



## **Spring Newsletter 2025**

### **Welcome to our new clubs**

The league amalgamation has now completed and we welcome 41 new clubs for the 2025 season. We wish them all every success in the TVCL. In this newsletter you will hopefully find an overview of all the information you need for the TVCL competition in 2025. It is not, however, a substitute for our rules documents, which all clubs need to read carefully and understand. (N.b. I say *our* but they are actually yours i.e. the clubs' – you vote them in and out at the AGM every year!)

### **A reminder about TVCL24, Play Cricket & how we communicate**

#### Play Cricket

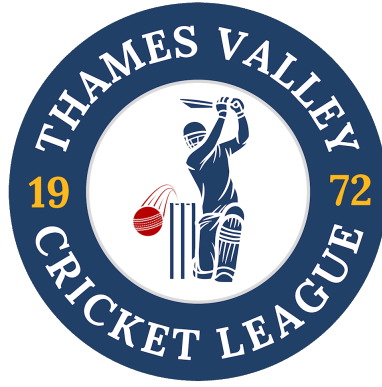
You will find fixtures, results, scorecards, league tables and statistics on Play Cricket (some are replicated on TVCL24). The TVCL has view access to your Play Cricket website but cannot update anything on it – you must keep your list of officers up-to-date, notably chairman, secretary & team captains.

#### TVCL24

This is our Play Cricket compatible management reporting website. You file your captain match reports on TVCL24 and will find other useful data on here relating to votes, notices, discipline, fines & low marks. The TVCL can update your contact data for you but it is not our job. You have one single club official who can maintain all your data and this should normally be your secretary as defined on Play Cricket. This person will be able to update captain details.

#### Communication

The most efficient way for me to communicate with clubs is for me to have a single point of contact at each club and this needs to be your club secretary (as defined on Play Cricket and your club official on TVCL24). Clubs may wish to use a generic email address with a forwarder and this is fine, but it is important that your club secretary takes responsibility for reading and responding to my emails and is my single point of contact. I have 100+ clubs to communicate with and it's no good if Bob replies to



me one week and next week it's Bill – past experience has taught me that this does not work!

### **Your player databases on Play Cricket**

Please log on to your club's Play Cricket account and maintain your list of players registered for the TVCL competition.

For our existing clubs this means adding any new players and removing ones who have left your club (the latter action is not essential – if they want to play for another club then they can be transferred – but there is a significant benefit in shortening your dropdown list of players to be selected for scorecards by limiting said list to active players).

For our new clubs this means registering all your players on Play Cricket. It is a significant administrative task to do this, albeit largely one-off – and it is also a significant administrative task for us because Play Cricket obliges us to approve every player you register. Please therefore 'get ahead of the game' and do this at your earliest convenience – it will not be appreciated at our end if you leave this to the last week before the start of the TVCL season.

There is a guide to registering and transferring players on Play Cricket on TVCL24 – go to Downloads, then Guides.

Please encourage all your players to set up a personal Play Cricket account – this is not mandatory or necessary, but it is strongly advised, not least because it delegates the maintenance of personal data away from your club and onto your players! It would also be extremely helpful if date of birth could be populated for all players – it is easier to differentiate from one John Smith to another if one was born in 1970 and the other in 2000!

Please note that the TVCL cannot update any of the data on your Play Cricket website. If you need technical help, for example, merging duplicate player records, then please raise a PC helpdesk call reference Chris Seal/TVCL.

### **Overseas and under age player registrations**

The overseas player regulations are complicated and, in the view of most people, not especially satisfactory. However, they are set by the Home Office and the ECB - and



not the TVCL! - so we cannot do anything about them. If you are planning to have an overseas player in 2025 then it is your responsibility to understand the regulations.

It is a mandatory requirement for clubs to organise & complete the Category 1B Parental Waiver & Consent Form for anyone aged under 13 taking part in Open Age League Cricket. We have been looking at how this might be done automatically on Play Cricket but it is not straightforward and this will now have to wait for 2026 earliest. For the 2025 season it remains necessary to scan the registration form and send it to [player-eligibility@tvcricket.uk](mailto:player-eligibility@tvcricket.uk)

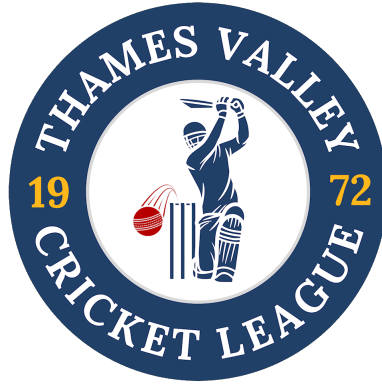
Stop press. The ECB has just issued some new guidelines relating to junior players, i.e. under 18s, playing in open age competitions – namely that they now require a parental waiver. We will issue some guidelines on this soon – please watch this space!

### **The player transfer process in the TVCL**

Out-of-season inter-club transfers can be processed on Play Cricket without intervention from the TVCL (aside from final approval – see below. The only rule for out-of-season transfers is that the player must not have any outstanding financial obligations to their old club. The procedure on Play Cricket for a player transferring from ABC to XYZ is as follows:

1. XYZ initiate the transfer on their website by searching for the player on ABC's player list and raising a transfer request.
2. ABC then approve or reject the transfer request.
3. If ABC approves the request then TVCL the final step is for TVCL admin to approve or reject.
4. If ABC rejects the transfer request then TVCL will investigate and advise.

In season transfer requests are processed in the same way but our player transfer rules apply. In brief, if a player is transferring from one TVCL club to another then a) 15 days must pass since their last TVCL match, b) no transfers are allowed after 31<sup>st</sup> July and c) a player may only transfer once in each season. Please see Player Eligibility Rules 4 & 5 for our rules on player transfers.



## Player Registration & Scorecards

Further to the above. Re player registration, the TVCL strongly recommends that all member clubs do following:

1. Do the necessary due diligence on the eligibility of all new players before registering them to play for your club in the TVCL competition and selecting them to play in a TVCL match.
2. Register new players for the TVCL competition on Play Cricket before they play in a TVCL match.
3. Score your matches using Play Cricket Scorer (PCS). This has a number of advantages (notably that you do not have to manually enter results and scorecards onto Play Cricket after the match!) but *vis-à-vis* player registration it highlights any possible problems before the match starts.

If you field an ineligible player then the penalty is harsh. See the Player Eligibility Rules. If in doubt please contact [player-eligibility@tvcricket.uk](mailto:player-eligibility@tvcricket.uk) for advice.

Re scorecards. The windows for populating the names of the players on scorecards has been shortened following the move to Play Cricket last season and increasing use of the Play Cricket Scoring app (PCS). The home team must complete its scorecard names by 11.00pm on Sunday evening and the away team by 11.00pm on Monday evening. It is essential for the smooth running and administration of the league that this task is completed on time so you will be fined on each and every occasion that you submit late!

## Grounds & teams

Please could all clubs check that their ground details are up-to-date on both Play Cricket and TVCL24 – and if a team is using more than one home venue during the season then please make sure that the correct ground details are updated for each fixture.

## Team Strengthening

The issue of team strengthening always causes trouble every year but, with higher club XIs competing against lower XIs from other clubs, it is necessary to ensure the integrity of and a level playing field for each divisional competition. Please read and adhere to Player Eligibility Rule 3.2 below. Dropping players for reasonable cricketing



reasons is fine. However, if you are thinking about dropping a player who has performed strongly in a higher XI, for instance one of your leading run scorers or wicket takers, and are in any doubt about compliance with PE Rule 3.2, please email [player-eligibility@tvcricket.uk](mailto:player-eligibility@tvcricket.uk) for advice beforehand.

### [Player Eligibility Rule 3.2](#)

Member Clubs are required at all times to select their Teams in strength order, with their best players starting from their 1st XI downwards.

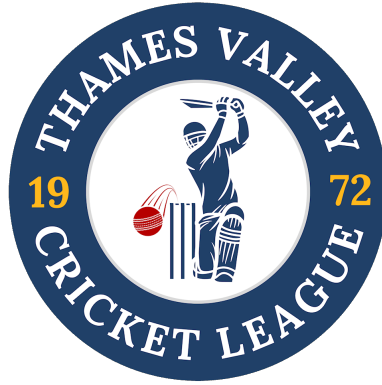
**Member Clubs are advised to carefully consider this rule before selecting players downwards from higher teams - at any point in the season.**

*Note: In the event that a Member Clubs higher Team fixture is cancelled for any reason, they must not drop down any selected players from that higher Team into a lower Team on that same day.*

### **Results & scorecards – troubleshooting**

Please note that the result secretaries will normally only amend headline results, i.e. (runs/wickets/overs) and points; they will not normally adjust scorecards – this is the responsibility of the clubs. The remit for the results secretaries re scorecards is to check that they are submitted on time, with no missing or ineligible players, and that all the totals tally. Fines will be levied at the discretion of the result secretaries for 'egregious' breaches!

When contacting your result secretary please use the contact details below. It is much better if you email rather than call. Firstly, because the result secretary can then work through the issues to resolve in a controlled way rather than being perpetually interrupted by phone calls; and secondly because it creates a 'paper' trail of the problem and how it was resolved. Finally, when contacting your result secretary, please a) make sure that you contact the correct result secretary for your division – see below and b) make sure that you include the date, division & teams in your title. It's really quite simple. For example, 'ABC 2 v. XYZ 3, 12/05, 6B – problem with scorecard'.



## **Dates – this year and next – and Start Times**

The first round of matches this year will be on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May and the last round on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> September. Looking further ahead to 2026, as I know that many of our fixture secretaries do, the first round will be on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 and the last round on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2026.

The start times are now variable based on division. Division 1 & 2 matches will start at 12 noon and Division 3 & below matches will start at 12.30pm.

Two clubs have requested and been given special dispensation to start (some of) their home matches later than the scheduled 12.30pm start due to other events taking place on their grounds in the morning over which they have no control. These clubs are Woodley 1 & 2 in Divisions 7B and 9B; and Kew 3 & 4 at the Barnes Elm ground in Divisions 8C and 10C. Both clubs have been told to contact their opposition in the week of the match and offer them the choice of playing a full length match with a possible late finish or playing a reduced length match as if the delay had been caused by poor weather.

## **New Match Bonus Point rules for 2025**

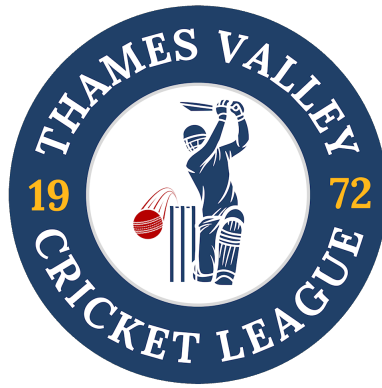
The major change from last year's AGM is that bonus points are now based on runs scored or wickets taken in the first innings, and wickets taken or percentage of target runs reached in the second innings. I am not going to try to explain the new rules in detail here – please read and understand Generic Match Rules 9.2 and 9.3.

## **DLS**

All win/lose matches will use DLS Version 5 in 2025. Even if you are not scoring the match using PCS (Play Cricket Scorer) please have the PCS app downloaded onto your phone to use if a DLS calculation is required. I understand that Version 6 is in development and may become available at some point – if it does then we will advise accordingly.

## **Umpire Bonus Point rule – reinstated for 2025**

The Umpire Bonus Point will be reinstated for the 2025 season. The upside of this rule is that it encourages more (trained) umpire coverage throughout the competition but it does have two downsides, notably teams cheating by claiming the point when



they did not have a registered umpire and the increased administrative workload that it places on league administrators to check that bonus point claims are legitimate. For these reasons the penalties for erroneously claiming the umpire bonus point are harsh: a 5 point penalty for the first transgression and 10 points for each subsequent transgression.

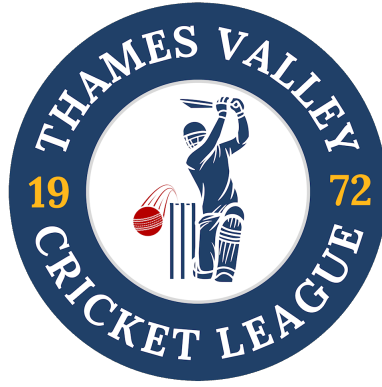
The procedure for registering a club umpire can be found on TVCL24. Said umpire must be registered by 5.00pm on the Thursday evening before a match. The TVCL will then check the umpire's credentials and add him to the list of registered club umpires on TVCL24 by 10.00am latest on Saturday morning. We will also update the list of panel and registered umpires on Play Cricket so that the umpire which stood in your match can be selected from a dropdown list.

We are still working on the technical solution re adding the point in Play Cricket. It is likely that all (and only) registered umpires will be available for selection on a dropdown list on the scorecard, and that the result secretaries will manually add the point after the match if appropriate. As soon as we have finalised this then we will advise – please watch this space!

## **Changes to post-match administration in 2025**

There are two significant changes this year. Firstly, as set out above, scorecards must now be completed in a shorter timescale. Secondly, panel umpire assessments (Divisions 1 & 2 only) will now be done on the Captain Match Report Form (CMRF) on TVCL24 rather than separately on Who's the Umpire (WTU). This will hopefully make post-match administration easier for Division 1 & 2 captains. Comments for each assessment category will only be mandatory for high and low marks but are welcomed for all marks – the more information supplied the better re the continuous improvement of umpiring standards. Also, please note that while the team captain should normally complete the CMRF on TVCL24, the club official may do it on his behalf; both can also modify it after submission.

Some general observations about captain comments on umpires, pitches, grounds & opposition discipline. We do look at all comments – not always in the immediate aftermath of a weekend's matches because there is not always time, but certainly if we are investigating any issues pertaining to the above. We ignore any comments which contain personal abuse and essays *aka* rants are not appropriate for this forum either – what we want are short, concise comments. Here are some examples of useful comments:



- *Pitch looked under prepared and bounce was inconsistent.*
- *Outfield grass was too long – looked like it had not been cut this week.*
- *Match was bad-tempered. We did not feel that the opposition player umpires knew the laws and match rules very well.*
- *Umpire had a good game generally but we noticed that he did not get into a good position for run outs.*

### **New & spare balls in 2025**

See Match Rule 12.2 The Balls. All new balls presented at the toss must be the designated ball for the competition (higher quality red balls & pink balls in Divisions 1 & 2; lower quality red ball in Divisions 3 & below). A box of good quality spares of different usages (ideally marked 10, 20, 30 or 40 on the ball) should also be presented at the toss. Normally these should be of the designated ball for the competition. However, as a special one-off dispensation to our new clubs for the 2025 season only, we will allow you to use your spare balls from your old league's competition until such time as you have built up a new collection of TVCL spare balls. Division 1 & 2 clubs must buy additional pink balls – and use some of them in practice matches - so that they have an appropriate collection of spare balls for the first round of matches.

### **Cherwell Rep XI matches in 2025**

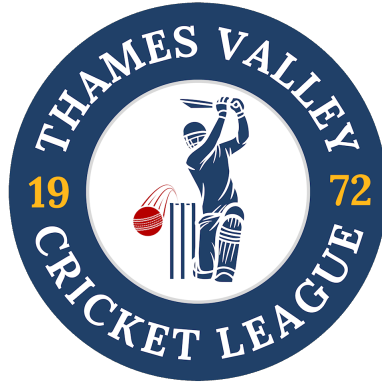
We will once again be playing the Cherwell Cricket League in a triple header Rep XI match, likely on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August. We will confirm the date and venues in due course - it is our turn to host this year.

### **Panel Umpire Fee 2025**

The panel umpire fee for 2025 will be £60. Clubs with teams in Divisions 1 and 2 will be invoiced in three separate tranches before and during the season, and refunded for any cancelled matches at the end of the season.

### **Invoices for subscriptions & umpire fees**

Annual subscription invoices will be sent out to our new clubs in early April and will need to be settled by 31<sup>st</sup> May latest. Fines will be applicable for late payment. Our



existing clubs will be aware that for them, for the 2025 season only, the annual subscription will not be charged.

The invoices for panel umpire fees will, as in previous years, be sent out in three tranches. The first one will be sent out in early April and will need to be settled by 31<sup>st</sup> May latest. Fines will be applicable for late payment.

### **Looking forward to 2026 – farewell to OMT and welcome to Wendover**

Further to the recent SGM, Wendover will be entering the TVCL competition in 2026. Also, as previously advised, OMT will be leaving us at the end of the 2025 season to join the Middlesex competition, and we wish them every success with this move.

This of course raises questions about promotion and relegation in 2025. It will – as always – be complicated and the best advice to all teams is to play hard in every match right up to the end of the season and gain as many points as you can. I cannot speculate on all the possible permutations, but there are some high level guidelines which I can set out:

- Format of the League Rule 2.3 sets out the number of teams due to be promoted and relegated per Divisional Level in 2025. The number of teams going up and down will be higher this season, as a one-off, to enable all teams to find their correct level more quickly following the league amalgamation.
- OMT's resignation, which will see their four teams leave the TVCL competition at the end of the 2025 season, might mean that there are additional promotions spaces. I say 'might' because other variable factors, such as promotion and relegation to and from the HCPCL, will – as always - affect things.
- Wendover will be bringing two teams into the TVCL competition in 2026. We have provisionally determined that their 1<sup>st</sup> XI will go into Division 7 and their 2<sup>nd</sup> XI into Division 9. There will be no additional change to promotion and relegation within those Divisions in 2025 to accommodate this as the two new Wendover teams will net off against the departure of OMT 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> XIs.

### **Entering new teams into the TVCL competition**

All TVCL clubs have the right to enter additional teams at the bottom of our divisional structure provided that a) you are confident that you have the playing numbers and b) you have a home ground for the whole season. Please notify us of all new team entry requests – and withdrawals – at your earliest convenience and by 31<sup>st</sup> October



latest. New grounds will need to be approved by [gradings-standards@tvcricket.uk](mailto:gradings-standards@tvcricket.uk) and all new team entries and withdrawals must be notified to [fixtures@tvcricket.uk](mailto:fixtures@tvcricket.uk)

### **Mancom contact details**

Below is a list of management contacts (these are also displayed on TVCL24). Please always use email when contacting us because it helps with time management.

- Chairman: Richard Thomas, [chairman@tvcricket.uk](mailto:chairman@tvcricket.uk)
- Hon. Secretary: Matthew Stevenson, [secretary@tvcricket.uk](mailto:secretary@tvcricket.uk)
- Hon. Treasurer: Martin House, [treasurer@tvcricket.uk](mailto:treasurer@tvcricket.uk)
- Hon. Fixture Secretary: Eddie Lunn, [fixtures@tvcricket.uk](mailto:fixtures@tvcricket.uk)
- Rules & Match Conditions: Martin Wilson, [rules@tvcricket.uk](mailto:rules@tvcricket.uk)
- Discipline & Complaints: Avtar Banse, [discipline-complaints@tvcricket.uk](mailto:discipline-complaints@tvcricket.uk)
- Gradings & Standards: Tom Mellor, [gradings-standards@tvcricket.uk](mailto:gradings-standards@tvcricket.uk)
- Player Eligibility: Mike Woodwards, [player-eligibility@tvcricket.uk](mailto:player-eligibility@tvcricket.uk)
- Umpires & scorers: position currently vacant but emails being monitored by the league secretary: [umpires-scorers@tvcricket.uk](mailto:umpires-scorers@tvcricket.uk)
- Results Secretary (Divisions 1-4): Vic Devers, [results@tvcricket.uk](mailto:results@tvcricket.uk)
- Asst. Results Sec. (Divisions 5-7): David New, [assistant-results@tvcricket.uk](mailto:assistant-results@tvcricket.uk)
- Asst. Results Sec. (Divisions 8-10): Lee Wiles, tbc

### **And finally ...**

Well done if you have got this far – it is Page 10 and by far my longest ever newsletter. Hopefully, next year's post-amalgamation offering will be considerably shorter!

Let's hope that the current glorious spring weather continues and we have a warm and dry summer, and very best wishes to all member clubs, teams, players and officials for the 2025 season!

Matthew Stevenson  
Hon. Secretary