

Preparations for 2018

You will of course know that work has been ongoing since the end of last season to organise the 2018 league structure and entrants and we can now confirm that three more teams will be joining the Saturday competition alongside those from the former Pennine League and there are 15 new teams for the Sunday competition.

With Milnrow CC senior teams now playing regular Sundays in the Lancashire League the club has joined GMCL by entering a 3rd XI on the Saturday and we also have two new teams joining who are based at grounds in the Stockport area. These are new grounds for GMCL; full facilities are available and we will confirm the full venue details shortly.

On the subject of grounds we are delighted to hear that Oldham West Cricket Club have secured the ground at the former Bolton Cricket Club for the 2018 season.

Fixtures for #GMCL2018

We apologise for the delays with the fixtures, we have a number of requests, particularly on ground sharing that make it a longer process this time around but with the Saturday schedule now shared, albeit a couple of minor amendments are needed, the Sunday fixtures will be out very soon. All fixtures are on the website under "Info & Forms".

Discipline for #GMCL2018

We will continue to tackle disciplinary issues head on in 2018. In 2017 we punished those who showed poor discipline and disrespect for the league, our officials, opponents and team mates and we will continue to hold the team captains responsible for their players behaviour. We will have almost 1500 players turning out on Saturdays in 2018 and we aim to reduce serious incidents to nil and improve general on field behaviour and improve respect for opponents and officials to help us with our drive to recruit and train more umpires.

MCC – Law 42

As announced some weeks ago the MCC has amended several Laws and added a new Law 42 regarding Player Discipline. There are a series of **mandatory** meetings for Captains, Club Chairs and any others responsible for disciplinary matters to discuss the amendments.

The dates are:-

Thursday 15th March—Worsley CC at 7:30 pm
Saturday 17th March—Greenmount CC at 10:00am
Thursday 22nd March—Denton West at 7:30 pm
Saturday 24th March—Werneth CC at 10:00 am

In the meantime there is a useful document on the MCC Laws website -follow this link <https://www.lords.org/news/2017/april/summary-of-new-laws-of-cricket-released/>

League Calendar

You may have seen on the website at www.GtrMcCricket.co.uk that we now have a calendar for league events on both the home page and under "Info & Forms". Senior AGM ((28 Jan) at Flixton at 10:30am & Junior AGM (25 Feb—NOTE THE CHANGE) at Elton Vale (noon until 2pm) dates and the 2018 Dinner date (19 Oct) have recently been added, Please visit regularly.



Umpires in 2018

Umpire numbers up!

Recruiting Umpires = 23 recruited so far and joining the GMCL Saturday Panel but 2 Umpires are leaving, this will increase number of Panel Umpires to be appointed to Saturday matches for 2018 to 64, increasing the appointment of Panel Umpires to 5 Divisions from 4 in 2017

Club Umpires – more required

We must, however, increase the use of Club Umpires to include Divisions 3W & 3E so in 2018 all clubs with a team below Division 2 will need a Club Umpire. There are 6 clubs affected from last season who will be notified by Umpires Director direct.

Umpires fees

There will be an increase in fees due to ongoing benchmarking exercises with other similar Leagues in the North of England. Likely to announce the revised fees very soon – watch this space!

For any general communications with GMCL please e-mail:

GtrMcCricket@mail.com

For a full list of league contacts please visit
www.GtrMcCricket.co.uk

#GMCLJUNIORS2018

Nigel Stock is leading on Juniors and advises that the Junior season is to run 23 April to 29 July – 14 weeks. We will announce summer cups in the early season.

The intention is to set the leagues up geographically and where possible include some performance leagues.

The aim will be for all teams to have as close to 14 games scheduled as possible for the standard junior season.

We would like teams to enter the main set up to give us the best geographical and competitive games, which will be as follows

U9 Monday

U11 Wednesday

U13 Sunday am

U15 Monday

U18 Wednesday

There is a potential for extra competitions on a Tuesday, for those who may not be able to play on the standard night (eg second teams) or any specific requests (Tameside). I would like to set a deadline for entries of 1st Feb, a form is available now.

<https://goo.gl/forms/AuNoTyox7M1dZUg62>

#GMCLJUNIORS2018

Nigel is on the lookout for a team of regional or age group secretaries to support the junior structure. If you can spare an hour or so a week over the summer could you please e-mail GtrMcrcricket@mail.com

#GMCL20

The competition will run from the week up to Friday May 18th to the final date on Sunday June 15th.

We are aiming for Divisions of 6 teams, dependent on entry numbers.

We hope to have news of a competition sponsor very soon and registration forms for clubs will be issued shortly.

Other Items:

Match Balls will be the same Oxbridge balls as in 2017 and forms with prices will be available for orders very soon. Former Pennine League clubs are reminded that their stock of new balls only may be used for 2nd XI or 3rd XI games in 2018.

Overseas- Rules governing players not eligible to play for England (am and pro) are changing year on year. Please keep your eye on ECB news and we will update you as soon as we know any changes imposed by the Home Office.

GMCL Handbooks will be issued in 2018 due to many requests from players, club officials and umpires. More details to follow.

We still have opportunities for **sponsorship** of the league, website and handbooks as well as Senior and Junior league team wear. For information please contact commercial@gtmcricket.co.uk

Scoring Systems for 2018

You will be aware that cricHQ has now been sold and we will begin to rebuild our relationship and move forward in 2018.

We have not stood still; we have considered several other options and only recently met the ECB alongside the Bradford League. Whilst there are clear improvements in the ECB product and they are now open to building club websites to match our own, there is much to do on their side to make it smooth running and they are yet to offer the video link or automated umpire allocation that we want for 2018; we will however maintain full communication with all appropriate parties who can work with the scale we require and we wish the ECB well in making greater strides forward with play-cricket.

Travel Partner for GMCL Clubs

Business Travel Flight Centre is fully licensed ABTA & ATOL and established for over 30 years and specialises in worldwide flights and has great success in obtaining the best possible rates for reverse directional rates / flights for overseas players.

Combined with the incentive of being able to book early to get the best possible prices and **for GMCL Clubs to be able to pay in interest free instalments** will help clubs cash flow in the quieter winter period.

Just click on the banner on the GMCL website, or follow the link here and give a few details and we will be back to you with several options. <http://www.businesstravelcentre.com/cricket-flights.html>

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Have you put forward your idea to improve the league yet?

Some very positive ideas have reached us so far, some need expanding and some will work well in combination with other suggestions. Every single suggestion is considered and we have launched a page on the web site displaying what we have considered, what will be looked at for adoption and what may well bring about change.

Your input is valuable because we cannot get out to speak to all our clubs every month, <https://www.gtmcricket.co.uk/blog/ideas-suggestions-your-thoughts-are-always-welcome>