**WBCDG 29th June 2017**

**Leagues Innovation Meeting - Thursday 29th June Cleckheaton CC 7.00pm**

The ECB has recently released details of a League Innovation Fund that allows for potential investment in incentives to help drive change and create the opportunities required relating to conceded or short sided fixtures.

Essentially the Innovation Fund has been created to help drive Get the Game On outcomes across Open age weekend cricket (so midweek, juniors etc. not the target for 2017)  We are in a position to accept applications supported by counties to offer funding support to leagues to encourage and support innovation where the aim is to increase participation, increase frequency of play and reduce the number of concessions/short-sided fixtures. (T20 mid-season for example – in the divisions where trends of concessions and short sided games are identified on a regular basis).

The two main metrics in use here are conceded fixtures and short-sided fixtures.  Short-sided fixtures have proved to be a very effective predictor of future increases in concessions and should be seen as a warning sign.  Nationally the figure for 2016 in Open age weekend senior cricket (league fixtures only) was 4% and short-sided was 14% (e.g. 14% of all fixtures were played with 21 players or fewer).  The ECB has information which shows the leagues and divisions where concessions are 50% or more, higher than the national average and short-sided fixtures are over 40% higher.

In our County, there are 10 divisions where the incidence of short-sided fixtures in above 40% - demonstrating that the challenge of getting 22 players is very real and frequent.  The problem almost certainly relates to the observable trend of players playing less frequently in recent years, even at Premier League level requiring more players to be pulled up into 1st team cricket.

**OSCAS –** still a low number of nominations, please encourage your leagues/clubs etc to nominate worthy candidates and have them recognised for their services

**Lease/security of tenure -**  a growing number of clubs are experiencing issues relating to leases (length/cost/securing a new lease etc) - please encourage clubs to check lease status and if support/ guidance is required feel free to ask SA/YCB for help.

**All Stars Cricket -** proved very popular and successful – despite a number of issues/hiccups! Over 90 clubs signed up and delivering in West Yorkshire, it’s put a huge workload on current staff but has been worthwhile – massive thanks to all clubs who have been at the forefront of delivery and apologies to those who withdrew – simply the timeframe for us to be able to market/promote successfully was too small, but we will have more time and lessons learned for 2018 and would encourage clubs to become involved again – a more comprehensive report etc will be available upon completion of the project.

**Women & Girls –** a number of initiatives to help grow profile and drive participation (all club based) are planned or just underway, including Yorkshire Diamonds roadshows and women’s softball taster sessions – full details will be sent out but clubs include Rawdon, St Chads, Scholes Huddersfield, Holmfirth, Northowram Fields

**Disability –** YCB Disability Officer Charlie Roebuck recently began a hub club at Beckfoot school (3rd May). Charlie is looking to get a club involved to keep the session running through the summer,

A successful Sportivate bid was approved for the payment and facility hire as well as the opportunity to put a coach through their coaching badges, other support for the club involved includes coach CPD, Regular contact with the YCB, outlets for all disabled participants, Links with BDSL For further training, funding opportunities, other sports. Coaches will be paid through the Sportivate funding, once the sessions are assessed and deemed suitable with an element of sustainability

**Clubmark:** New online system up and running (with a few IT issues!) as part of Club Development Framework - currently 217 Yorks clubs registered on the Club Development Framework (CDF) portal, at various stages of completing – ClubMark is one element of CDF the aim of which is for clubs to audit current status/ strengths/ weaknesses etc – clubs register an interest via Steve Archer, are then issued log on details via ECB and can either complete a club audit and if required, begin the Clubmark process .

The new system for Clubmark in brief is that the old physical file element has now been replaced with an online system whereupon clubs upload the required criteria (which Steve/Club support can review at anytime) and once all completed a site visit is arranged (as per the old system) and once all is in order the club is accredited