

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As directed at the last meeting I wrote to the Chief Executive of the EBU asking that the dates of the Premier League be fixed two years in advance to allow counties to plan their events to avoid clashes. A copy of my letter accompanies this report. The Chief Executive initially responded promptly and the matter was placed before the next meetings of the EBU Board and the Selection Committee, who are currently responsible for fixing the dates of the Premier League. I reproduce below the relevant minutes:

EBU Board

The clashing of competitions and trials was discussed. GF stated that there are a lot of events to avoid, especially the USA events, when setting trials dates. This year was deemed more difficult for dates due to the volume of events requiring trials. It was agreed that the trials dates should not unduly impact Counties events. A possible solution was that seniors' trials could be held mid-week. Another idea was to hold later trials, although concern was expressed that this could affect players' lead-in times. GR confirmed that counties had accepted the scheduling of events this year but that next year this needs to change and be more thought out. GF stated they could try to plan two to three years in advance to alleviate the problem. There was a general consensus that the EBU should be trying to help counties, and that forcing change upon them when circumstances demanded it was regrettable and to be avoided wherever possible.

Selection Committee

The counties felt that the timing of the 2018 Premier League, in particular division 3, took players away from their Green Point events. The county events are on set dates which have been in the calendar for forty plus years and are the counties main source of income. The Committee wondered if it was possible to set our dates earlier but as the dates of the Olympiad were not yet known it would be difficult to do so. The Committee were sympathetic to the problem but cannot amend this year's dates but will bear this in mind for 2020 events. It may be possible in future to hold division 3 on a different weekend or to hold the Premier League later in the year, although this is currently impractical.

As you can see the Board were sympathetic and wished the Selection Committee to plan ahead in the timescales we suggested but that the Selection Committee completely missed the point. What we wanted was for the Selection Committee to set the 2020 dates at that meeting and the 2021 dates later this year. I have written again to the Chief Executive asking if the Board can make sure the Selection Committee follow their wishes. I will report any response I receive at the meeting.

Up-to-date membership figures:

P2P **2,413**. This includes some but not all of our secondary members

Direct **80** This seems to include many of the new schools players

Student **66** plus 16 who ought to be in the Yorkshire figures.

Total **2,559**

Finally, as requested, I invited Tim Anderson the EBU Membership Development Officer to attend this meeting.