

The Best Western Shrubbery Hotel

SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Honorary Treasurer's Report for the Year ended 30th September 2009

The League has now benefited from eight years of sponsorship by the Best Western Shrubbery Hotel. This has been vital income for the League allowing us to purchase new trophies, develop a comprehensive website, purchase and update office equipment, partly subsidise the cost of a coaching course as well as other smaller projects. This was achieved while also rebuilding the League's finances following a large deficit in 2001 when we were without a sponsor.

This year, for the first time during this period, I have to report a sizeable deficit of £824.80p. The main reasons for this was our expenditure commitment to subsidising a coaching course, which we knew about, coupled with much lower income from the 2008 Presentation Dinner, which had not been anticipated. The Presentation Dinner being a significant part of the Shrubbery Hotel sponsorship.

The 2009 deficit is not in itself a particularly serious loss because as mentioned earlier we had over the previous seven years restored the League's finances to a good level. For this reason the 2010 club subscriptions were left unchanged. However we must now consider what is required for 2011 and beyond based on the best budget estimate for 2010. Our financial year runs October to September so this year has only just started and while reasonable predictions of Income can be made predicting Expenditure is far less reliable. At the moment the best estimate suggests a deficit for 2010 of £450 but I must emphasise that there is plenty of scope for this be larger. Anticipating successive deficits I recommend, for the first time in seven years, we should raise club subscriptions for 2011.

In 1973, the first year of the League, the subscription was £2, which increased gradually as the League grew and the administration became more complex. The introduction of a second eleven competition created a differential subscription on the basis that with one contact point it did not cost twice as much to administer two teams from the same club. The intention to charge additional teams at 50% was never quite achieved and as other amounts, such as the handbook charge, were added to the main subscription, the differential grew until we arrived at our current subscription rates of £46 for the League's first team and £14 for each additional team.

The October meeting of the Management Committee supported the 50% differential principle and consequently my recommendation to the Annual General Meeting is that the 2011 subscriptions be raised to £50 for the League's first team and £25 for each additional team. This would increase the League's Income by approximately £780 per year.

The current charge to first division clubs for umpires has been held at £17 for two years despite the significant increases in travelling costs. The League continues to subsidise the cost of umpires but with the average cost for 2009 at £21 the charge for the 2010 season will be raised to £18 per umpire. At the time of writing the cost of the League Cricket Ball and the League Public Liability Insurance are not known but hopefully will be available at the Annual General Meeting.

The attached copy of the League's Accounts for the Year ending 30th September 2009 are I hope fairly straightforward but if you have any queries they can be sent to me at o.packman@sky.com or raised at the A.G.M.