



THAMES VALLEY CRICKET LEAGUE



Established in 1972, The Morrants Thames Valley Cricket League is an important component of the ECB Premier League structure

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2019 Divisional Structure

Dear Member Club,

Putting together the 2019 divisional structure has been especially challenging. We had a number of gradings & standards reviews to do in the autumn and, indeed, at the end of this process one of our promoted teams failed to meet our criteria for the next level up. We have also been grappling with the old chestnut of regionalisation. We are aware that long travelling times can be a disincentive to participation but equally that our member clubs had previously asked us not to regionalise above Level 4; in the end, with the league rules throwing up several eye-catching anomalies in Level 3, we felt that an online EGM was the only way out of this particular conundrum. Finally, a number of clubs have entered additional teams and we have had to inspect their facilities and decide what level to put them into.

We have now finalised the structure – see below – with the exception of Level 9 - where we still have two unresolved ground issues. Please see also below the rationale for the decisions that we have taken. ***Please note, however, that Format of the League rule 2.9. gives the management committee the final word on all decisions relating to the divisional structure so these notes are for information only and we will not be entering into any further correspondence on this matter.***

Division 1: This was fairly straightforward. There was no relegation from the HCPCL so an additional team was promoted from Level 2. Wargrave (2nd in Division 2a) had the higher average points total than Marlow (2nd in Division 2b) so they are promoted. (The HCPCL situation cascades all the way down, with mostly – but not always, see rationale for each level below - extra teams being promoted.)

Level 2: This was our first conundrum. High Wycombe 3 won Division 3b but were not able to provide a facility that met our criteria for Level 2 cricket and so were unable to take the promotion spot. This means that one fewer team is relegated from Level 2. Chesham 2 (9th in Division 2a) had a higher average points total than Wokingham (9th in Division 2b) so they avoid relegation. Then the conundrum. High Wycombe 3 would have been promoted into Division 2b but Chesham 2 are in Division 2a – so we were left with an 11/9 split, and nothing in our rules to tell us how to resolve the matter. We concluded that the most pragmatic solution would be to put both the teams relegated from Division 1 into 2b, rather than moving across an existing team from 2a.

Separately, because there was no relegation from HCPCL, an additional team is promoted from Level 3. Bagshot (3rd in Division 3a) had a higher points total than Chiswick & Whitton (3rd in Division 3b) and are therefore promoted.



Level 3: This was our second conundrum. Our rules placed OMT in the (largely western) Division 3a, and Sulhamstead in the (largely eastern) Division 3b. We have faced regionalisation issues in recent seasons and the management committee felt that to make some adjustments to reduce travelling distances at this level would be sensible. However, our rules state clearly that we should not do this. We therefore put the matter to our member clubs in an online EGM and they decisively approved a one-off regionalisation of Level 3 for 2019 only. We have therefore endeavoured to regionalise Level 3 from scratch although, to note, we did not have a completely free hand here. We will consult our member clubs on the wider subject of regionalisation in due course.

Separately, because there was no relegation from HCPCL and one fewer team came down from the 9-team Division 2a in 2018, two additional teams are promoted from Level 4 – so the top three in each of Divisions 4a and 4b are promoted.

Level 4: Chalfont St. Giles, the Berkshire Chilterns and Mid-Bucks League champions, come in at this level via the new feeder link. One fewer team is therefore promoted from Level 5. This year that means four up, instead of five due to the HCPCL, so this one was in the end 'normal', i.e. the top two teams only from Divisions 5a and 5b are promoted. We have additionally made two regionalisation switches: Harefield 2 and Wooburn Narkovians swap with North Maidenhead 2 and Sonning.

Level 5: Because there was no relegation from HCPCL, an additional team is promoted from Level 6. Tring Park 3 (3rd in Division 6a) had a higher points total than Bradfield (3rd in Division 6b) and are therefore promoted. We have additionally made four regionalisation switches: Beaconsfield 2, Princes Risborough, Tring Park 3 and Wraybury 2 swap with Binfield 2, Henley 3, Maidenhead & Bray 2 and Royal Ascot 2.

Level 6: Because there was no relegation from HCPCL, an additional team is promoted from Level 7. Sulhamstead 2 (3rd in Division 7a) had a higher points total than Slough 5 (3rd in Division 7b) and are therefore promoted. This left us with 11 teams in Division 6b and 9 in 6a, so with regionalisation in mind again we put White Waltham 2 into 6a rather than 6b.

Level 7: Binfield have entered an additional XI into the TVCL competition in 2019. Normally, if an existing member club enters a new XI into the competition, the said team would come in at the lowest level. However, noting that Binfield 1 & 2 both got promoted last season, from Levels 4 and 6 respectively, and that they field a 4th XI in the Berkshire League, the management committee decided that their 3rd XI should enter at Level 7. One fewer team is therefore promoted from Level 8. This year that means four up instead of 5, so the top two teams from 8a and 8b were promoted. We have additionally made four regionalisation switches: Aldershot 3, Harefield 3, Slough 5 and Wargrave 3 swap with Maidenhead & Bray 3, OMT 2, Stoke Green 3 and Tring Park 4.

Level 8: The fact that there was no relegation from HCPCL is balanced out by the entry of Binfield 3 into Level 7, meaning four up instead of five. So this one was 'normal', i.e. the top two teams only from Divisions 9a and 9b are promoted. We have additionally made two regionalisation switches: Finchampstead 5 and Wokingham 5 swap with Chenies & Latimer 2 and High Wycombe 5.

Level 9: We are still, unfortunately, unable to confirm the Level 9 structure due to two unresolved ground issues. We could have 21, 22 or 23 teams in this level at the end of this process. We hope to be able to resolve matters in the next week or two, so please watch this space!

Matthew Stevenson

2019 Divisional Structure – Levels 1 to 8

Division 1
Boyne Hill
Cove
Falkland
Gerrards Cross
Hayes (P)
High Wycombe 2 (P)
North Maidenhead
Slough 2
Stoke Green
Wargrave (P)

Division 2a	Division 2b
Amersham 2	Aldershot
Chesham 2	Bagshot (P)
Eversley	Beaconsfield
Ickenham (P)	Finchampstead 2
Kew	Fleet (P)
Kidmore End	Henley 2 (R)
Maidenhead & Bray	Hurst
Marlow	Reading (R)
Tring Park 2 (P)	Royal Ascot
Windsor	Thatcham Town

Division 3a	Division 3b
Binfield (P)	Burnham 2
Boyne Hill 2 (P)	Chiswick & Whitton
Cove 2	Datchet 2
Falkland 2	Gerrards Cross 2
Farnham Royal	High Wycombe 3
Finchampstead 3	Kew 2
Purley-on-Thames	NPL
Slough 3 (P)	OMT (R)
Sulhamstead & Ufton (P)	Taplow (P)
Wokingham 2 (R)	Wraysbury (P)



Division 4a	Division 4b
Bagshot 2	Amersham 3
Bracknell	Chalfont St Giles
Newbury	Cookham Dean 2
North Maidenhead 2	Harefield 2 (R)
Reading 2	Hillingdon Manor
Sonning (R)	Ickenham 2 (P)
Theale & Tilehurst	Marlow 2
Wargrave 2 (P)	Ruislip (R)
White Waltham	Stoke Green 2
Wokingham 3 (P)	Wooburn Narkovians (R)

Division 5a	Division 5b
Beaconsfield 2 (R)	Aldershot 2
Burnham 3	Binfield 2 (P)
Chalfont St Peter	Boyne Hill 3
Farnham Common	Eversley 2
Hayes 2	Falkland 3
Kew 3	Henley 3 (R)
Princes Risborough (R)	Maidenhead & Bray 2
Taplow 2 (P)	Royal Ascot 2 (R)
Tring Park 3 (P)	Slough 4 (P)
Wraysbury 2 (P)	Thatcham Town 2

Division 6a	Division 6b
Barnes Wild Geese	Bradfield
Chesham 3 (R)	Cove 3
Chiswick & Whitton 2	Finchampstead 4
Eastcote 4	Fleet 2 (P)
Farnham Common 2	Hurst 2
Farnham Royal 2	Purley on Thames 2 (R)
High Wycombe 4 (P)	Reading 3
Ickenham 3 (P)	Sonning 2 (R)
White Waltham 2 (P)	Sulhamstead & Ufton 2 (P)
Windsor 2 (R)	Theale & Tilehurst 2



Division 7a	Division 7b
Aldershot 3 (R)	Burnham 4 (R)
Binfield 3	Chenies & Latimer
Kidmore End 2	Datchet 3
Maidenhead & Bray 3	Harefield 3 (R)
Newbury 2	Hayes 3 (P)
Royal Ascot 3	Hillingdon Manor 2
Slough 5	OMT 2 (R)
Wargrave 3 (P)	Stoke Green 3 (P)
Wokingham 4	Tring Park 4 (P)
Yateley	Wooburn Narkovians 2

Division 8a	Division 8b
Bagshot 3	Beaconsfield 3
Boyne Hill 4	Chalfont St Peter 2
Bracknell 2	Chenies & Latimer 2 (P)
Bradfield 2	Cookham Dean 3 (R)
Eversley 3 (R)	Farnham Common 3
Finchampstead 5 (P)	Hayes 4
Royal Ascot 4	High Wycombe 5 (P)
Thatcham Town 3	Kew 4
Theale & Tilehurst 3 (R)	NPL 2
Wokingham 5 (P)	Ruislip 2 (R)

- Division 9a & 9b to be confirmed.