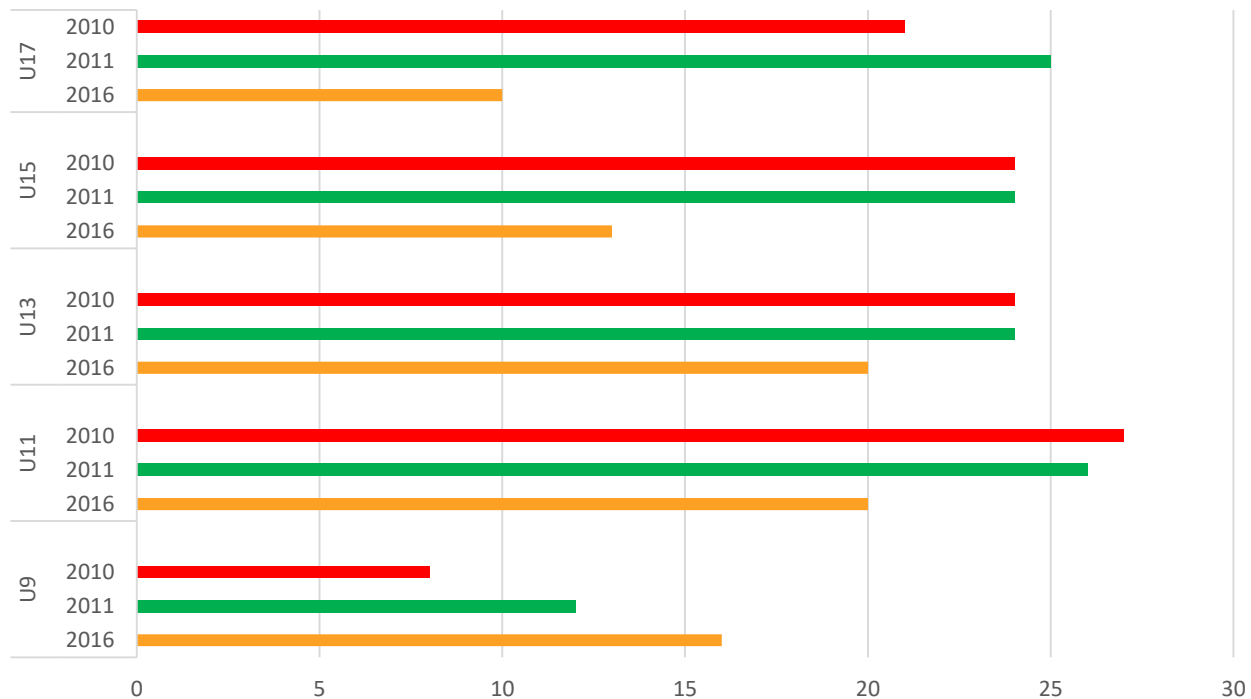
# The Background

- Junior Cricket in Halifax is in a critical condition
- Combination of factors contributing to its slow but continuous demise;
  1. Cricket no longer part of the school curriculum
  2. Fewer clubs running junior sections (those that are running fewer sides)
  3. Lack of level 2 coaches
  4. Lack of coaching support
  5. Competition against other sports
- Lack of Junior players especially at u15 and u 17 level is starting to affect clubs at a senior level

# Where have we come from?

- The earliest available data (2010) shows a rapid decline in the amount of junior cricket being played

Junior Team Entries. Comparison between 2010, 2011 & 2016



# Where are we now?

- The new Halifax Junior Cricket League (HJCL) Committee has decided to act now in an attempt to stop the fall off in participation
- The Committee needs clubs to take responsibility for their own future by committing to help rebuild and then sustain junior cricket in the area
- 79 junior sides at age groups u9's-u17's were registered for the 2016 season. This was 25 fewer than in 2010
- As of June 2016 we have lost a further 8 sides bringing the number down to 71. This is a 32% decrease in five years

# What are we doing?

- The HJCL Executive Committee have met to discuss the issues in play and have agreed a set of short, medium and long term proposals to try and address the decline
- This meeting is the first step in getting managers and clubs on board to support and to commit to the changes being proposed
- We have met with Steve Archer (Development Officer for Yorkshire CCC) to discuss remedial options and with Anthony Briggs (Chairman of the Halifax Cricket League (HCL)) to source senior league support
- We have designed a 5 year HJCL development plan to set out our aims and objectives, creating a clear direction of travel
- The HJCL Executive Committee has agreed a 13 point action plan, to sit alongside the 5 year development plan, that will be planned for or enacted from the 2017 season onwards

# 13 Point Action Plan

1. **To start managing junior cricket at a team level rather than through a single co-ordinator.**
  - The HJCL feels that the junior co-ordinator role is at risk of being filled by someone within a club as a box ticking exercise and whilst this will not be true at all clubs, recent evidence including CCG attendance and Junior AGM's gives weight to this opinion
  - The league proposes to redefine the responsibilities of the age group co-ordinator. We will issue a role description and ask clubs to ensure that their representative understands their responsibilities
  - Role and focus will be driven more towards supporting their relevant age group managers and to be their representative on a new managers HJCL sub committee which will seek to engage on such issues as rule changes, structure and future development

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 2. Set up a closed HJCL forum to allow open discussion between managers.

- This will allow for managers to engage with each other and develop closer working relationships
- Also provide a medium to communicate new ideas and best practice in relation to coaching tips, drills or new equipment
- Let team managers liaise where player shortage could be a known problem during the week, to re-arrange fixtures or borrow players (ECB “Get the Game On” Policy)
- We need to rid ourselves of the provincial “win at all costs” approach and join together in accepting that a thriving junior section is to the betterment of all

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

3. **To have a minimum of 2 new “Level 1” or Young Leaders and 1 new “Level 2” coaches before the commencement of the 2018 season**
  - **All HCL** clubs will commit to training 3 new individuals into these roles. The HJCL and the HCL will provide support funding towards the cost of this coaching for clubs who need the financial support
  - Clubs who have no junior sides in 2018 will be encouraged to let their coaches assist other clubs during that year to gain experience
  - Clubs are encouraged to identify current players (Level 1 & 2) or under 15's (Young Leaders) who will be able to take advantage of this offer and maybe able to relate more to the younger age groups



# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 4. A proposal to change the current junior cricket league age groups to: Option 1

- U9's, U11's, U13's, U16's & U19's
- There is a clear rationale for maintaining 2 year age gaps for cricket at lower end age groups
- However, the U15 & U17 age groups have seen a sharp decline in the number of teams entered. Extending the age groups to U16 & U19s will allow managers an additional years players to be selected
- The move to an U19 league will allow young players who are not yet ready for senior cricket to continue playing without having to walk away from the sport

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 5. A proposal to change the current junior cricket league age groups to: Option 2

- U10's, U12's, U14's, U16's, U19's teams.
- Changing the age groups means only a 2 year gap until U19's cricket
- No players under the age of 16 to play U19's cricket
- U19's cricket to be full coloured clothing format
- Where clubs don't have enough U19 players clubs are encouraged to be pro-active and share resource – combining sides halves the cost of kit and promotes closer liaison

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 6. A change to the format of Junior League cricket.

- U9's pairs cricket to be a friendly format with Sunday morning festival cricket. No league tables to be produced but with an arranged fixture programme. Possible increase from 8 to 10 a side. Fixtures will be flexible inc. replacement Sundays for inclement weather.
- U11/13's or U12/14's cricket to be split half-season between pairs cricket at 10-a-side and full 11-a-side matches with full rules. However Collinson Cup will continue in it's current format (relative to agreed age groups).
- Age group cricket to continue with bowling and batting restrictions where appropriate but these will be reviewed to try and ensure increased participation.
- Managers at all levels are encouraged to let a player captain the side at age groups U11s/U12s upwards to learn the basics of the game

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 6. A change to the format of Junior League cricket (cont.)

- To play in the under 19 competition you must have played junior cricket in the U15/U16 or be registered and playing senior cricket for a Halifax Cricket League side.
- Fixtures at U11/12s, U13/14s and U15/16s will be allotted a fixture calendar. Where games cannot be fulfilled due to the weather on a specific day coaches and managers will be encouraged to play the game on another day within the week where possible, with a 6 day deadline from the date of the original fixture.
- Where this is not possible a draw will be recorded in line with current arrangements

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 7. Create a “Coaching in the Community” programme for Under 19’s.

- We will actively encourage clubs to nominate U19’s students who are studying sport based education or working towards coaching qualifications to take part in a “Coach in the Community” programme. The aim being to have at least 6 volunteers per year
- The HJCL will pay for the Level 2 coaching qualification of all volunteers with a caveat that they sign an agreement to meet the Programme’s requirements. Any clubs participant failing to meet the terms agreement will be required to repay the full coaching amount to the League. The course will take place each October
- Each student will be assigned to one or more clubs (not their own) in the following season where they will **support** the existing coaching staff to help manage their junior cricket activities

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

7. **Create a “Coaching in the Community” programme for Under 19’s (cont.)**
  - The Cricket Asylum will embed the Level 2 coaching once passed by delivering free sessions on drills and techniques
  - Each student will be required to complete a template on coaching completed and feedback from their experiences
  - All participants on the scheme will be given free coaching equipment (basic kit bag) and HJCL Branded Coaching Clothing
  - Once the Season is over participants will be invited to assist in running a HJCL representative side for the following year to embed their knowledge
  - Each participant will be invited to be a paid guest at the end of season HCL Presentation Dinner where they will be presented with a certificate of achievement

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 8. Create a summer camp roadshow

- In 2017, in partnership with the Cricket Asylum, the HJCL will organise summer camp road shows, in the summer holiday period
- Clubs will be invited to bid to support this activity (using their facilities) and we will look at utilising the current Cricket Asylum model, cementing the HJCL and Cricket Asylum partnership
- The “Coaches in the Community” from 2018 onwards will be tasked with supporting this activity and will be expected to deliver and at least one week event in conjunction with other qualified coaches
- The cost of each place will be determined by the level of attendance but subsidisation of places will be considered by the HJCL

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 9. An overhaul of the festival cricket (representative) process.

- In partnership with the Cricket Asylum we are designing a blue print for Lords Taverners and Joe Lumb cricket that will become the standard for each age group.
- This will ensure that any new volunteer wishing to run a representative side has a clear understanding of what is expected from them and allows the HJCL to ensure each child receives the same level of commitment.
- Volunteers will be sought to manage representative sides during the close season
- A clear timetable of events so there is no ambiguity for clubs and an ask that all clubs commit to support the selection process and actively nominate players



# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 10. Participation in schools.

- We will work alongside representatives of the Yorkshire Cricket Development network in presenting to children aged between 6 – 9 in Calderdale, Kirklees and Bradford schools.
- Contacts to be made between now and December with a view to coincide with the start of the 2017 U9's season.
- Clubs will have schools allocated to them virtually and will be asked to provide support in this activity.
- We will also aim to utilise the Cricket Asylum school to club agreement and roll out on a wider scale over the next 3 years.

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 11. Identify all funding streams.

- The HJCL Secretary will provide all clubs with a document summarising all the available funding streams open to cricket clubs, and the relevant links for some of the smaller grants
- Steve Archer has indicated that he will be happy to help clubs in their applications for grant funding which could be used for training coaches or equipment
- The HJCL will be creating a central funding pot that can be accessed by clubs on a grant or loan basis dependant on the amount
- This funding pot is by application only and decisions will be made by a finance sub-committee consisting of 3 independent assessors

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 12. Development of a new HJCL website by no later than 2018.

- The existing senior league website does not provide the level of information the HJCL Executive Committee feels it needs to support junior cricket
- This new website will be dedicated solely to the Junior League and will provide clubs with access to all the relevant ECB guidance
- Website features will also include social media links and sponsorship opportunities alongside all the standard features (Fixtures, Results, Averages, Contact Information etc.) that one would associate with the league website
- The website will be designed to be interactive, containing games etc. so that kids access the site regularly

# 13 Point Action Plan (cont.)

## 13. Regional Sub-Committee's

- We will set up Regional 'Sub Committee's who will be responsible for providing a first line of support and assistance to clubs who find themselves struggling to fulfil fixtures or with player numbers.
- Bi-Monthly meetings / workshops both in and out of season to highlight best practice and tackle any emerging issues – arrange sharing of coaching resource where needed in each region
- Ambassador role (We are liaising with the YCB) to assist in helping struggling clubs raise their profile
- HJCL sub-committee to act as a roving support mechanism to plug clubs/teams in danger of folding as an interim measure

# Summary

- The HJCL needs your support. Without clubs to assist in driving change then the League is a step away from closure
- The HJCL needs volunteers. The Executive Committee and sub-committee needs volunteers to deliver the changes outlined herewith and to maintain success over the coming years
- We need to utilise the tools at our disposal; the Calderdale Cricket Development Group is under-utilised and needs to be attended by individuals who wish to facilitate change – training courses etc. can all be provided on a regular basis if we use it more constructively
- The HJCL has agreed a 3 Year Partnership with the Cricket Asylum. This guarantees support to the HJCL for the delivery of its objectives and provides junior cricketers with excellent opportunities for cheap, affordable coaching

Remember – Junior Cricket is the future for all  
senior clubs.

Without it and without new blood cricket is just  
a dying sport played by old men!