

# THE SHRUBBERY HOTEL – SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Monday November 28 2011 at the Bridgwater Sports and Social Club

All clubs were represented at the meeting with the exceptions of All Saints, Baltonsborough, Barton St. David, Bridgwater Sports, Cranmore, Lydford, and Peasedown St. John.. These clubs were fined £40 as per rule

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. There were apologies from Tom Packman, Ian Latchem, Matt Lunn, Darren Butt (Cranmore) and Mark Downing (North Perrott).
2. The minutes of the previous meetings (AGM – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 and the EGM – 18 April 2011), which had been circulated beforehand, were accepted as correct records of the meetings and signed by the Chairman.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The Chairman, Malcolm Fox said that the weather had been good for cricket and a number of teams had gone through the season without cancelling a game. He thought that the new single set of divisions had been a success in its first season of operation and the placement of clubs made by the Committee had proved to be accurate. Discipline had not been a major issue and only one incident had been recorded during the year. This assault by a player on another player had been severely dealt with. He expressed his alarm and discomfort, mirrored by the Chairmen of Bristol & District, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Leagues, about the lax manner in which two senior teams of clubs in the SCL had been disciplined by the WEPL management, and he felt that WEPL should follow the SCL's approach in the application of disciplinary measures. He appealed to cricketers to keep a control on their emotions, to temper their language and avoid 'geeing up' their own team in a relentless manner. Captains needed to play an active role in these respects and set high standards. He concluded his remarks by thanking the members of the Committee for their support throughout the season. In particular, he mentioned the vital contribution made by the monitors of the results service, David Derrick, Amanda Counsell and Toby Strang.
5. The Honorary Secretary outlined the salient aspects of his report, which had been previously circulated to all members. He also commented on the inauguration of the new single linear divisional structure that represented a further 'landmark change' since the League's formation in 1972. He congratulated Staplegrove Cricket Club on winning the John Bail Trophy and also accumulating the greatest number of points in all divisions to win the Sunday Independent Cup. He singled out Middlezoy Cricket Club as having made unprecedented progress during the last 3 seasons when the Club won consecutive titles in 2009, 2010 and 2011 to earn the status of a Division 1 club. He noted that 4 clubs had been relegated at the end of the 2010 season, but had bounced back by being promoted at the end of the 2011 season, namely Fitzhead, Temple Cloud, Wedmore 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and Bishops Lydeard 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. A new team, Westlands 3<sup>rd</sup> XI had a remarkable entry into the SCL by being unbeaten throughout their first season – the only team to do so. They had a huge winning margin of 143 points. He said that the Ladbroke Merit Trophy for the 'Club of the Year' had been awarded to Westlands for divisional winning performances by both teams. The 'Don Crouch' scores produced the best result for years when three clubs, Wedmore A, Wells 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Weston super Mare 4<sup>th</sup> XI all achieved a remarkable 180 points from a maximum 180 giving a 100% record. He congratulated the two individual trophy winners, Sam Gillatt of Kilmington & Stourton who won the AVCO Trust Young Player of the Year Award and Dan Sizer of Staplegrove who won the Glastonbury All Rounders Award. He noted that Wells Wanderers, Midsomer Norton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Kilve 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and Bridgwater Sports 2<sup>nd</sup> XI left the SCL at the end of the season, but the

Committee was pleased to welcome back 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs from Uphill Castle, Leigh on Mendip and Curry Rivel to play in the SCL competition next year. The Hon. Secretary said that the 2012 season would comprise 111 teams, which would play in 11 divisions, the lowest four being regionalised. Division 9SE would have 11 teams and this number had caused considerable work in planning the unique fixture matrix. The Committee planned to introduce rules to make it mandatory for clubs to appoint a properly qualified Welfare Officer and address the issue of abusive comments on social websites. He reported on a very successful Presentation Evening that had John Wilford as its principal guest and where 185 guests attended the function. The public liability insurance will again be available through the League in 2012 and the cost will remain at £20 per team, while there will be no further increase in the cost of cricket balls at £8 per ball. The Hon. Secretary gave details of the arrangements to allow re-arranged matches to be played on September 8 – one week after the normal finishing date of the season. He concluded his report with thanks to the Committee where a number of members had played key roles in a variety of aspects of the work.

6. The Hon. Treasurer had prepared a written report and in his absence the Hon. Secretary read it. He said that it had been a very satisfactory financial year with a surplus of £1380.81 of income over expenditure. An increase from the previous year in subscriptions (£690), Sponsorship (£400), Umpires (£187) and 50p per ball contributed to a surplus of £1528 against the previous year's income figure. In the area of expenditure items, he said that he continued to monitor the costs of administration, £100 had been saved on individual trophies. However, some increases had been noted for umpires, the purchase of cricket balls and in the production of the Handbook and Result pads. The rented photocopier had been replaced with an all-in-one laser printer to be written off over 3 years. He reminded members that the sponsorship was a key element in the healthy state of the financial aspects of the SCL and one should always plan for occasions when this aspect of income was not forthcoming. He noted that additional costs had already been made for the purchase of new trophies, while the club subscriptions, which had already been collected for 2012, would not rise again until 2014 at the earliest. He did indicate that the cost of umpires for Division 1 clubs would rise by £1 to £20 for the 2012 season in order to keep the League's subsidy for this service under control. He concluded his report by saying that financially the League is in a sound financial state, able to continue providing the current service to members and also provide small funding support for any initiative that the Management Committee may decide would be beneficial to the League or to cricket in general.
7. The Chairman welcomed John Wilford, the Somerset Cricket Board's Development Manager. John re-affirmed the need for clubs to appoint a welfare officer and also gave details of other initiatives from the ECB and the SCB. The Board was keen to promote training in all aspects of the game and as well as the regular Level 1 & 2 coaching courses, other ones for child protection, umpires and scorers were planned. He reported that he had recently attended an ECB meeting where it was acknowledged that 'local cricket' plays a vital role in the development of the game. ECB was beginning to comprehend some of the problems and issues that confronted clubs at grass roots level with the production of a national club strategy due in 2012. The SCB are currently developing a 3-year plan. Clubs, leagues and others will all be consulted. Please take the opportunity, when presented, to provide your feedback on the Board and the game as a whole.
8. The Chairman invited Brian Stockhill, President of the SCL to present the outstanding trophies for 2011. Brian presented the AVCO Trust Trophy for the Young Player of the Year to Sam Gillat of Kilmington & Stourton and the Glastonbury Mowers Trophy for the All Rounder of the Year to Dan Sizer of Staplegrove. Wells 1<sup>st</sup> XI was presented with a shield to recognise its 100% record for the Don Crouch scores. (The other two clubs had received their shields at the Presentation evening).
9. Election of Officers: -
  - a) The following persons were proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Middlezoy for re-election for a three-year term on the Management Committee. Amanda Counsell, Martin King and Matt Lunn were elected.

b) Honorary Auditor. The Management Committee nominated Mrs. A.J. Hartnell, MAAT, ATT for the post of Honorary Auditor and this was seconded by Wellington and the proposal was carried.

10. Changes to the Rules of the Somerset Cricket were discussed and the Meeting agreed that:-

**Note All proposed changes to rule are shown in bold within the proposal.**

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**5 (j) iii) 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. Clubs that fail to return the Result Sheet as described above shall be fined £25 for infringements during the final three matches of the season.**  
**CARRIED**

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### **Additional Rule**

#### **3. Administration**

**(h) All clubs must appoint a Welfare Officer (or Child Protection Officer) to conform to ECB mandatory rules. The officer will need to have a current CRB and hold a certificate that shows that he/she has attended a Safeguarding & Protecting Children Course during the last 3 years. Evidence of both the CRB and S&PC certification must be made available to the Hon. Secretary before the season commences.**

**CARRIED**

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#### **5. Matches**

##### **(c) Rules for Match Play**

***i) All Matches start at 2 pm. but for the final THREE matches of the Season they must start at 1.30 pm.. However, all matches in the Senior Division (ie Division 1.) shall start at 1.45pm. but for the final THREE matches of the Season they must start at 1.15pm.. Any match played on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of September shall start at 1.00pm. (Divisions 2 onwards) and 12.30 pm. for the Senior Division (ie Division 1.). Note the part of this rule shown in italics is for Season 2012 only.***

**CARRIED**

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##### **1. The League.**

**(c). Promotion and relegation shall be on a two up/two down basis, except that promotion within Divisions 8 – (S and NE) shall be two teams per division and relegation from Division 7 to Division 8 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.**

**CARRIED**

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### **Rule Addition.**

#### **5. Matches**

##### **(b). Championship Points**

**ix). Division 1 clubs only. The side bowling first must complete its 45 overs within the time limit of 2 hours and 45 minutes. Failure to do so will incur a fine of 2 points deducted.**

**CARRIED**

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## **1. The League.**

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 **DELETE 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. CARRIED**

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## **1. The League**

i) Any 2<sup>nd</sup> XI team re-entering the SCL as a result of its 1<sup>st</sup> XI being relegated from the Bristol & Somerset Division of the WEPL (3<sup>rd</sup> tier) will be placed in division 3 or 4 at the discretion of the Management Committee. Extra relegation moves affecting other divisions in the SCL as a result of this placement will also be at the discretion of the Management Committee, 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.

**WITHDRAWN**

This proposition was withdrawn as it is covered by the changes made in the proposition above No. 1. The League h)

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## **Additional Rule**

### **5. Matches**

#### **(1) Division 1 Matches Only.**

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

**This fielding circle shall be marked with painted white dots at five yard intervals – each dot can be covered by a white plastic or rubber disc or in white marking measuring seven inches in diameter. Should this requirement not be met then the square leg umpire shall call and signal no ball and the delivery must be redelivered; this condition must be met regardless of the total number of fielders present (e.g. if a side has less than eleven players present).**

**CARRIED**

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## **LEAGUE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

**1. It shall be a disciplinary offence:-**

- (a) for any player in the course of or in connection with a match to misconduct himself or to act at any time in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name or interests of the League, and
- (b) for any club to fail properly to control or discipline its players or to act in a manner calculated to prejudice the good name of the League, and the player and/or club committing an offence shall be liable to penalties in the manner as described hereinafter.

2. For the purposes of these Rules the expression 'the player' shall throughout these Rules be deemed to mean and include not only any player, professional or otherwise, but also any member or official of any club or if appropriate any other person involved in any incident of possible misconduct occurring on the field of play, or on the premises of the club, as may be appropriate in the particular circumstances.

**3. The procedure set out above in 1. (a) and (b) and 2. in the League Disciplinary Procedure shall also apply to written material on Social Websites and the SCL's own website and be dealt with as shown below**

The remaining points will be re-numbered from 3-9 to 4-10.

**CARRIED**

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## **6. Umpires**

**(c) Where a game has only one official umpire provided either by the League or by a club, that umpire must stand at the bowlers' end for the whole match, providing that he is prepared to do so, in order that some consistency can be maintained. A player standing as umpire should stand at square leg under these circumstances.**

**Proposition NOT CARRIED.**

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## **Proposition to start at 1pm or reduce the number of overs to 40 and start at 2pm. Chilton Polden.**

**Supporting documentation.** The reasoning for this is to ensure we have the best selection of 22 players for a Saturday, we regularly have players leaving before the end of the game due to an evening engagements and have noticed other teams have the same issue.

We feel if we could have a finish time nearer 7pm we could encourage more players and finish all games with a full complement of 11 players.

We understand there will likely be resistance from the higher league clubs because they have a larger pool of players to choose from, would it be possible to have this change just for the lower leagues.

The First Proposed Rule Change would be as shown below – changes in bold.

## **5. Matches**

### **(c) Rules for Match Play**

v) A game will consist of a maximum of **40 overs** per side, except as provided for in (d)(i)(ii), (e) and (f) hereinafter.

vi) No bowler shall bowl more than **eleven** overs in any one innings. Should a match be restricted in overs prior to the start, the maximum overs to be bowled by any one bowler shall be one quarter of the permitted overs rounded up to a complete over.

The Second Proposed Rule Change would be as shown below – changes in bold

## **5. Matches**

### **(c) Rules for Match Play**

All Matches start at **1 pm. and 12.30 pm.** for the final THREE matches of the Season.

However, all matches in the Senior Division shall start at 1.45pm. and 1.15pm. for the final THREE matches of the Season.

**Note.**

*The divisions to which this could apply have not been named in the Chilton Polden proposal.*

**RESULT** This proposition was debated and differed for a decision at a future meeting. In the meanwhile, the Management Committee was asked to look at the options and report back.

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**Games cancelled due to weather conditions. Additional rule in Matches section**

**Matches.**

**(b) Championship Points**

**viii). A home team captain may only cancel a game at 11 am or at any time prior to the usual start time with the full agreement of the opposing captain. Where there is no mutual agreement to cancel early then both complete teams must attend the ground prepared to start the match at the designated time. Where either captain then still considers the game unplayable at the designated start time, the current rules apply. Proposition NOT CARRIED.**

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**Leg side wides. Additional rule in Matches section for Division 1 only.**

**5. Matches.**

**(b) Championship Points**

**ix). Leg side wides should be called “wide” if in the view of the umpire it is an unfair delivery. This will apply to Division 1 matches only. Proposition NOT CARRIED.**

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**Fielding circles in games in division 1, 2 & 3.**

**This proposal is an extension of Proposal 6 (submitted by the Management Committee. Street CC wish to extend the ‘Circles Rule’ to apply to Divisions 2 & 3 as well. Proposition NOT CARRIED.**

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**Rule Addition.**

**Movement of Players.**

**7. Players**

**(f) Movement of Players**

**A club shall not register a new player without having written evidence from the player’s previous/current club that he has no outstanding obligations to that club, whether financial, disciplinary or otherwise.**

**CARRIED**

***This rule will need some refining to make the circumstances clear in the written rule of the SCL.***

- 11.** The Chairman, Malcolm Fox, reminded clubs of the Ground Facilities Survey that had been carried out previously by Toby Strang. He said that the Committee suspected that some aspects of the responses were not completely accurate and he asked visiting clubs to report deficiencies to the Secretary who could then arrange a Committee inspection. He set down a deadline of Season 2013 as the time by which all clubs must bring their facilities up to the required standard. At its next meeting, the Management Committee would set out a minimum standards document so that clubs were completely aware of their obligations and could work towards meeting those obligations throughout the coming season.
- 12.** The Hon. Secretary reminded clubs of the special fixture re-arrangement system for 2012. Clubs could use Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> for ANY re-arrangement. The usual rules for a re-arrangement must apply. ie. Both clubs must be in agreement, both clubs should advise the Hon. Secretary and the re-arrangement had to be completed before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012. [See Rule 2 Fixtures (b).]

13. The Hon. Secretary said that details of the 'block Public Liability Insurance scheme' would be sent out with the minutes and clubs should return the application forms to him by February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the latest. The cost of £20 per team will remain the same as previous years. The details of the standard club cricket ball had been previously circulated and a number of clubs had returned the form to adjust the club's order. He said that all forms must be returned by Dec 5 if a club wishes to vary its allocation. After that date no guarantee can be made that more balls than the allotted number will be available.
14. The Hon. Secretary said that a small sub-committee will be looking at any possible adjustment to the website and the results service during the close season and any changes will be notified to clubs at the start of next year. The paper result sheet that is faxed or posted to the Results Secretary will be used again in 2012 and retained until such time as the Committee feels it is no longer needed to check the allocation of points made by the captains.
15. The Hon. Secretary reminded clubs that they must return the Club Details Sheets by January 31<sup>st</sup> at the latest. This can be done electronically or through the post..
16. Any other business. There was none.
17. The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

**Note. The Hon. Secretary again reminds clubs that the combined Club Details/E-mail Form (detailing all club officials & mail addresses) MUST be returned to him by JANUARY 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 at the latest. Clubs not returning these forms will be subject to a fine of £20. These addresses must be current and accessible.**