

THE SHRUBBERY HOTEL – SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Monday November 23 2009 at the Bridgwater Sports and Social Club

All clubs were represented at the meeting with the exceptions of Baltonsborough, Burnham on Sea, Evercreech, Leigh on Mendip, Purnell, Stogumber, Street. These clubs were fined £40 as per rule

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. There were no apologies.
2. The minutes of the previous meetings (AGM – 24th November 2008 and the EGM – 20 April 2009), which had been circulated beforehand, were accepted as a correct record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The Chairman, Malcolm Fox, said that the season should be regarded as one of continued progress and only small problems occurred from time to time. The weather had yet again interfered with matches, but to a lesser extent this year. Some sides had again failed to fulfil fixtures and in two cases teams had withdrawn from the League during the season. He paid tribute to the many club officials without whose contributions the game could not be sustained. These included the administrators and those that worked on the ground. He again emphasised that the Management Committee is always prepared to listen to the views of clubs and their members and undertake changes to suit the situations if necessary. The Committee is both open minded and intent on keeping the rules and playing conditions up to date. It has therefore promoted rule changes where necessary and strives to adjust the structures to provide cricket that reflects the needs of current day players. He was pleased that there had been no formal disciplinary meetings during the season. He commented on a few issues that had been resolved by the club disciplinary committees and some that had been settled by his intervention. However, the Committee was adamant that discipline must not be allowed to slip. He promised that any umpires reports (Panel, club or even players in the umpiring role) will be acted upon and he encouraged clubs and officials to notify the Hon. Secretary in all cases of unacceptable behaviour. He closed his report by thanking the clubs of the League and the members of the Management Committee.
5. The Honorary Secretary outlined the salient aspects of his report, which had been previously circulated to all members. He congratulated Ilton Cricket Club on winning the John Bail Trophy after many years of trying. He said that the Ladbroke Merit Trophy for the 'Club of the Year' had been won by Westlands with excellent performances by both teams. He noted that Ashbrittle and Stogumber from West Somerset had both won their respective divisions and the former club will play in the 1st Division next year. The revised system for recording the 'Don Crouch' scores had produced more objective results and 5 clubs – Wells 1st XI; Glastonbury Lambs; Spaxton; Belvedere 'A'; Huntspill & District 1st XI – had scored 100% marks from their opponents. He also expressed his concern over cancelled games and noted that another factor had influenced some cancellations. The increased numbers of young persons in the teams often created transporting difficulties for away fixtures. The SCL and the WEPL had continued its dialogue about an improved administrative setup and playing conditions, but he was concerned that change in the higher echelons of league cricket is very difficult to achieve. Electronic processes are now a key part of the administrative system and will be increasingly important in the future where club information will be stored in an 'up to date' format and results submitted on line. Clubs will be required to familiarise themselves with the processes or

face fines if the correct information is not submitted. Another benefit of the system will be the automatic provision of the averages, although there will probably be a need to register or list players. The Hon. Secretary said that the coaching course, which the League sponsored last year, had been well attended and the remaining few candidates were expected to complete their level 1 course soon. He welcomed three new teams into the 2nd XI competition namely Middlezoy and Taunton Deane Crusaders from the West Somerset Cricket League and North Perrott from the WEPL. He expressed his thanks to the Sponsor, Stuart Shepherd of the Shrubbery Hotel for his continued support of the League and the very successful hosting of the Presentation Night. He concurred with the Chairman over his remarks about the disciplinary issues and explained that the time and cost of formal hearings was considerable and most certainly something to be avoided if possible. Even though, the Committee would vigorously pursue any reported misdemeanours. He congratulated the two individual winners, Jack Sellick of North Newton who won the AVCO Trust Young Player of the Year Award and Andy Mortimer of Horrington who won the Glastonbury All Rounders Award. Finally, he expressed his thanks to all the members of the Committee for their continued support throughout the season.

6. The Hon. Treasurer referred to his written report that had been distributed previously He said that the accounts for 2008 showed a surplus of £1066 and that had increased the League's Funds for the first time to over £13000. However, he was already aware that for this year there was the possibility of a large deficit. The reasons for the deficit were a combination of factors. The League had partly subsidised the level 1 Coaching Course for 24 participants at a cost of £860. There had also been a disappointing attendance at the 2008 presentation evening, which is a significant part of the sponsorship income. In comparison with the previous year this represented a reduction in sponsorship of £1250. These two items suggested a possible significant deficit for this year. It was apparent at the April EGM that the deficit would be kept below £1000 and due to this sound financial position it was decided that the 2010 club subscriptions should remain unchanged. The balance sheet indicated an actual deficit of £824.80p. However, it was kept down to this amount by two fortuitous occurrences relating to the League's cricket ball that prevented this year's deficit from being near to £2000. Already there is a fairly accurate idea of income for this year but in respect of expenditure it's little more than a guess at this stage. The prospects for 2010 are for a deficit of £450, although this is a conservatively low forecast. The Treasurer indicated that for the first time that he could recall the League will have significant successive deficits and that is a situation, which he recommended should not be continued into 2011 and required an increase in income to address the problem. For that reason, and for the first time in seven years, he proposed an increase in club subscriptions for the 2011 season. The basic subscription would be raised from £46 to £50 and the second and third teams subscriptions be set at 50% of £50 at £25 per team. This would raise the minimum amount of approximately £780 that is required in the circumstances. Finally, he dealt with the cost of umpires in Division One where about two thirds of the cost is for travel. He reminded the members that travel costs are linked to fuel prices and these increases are unavoidable. Derek Hicks, the Appointments Secretary makes every effort to reduce travelling while at the same time giving umpires a variety of venues and teams. Traditionally the League has subsidised the cost to clubs by 10-15% and with the average cost this year exceeding £20 he proposed that for the 2010 season the cost to the clubs be raised from £17 to £18 per umpire. It was proposed by Huntspill and seconded by Kilve and adopted by the membership that the report be accepted and the increases in costs be implemented. The Treasurer was thanked for his report.
7. The Chairman welcomed Andy Curtis, Chairman of the Somerset Cricket Board and Andrew Moulding, the Somerset Cricket Board's Development Officer. Andy explained his role as Chairman of SCB and emphasised his wish to involve the various Somerset leagues more closely with the work of the Somerset Cricket Board. He outlined the opportunities that existed and trusted that a forum could be set up for the leagues and the Board to share areas of common interest that would benefit the game. Andrew Moulding covered a wide range of issues including the recruitment of volunteers; the coaching courses that are promoted by the Board

for Levels 1 & 2; the opportunities that existed for financial assistance through the grants to focus clubs and other channels; the innovative scheme known as 'Cricket Force' that has helped clubs improve their facilities etc. by local community involvement. He went on to explain the OSCAs (Outstanding Service to Cricket Award), both on a local basis and a national one. These are opportunities for people to be nominated for long service to the game and are recognised by an invitation to visit Lords for a national reception and/or a County game for local recognition. Andrew reminded members of the work of the Board within other areas of the game that included women's cricket, cricket for the disabled, umpiring courses and junior cricket. There was a concern about bureaucracy and form filling, but there was also a need to ensure that clubs were properly protected in relation to child welfare. Every club should appoint a trained Welfare Officer and clubs without this appointment could find that its other officers could be legally liable in cases of child protection issues. He recognised that some clubs were finding it difficult in financial terms to keep going and suggested that the SCB could be consulted to offer support in extreme cases. He finished his presentation by drawing attention to the literature that he had displayed for members to collect and that gave more information about a number of the issues he had highlighted.

8. The President, Brian Stockhill, presented the AVCO Trust Trophy for the Young Player of the Year to Jack Sellick of North Newton and the Glastonbury Mowers Trophy for the All Rounder of the Year to Andy Mortimer of Horrington.
9. a). The following persons were re-elected for a three-year term on the Management Committee. Malcolm Fox, Tom Packman, Derek Hicks and Ian Latchem who were proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Huntspill & District. The proposal was carried.
b). Miles Knight was nominated by Ilton CC and seconded by Huntspill to serve on the Management Committee for a 3 year term.
c). Honorary Auditor. The Management Committee nominated Mrs. A.J. Hartnell, MAAT, ATT for the post of Honorary Auditor and this was seconded by Kilve and the proposal was carried.
10. Derek Hicks gave a presentation from the Sub Committee that had met and discussed the preparation of a "Minimum Standards Document" for grounds, facilities etc. He said that the Committee had looked at the facilities aspect under 4 headings. These were Health, Hygiene and Safety; Fit for purpose; Duty of Care; Hospitality. The next stage was to prepare and circulate an assessment form and the ultimate aim was for the recommendations to be put in place for the 2011 season. The Chairman thanked the Committee for its work and asked clubs to take the appropriate action when the Document had been circulated. The Hon. Secretary reminded members that the Ground Report Form was still available on the website and concerns about the playing surfaces could still be reported to him with this form.
11. The Hon. Secretary said that he would be circulating the information on the Insurance scheme operated by the League. He anticipated that the costs would be similar to last year. The West Somerset Cricket League was also interested in becoming a part of the scheme and this would benefit everyone as the 'buying power' would be increased. He also said that the information and cricket ball ordering arrangements would be circulated shortly.
12. Changes to the Rules of the Somerset Cricket were discussed and the Meeting agreed that:-

Rule 4. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Any club or the Management Committee may submit proposals for alterations to the Rules **or may submit a new rule**. Such proposals shall be considered by the Management Committee and sent to all clubs in the League, then submitted to the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting and shall become effective provided that they are supported by two thirds or more of the votes recorded.

Proposition Carried

Rule 5 (j)

Note. This proposal represents a change of rule, an additional rule and a renumbering of Rule 5 (j)

(j) Results Sheets.

i) Each team is responsible for putting the names of all players, with ages if under 19 at the previous August 31st, on the Results Sheet and hand it to the umpire, or in his absence, the opposing captain prior to the match commencing. Those players under 18 must adhere to the SCL Helmet Rule and those players under 19 must adhere to the ECB Fast Bowling Directive.

ii) **The Reporting of Results Electronically** - to be done on SCL Website. The home team is responsible for entering the result of the match on the SCL website using the prescribed procedure before noon on the day following the match. This result must be verified by the away team before midnight on the day following the match using the prescribed procedure. Any team that fails to input/verify the result by the due time will be fined the sum of £10.00 on each occasion. The home team will then be required to input the complete scorecard using the prescribed procedure before noon on the Wednesday following the match. Any team that fails to input the complete scorecard by the due time will be fined the sum of £10.00 on each occasion.

iii) **The completed Team Sheet/Result Sheet, with ages where appropriate, must be sent by the home team to the Results Secretary by post or Fax immediately after the match. The Result Sheet must be received by the Results Secretary no later than the Thursday following the game.** The captain of each team shall sign that the sheet is correct. Any team guilty of infringing this rule shall be fined the sum of £10.00.

Proposition Carried

Rule 7 PLAYERS

Note. Changes shown in bold. Additional Rule i), additions to Rules ii) & vi) and the re-numbering of the rules.

(d) Overseas Players

i) **‘Overseas Players’ may only play in Division 1 of the 1st XI competition except as detailed in iii) and iv) below.**

ii) Only one ‘Overseas Player’ * shall play for a club in **Division 1 of the 1st XI competition** for each season. This player must be registered with the Hon. Secretary 7 days before his first game and no later than 31st May. (Form OP 1 applies – obtainable from the Hon. Secretary).#

iii) An ‘Overseas Player’ * who has played for six consecutive seasons for one club as the overseas player shall be deemed a home player for that club.

iv) An ‘Overseas Player’ * is defined as an overseas national who is not a holder of a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport. Any person who falls into this category and wishes to play cricket in the Somerset Cricket League may ask the Management Committee for permission to play at least 7 days before his first game and no later than 31st May. (Form OP 2 applies – obtainable from the Hon. Secretary).#

v) Any player who holds a current United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Passport or an Eire Passport shall be deemed a ‘home player’. A player who holds a current United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Birth Certificate shall be declared a ‘home’ player.

vi) Only one ‘Overseas Player’ * can be registered for a club in **Division 1 of the 1st XI competition** for each season even if he leaves before May 31st. After that date no ‘Overseas Player’ * may be registered. A club with teams in other league cricket outside of the Somerset Cricket League shall have those teams counted in relation to one player per club.

• For the purposes of the Somerset Cricket League Rules, an ‘Overseas Player’ is defined in No. iv) above.

vii) # In the absence of the Hon. Secretary, the Results Secretary will issue and receive forms OP 1 and OP 2.

Proposition Lost

Rule 5 (d)

v) If the weather interferes with play at any time and overs are lost, then a drawn match results, **except in Rule 5 (d) i) above**, and both sides will be awarded twelve points each plus bonus points accrued. However, a) if the side batting second scores more runs, even with reduced overs, then it wins the match or b) the side batting second is bowled out for a total less than that scored by the side batting first, even with reduced overs, then the side batting first wins the match.

Proposition Carried

Note. Changes shown in bold. Additional Rules (b) and (d); changes to Rule (c) and the re-numbering of the rules.

Rule 1. THE LEAGUE

- a) The League shall be called "The Shrubbery Hotel Somerset Cricket League" and shall consist of as many divisions as necessary to a maximum of ten teams per division. Except in cases where the Management Committee determines that for a temporary period a division shall consist of more teams in order to accommodate all teams that wish to participate in the League. For the purposes of these rules, Division One shall be deemed a Senior Division and all other divisions Junior Divisions.
- b) All teams (1st; 2nd; 3rd and 4th XIs) shall be placed in one single competition from 2011 onwards.**
- c) Promotion and relegation shall be on a two up/two down basis, except that promotion within Divisions 9 – (S/W and N/E) shall be two teams per division and relegation from Division 8 to Division 9 shall be four teams, put into the most appropriate regional division, subject to amendments by the Management Committee; any such amendments to be notified to all member clubs as necessary.** Positions are to be determined by the aggregate number of points obtained during the season.
- d) A club's 2nd XI (or lower level team) must be in a lower division than its 1st XI (or higher level team), and promotion will be denied to the 2nd XI (or lower level team) or relegation enforced on the 2nd XI (or lower level team) to ensure this so that a club shall have no more than one team in any one division.**
- e) The Somerset Cricket League Championship and the J.C. Bail Trophy shall be awarded to the club finishing in first place in the Division One. This club shall be promoted to the WEPL (Somerset Division). In the case of more than one club being relegated from the WEPL the Management Committee reserves the right to make further relegations throughout the divisions.
- f) If no club is relegated from WEPL the Management Committee reserves the right to change the promotion and relegation system.
- g) In the case of two or more clubs tying for promotion or relegation the club with the most wins will be declared the 'highest', should they still be equal then the club with the least losses will be declared the 'highest', should they still be equal then the club with the greatest number of runs per wicket lost throughout the season will be declared the 'highest'.
- h) New clubs will normally be placed in the lowest division. It shall be in order for the Management Committee to place a new club in a division other than the lowest but only if a resolution to take such action is carried by not less than two-thirds of the Committee present and voting at a duly convened meeting of the League Management Committee. When a new club is included under this rule in a division other than the lowest, then up to three clubs per division may be relegated providing that the League Management Committee announce the decision prior to the first league match in the season immediately preceding the season in which such new club will join the league.**

Proposition Carried

Rule 5. MATCHES

Rule 5 (b) iii) If a match is cancelled due to adverse weather each team shall be awarded 15 points. (Currently 12 points)

Proposition Lost

Rule 5 (d) v) If a match is rain affected after the start and overs are lost and the match ends in a draw each team will be awarded whatever bonus points it has earned plus 8 points subject to a minimum total of 15 points.

Proposition Lost

"We hereby instruct the League to abolish the Regionalisation of the 2nd XI Competition Divisions 3 and 4 North East and South West respectively (Rule 1(b) refers) at the end of the 2010 season and to reorganise these lower Divisions on a county wide structure thereafter".

Proposition Withdrawn

5. MATCHES

Additional Rule to be added at 5 (L)

5 (l) Fielding Circles in all Games played in Division 1 of the 1st XI Competition.

At the instant of delivery a minimum of four fielders plus the bowler and wicket keeper must be inside an area bounded by two semi circles centred on each middle stump with a radius of 30 yard and joined by parallel lines on each side of the pitch.

The fielding circle must be marked with painted white dots at 5 yard intervals , each dot covered by a white plastic or rubber (but not metal) disc measuring 7 inches in diameter. In the event of an infringement, the square leg umpire shall "no ball". This requirement shall be fulfilled regardless of the number of fielding side players.

Proposition Lost

13. Any Other Business.

a). It was noted that some ECB regulations regarding young people in cricket were to be adjusted.

It was agreed that any changes made by ECB would apply to the SCL as well.

b). The Hon. Secretary explained that the hard copies of both the Club Details Sheet and Email Contacts Sheet would be required again for next season's information even though the electronic system may eventually be sufficient on its own. At the moment clubs were not meeting the deadlines and the 'up to date' information is needed by no later than January 31st in order to prepare the handbook details.

14. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Note. The Hon. Secretary reminded clubs that the Club Details Sheet and the E-mail form (detailing e-mail addresses - with a minimum of two club officials listed) MUST be returned to him by JANUARY 31st at the latest. Clubs not returning these forms will be subject to a fine of £20/£10 respectively. These addresses must be current and accessible.