

THE SHRUBBERY HOTEL – SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Monday November 17 2014 at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster

All clubs were represented at the meeting with the exception of Barrington, Wedmore and Frome. These clubs were fined £40 as per rule

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. There were apologies from Ian Latchem and Martin King.
2. The minutes of the previous meetings (AGM – 18th November 2013 and the EGM – 14 April 2014), 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 it had been another good year for cricket and the weather had been a major factor, particularly towards the end of the season. He thanked the new owner of the Shrubbery Hotel, Kevin Newton, for agreeing to continue the sponsorship of the League for the foreseeable future. He said that the standard of ground facilities was a key area of concern that would be addressed in 2015. The Committee would be looking at the problem grounds, offering advice and support where necessary. It would monitor the improvements throughout the season and clubs that failed to meet the set standards could be suspended or even expelled from the League. He announced that any potential umpire who wished to take the umpires' course would receive a 50% grant of the fee from the League. Other 'low key' courses for players who wished to help as an umpire during the game could sign up with sessions organised by Derek Hicks. There would be no charge for these courses. He noted that with the increased amount of administration, other committee members would be assuming specific roles in the running of the League. He concluded his remarks by thanking the members of the Committee for their support throughout the season.
5. The Honorary Secretary outlined the key aspects of his report, which had been previously circulated to all members. He also noted how the fine weather had caused less problems and disciplinary issues were at a minimum. He congratulated North Perrott Cricket Club on winning the John Bail Trophy and wished the club well in the Somerset Division of WEPL in 2015. Due to the reduced number of teams in the Somerset Division of WEPL, Ashbrittle had also gained the second promotion slot. He said that both Lympsham and Crewkerne - clubs that had joined at the start of the season - had gained promotion in their first year of membership of the SCL. Banwell & Churchill and Peasedown St. John had both won their respective divisions for the second year running and the former club had been awarded the Ladbrokes Trophy as 'Club of the Year'. The Sunday Independent Cup, which is awarded to the club accumulating the greatest number of points in any division, was won by Evercreech. The 'Don Crouch' scores indicated that a number of clubs had 100% records, but Broadway & Horton 2nd XI and Taunton St. Andrews 'B' were awarded the Don Crouch Trophy as these two teams had played the most games and had not dropped a point! He congratulated the two individual trophy winners, Jack Luff of Lympsham who won the AVCO Trust Young Player of the Year Award and Mark Tilley of Curry Rivel who won the Glastonbury Mowers All Rounders Trophy. He re-iterated the point made by the Chairman that the Grounds Sub-Committee had set out ground/facilities standards and these would be carefully monitored in 2015. The minimum provision should include adjacent toilet provision (within 50 yards of the boundary), proper shelter for players during inclement weather - a portable gazebo is a suggestion - chairs, a scorer's table and a fully stocked 1st aid kit. The Hon. Secretary noted that next year, a number of administrative processes will be changing. Firstly, the Club Details Sheets that are

required to be submitted no later than January 31st will be replaced by an electronic submission. The full details of all club officers must be registered on the Club Details section on the website. The results pads will be modified and the white top sheet will no longer be needed to be sent to the Results Secretary. He reported on a very successful Presentation Evening that was enjoyed by 175 members, partners and guests with Steve Kirby as the principal guest. He commended the recent ECB player survey and was pleased that Andy Fairbairn would give an illustrated talk on the findings of the survey later in the meeting. 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 said that in 2013 the League recorded a deficit on the Income & Expenditure Account as a result of holding a large stock of cricket balls that had not been sold in that year. It was also the first year of reduced sponsorship and the future level of League income appeared to be in some doubt. As a consequence, he had proposed to the AGM a small increase in subscriptions of £5 per team for the 2015 season, which was adopted. During the course of this year it became clear that this proposal had been an over cautious protection of the League's finances and the decision was rescinded at the July Management Committee Meeting and not applied when the 2015 subscriptions were collected. Income for 2014 benefited from the sale of the stock of cricket balls, the excellent support for the 2013 Presentation Dinner and from the total of fines that was the highest ever recorded. Expenditure was down although the cost of Administration was slightly higher mainly due to telephone/internet costs. The guest at the 2013 Presentation Dinner was Arul Suppiah who was in his benefit year and was presented with a cheque for £750 of which £484 had been raised by a raffle on the evening. A donation of £150 was made to the British Heart Foundation in memory of John Bail who died in August. In the 1970's John had been involved in founding the League and became its first President. The cost of umpires came in well under budget and highlighted a deficiency in the method of expenses payments rather than a match fee. The cost to Division One clubs is only two thirds of that at level four of the West of England Premier Cricket League. There is a different relationship with the league's small band of umpires inasmuch as they are regarded as an integral part of the League rather than a separate body. Nevertheless the gap in the level of payment does need to be reduced and to that end the annual increase in the charge to clubs should continue, to allow the level of expenses paid to be raised. The Treasurer proposed that for 2015 the charge be raised from £22 to £24 per umpire. This year's surplus of £1440 needs to be set in context with last year's deficit of £747.15. The two year net surplus of £692.85 is generally in line for the league's budget. The Balance sheet as at 30th September 2014 showed the value of the League's assets to be £15,823.74p. The League's current account continues to be held with Santander plc. For the past two years, a proper audit of the League's accounts has not taken place because of the lack of a volunteer. If someone from within the League was willing to undertake a straightforward check of the income & expenditure on an honorary basis, this would resolve the issue. Otherwise, the Management Committee may have to consider the cost of employing an auditor.
7. The Chairman welcomed Andy Fairbairn, Somerset Cricket Board Development Manager. Andy gave an illustrated talk on the results and implications of the recent ECB Player Survey. He used the statistics associated with local cricket and dealt specifically with those relating to the SCL. The main thrust of his remarks surrounded the wish of many younger cricketers to finish the match on a Saturday at an earlier time. Many favoured a 7.00 pm. finish, but 87% of local cricketers felt that it should not go beyond 7.30 pm. The number of overs, the starting time and the distance travelled were key factors that had been identified in relation to the finish time. Andy answered a number of questions and statements made by members and was warmly thanked by the Chairman for his contribution.
8. The Chairman invited Stuart Shepherd, President of the SCL to present the remaining trophies for 2014. Stuart presented the AVCO Trust Trophy for the Young Player of the Year to 18 year-old Jack Luff of Lympham CC and the Glastonbury Mowers Trophy for the best All Rounder to Mark Tilley of Curry Rivel CC. He also gave the Don Crouch Trophy, which is awarded for sportsmanship to Taunton St. Andrews 'B'. This trophy had been won jointly by Broadway and

Horton 2nd XI, the other winners, had received the trophy at the Presentation evening. Watchet 1st XI received the Team of the Month prize for July.

9. Election of Officers: -

- a) The following persons were proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Butleigh for re-election for a three-year term on the Management Committee. Amanda Counsell, Martin King and Matthew Lunn. The proposal was carried.
- b) Other nominations. There were none.
- c) Honorary Auditor. The Treasurer noted that the SCL was actively seeking an Honorary Auditor. He asked any club that could help by recommending a suitable person to contact him.

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.

5 MATCHES (h) The Ball. For all divisions, home sides must provide two new balls, one to be used for each innings. Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Castle Cary and carried

5 MATCHES (d) Weather Conditions

- i) In the event of a late start because of weather conditions, overs shall be deducted, and the remaining overs shall be divided equally between the two sides. A full match of 90 overs cannot start after 2.00 pm. and **no match can start after 4.00 pm.** Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Wells and carried.

5. MATCHES

(b) Championship Points.

- ii) No match shall be cancelled due to weather conditions on the day of the match prior to 11.00am.

Rule addition

- iii) **No match may be called off before 4pm on the day of the match without mutual agreement of the Captains. If agreement cannot be reached, then travel to the ground and inspection by the away team may take place. Further representation to the Grounds Sub Committee may be made at a later date if still unresolved.** Proposed by the Management Committee and lost
- iv) If the game is cancelled by the weather, each side shall be awarded twelve points.

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.

(e) Declarations and Early Dismissals

If the side batting first is dismissed, or if the innings is declared closed before the end of its allotted overs, the side batting second **shall have 40 overs.** Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Ilton and lost.

5. MATCHES

(c) Rules for Match Play

- v) A game will consist of a **maximum of 45 overs per side**, except as provided for in (d)(i)(ii), (e) and (f) hereinafter. **However, in Divisions 5 – 9 a game will consist of a maximum of 40 overs per side, except as provided for in (d)(i)(ii), (e) and (f) hereinafter.**
- (e) **Declarations and Early Dismissals**

If the side batting first is dismissed, or if the innings is declared closed before the end of its allotted overs, the side batting second shall have 45 overs.

However, in Divisions 5 – 9 if the side batting first is dismissed, or if the innings is declared closed before the end of its allotted overs, the side batting second shall have 40 overs. Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Wembdon and lost.

7. PLAYERS

(b) Transfers

Players may be transferred on receipt by the League's Results Secretary of a fully completed 'Transfer Form' which must be completed by both clubs. This form must be signed by club secretaries or chairmen or treasurers or league representatives and the player concerned. The transfer must be in the hands of the League's Transfers Representative by 12 noon on any match day to be eligible for that match. No transfers will be accepted after the first Saturday in August each year. Note. Transfer forms are available on the League's website. This also applies to any player transferring from the SCL to any club in the WEPL. Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by North Curry and carried.

3. ADMINISTRATION

(f) *Club Details Sheet*. Every club is required to provide information regarding the details of the club's officials and ground on the 'Club Details Sheet'. This information must be sent to the Hon. Secretary by January 31st preceding the start of the season; otherwise the club will be fined £20.

This rule to be replaced by:-

(f) **Club Details Page on the website**. Every club is required to provide information regarding the details of the club's officials and ground etc. in the 'Club Details Section' on the League's website. This information must be displayed on the club's page by January 31st preceding the start of the season otherwise the club will be fined £20. Note. The date and time of the input is 'time stamped' and any club failing to meet the January 31st deadline will be fined. Clubs **MUST** also update the club details following any change in personnel or their details. Failure to do so will also incur a £20 fine.

Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Taunton and carried.

5. MATCHES

(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 Team Card that was supplied at the start of the season** 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. Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Castle Cary and carried.

5. MATCHES

(j) Results Sheets.

iii) *The completed Team Sheet/Result Sheet, with ages where appropriate, must be sent by the home team to the Results Secretary by 2nd class post or Fax after the match. The Result Sheet must be received by the Results Secretary no later than the **Saturday** 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. 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.*

This rule to be deleted and replaced by:-

iii) **Problems with inputting and verifying.** If club representatives have a problem either inputting or verifying a result through a computer problem or other similar problem then they **MUST** contact the monitor immediately, by telephone, who is responsible for their division. Failure to contact the monitor in this way will result in a fine of £10 and 6 points being levied. Each monitor will also be responsible for the processing and issuing of fines related to the failure of a club to input or verify results on time. Club submissions/appeals should be made to the divisional monitor. If the details displayed by the home team are incorrect, then the appropriate monitor must be advised that the verifier is unable to verify until such time as the details have been corrected. The verifier **MUST** also contact the home team inputter to agree the correction. Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Bagborough and carried.

Additional Rule

PLAYERS (g) Team Strengthening

Our proposal to modify this would be that the league apply a much more common sense approach with the section 'if the individual in question has sustained a bad run of form' :-

- 1) Clarify a bad run of form to make it black and white ie.. below 15 runs or 30 average for bowling....A BLCC batsman averaged single figures in the 1sts and we were docked points for him batting in the 2nds without notification. Proposed by Bishops Lydeard Cricket Club and seconded by Staplegrove and lost.

PLAYERS (d) Overseas Players

'Overseas Players' * shall be permitted to play in the Somerset Cricket League in a ratio of **ONE per club**. Proposed by Burnham on Sea Cricket Club and seconded by Curry Rivel and lost.

MATCHES

(c) Rules for Match Play

- i) **All Matches start at 1.00 pm.**

Proposed by **Shapwick & Polden Cricket Club** and seconded by Broadway & Horton and lost.

MATCHES

(c) Rules for Match Play

- i) **All Matches start at 1.30 pm.** Proposed by the Management Committee and seconded by Shapwick & Polden and carried.

THE LEAGUE - Additional Rule i)

- i) **When there have to be additional movements between divisions due to movements to or from WEPL or teams being introduced from other leagues or withdrawing, the Management Committee will always promote additional teams rather than relegate fewer teams except in exceptional circumstances.** Proposed by Taunton Cricket Club and seconded by Cheddar and lost

11. The sharing of fringe players – a discussion on the feasibility and need for such a scheme in the SCL. The discussion was led by the Long Sutton representative who suggested ways whereby some players could be shared amongst adjoining teams. The concept clearly had some merit and it was agreed that a sub committee comprising some Management Committee members, Long Sutton representative and any other interested person should be set up. The findings would be reported to the EGM where any further action could be debated.

12. Amanda Counsell reminded clubs of the requirements for Club Welfare Officers (Rule 3 Administration. (h) All clubs must appoint a Club Welfare Officer). She pointed out that the rules set down a year ago were still not being followed by a number of clubs. She said that if the club's CWO had not attained the necessary qualifications, then the Management Committee would declare the match void and treat it as a cancelled game with a fine of 30 points.(Rule 5 Matches (b) Championship Points iv) & v). See these rules listed below. She offered to help any club needing guidance or course information.

(h) All clubs must appoint a Club Welfare Officer to conform to ECB mandatory rules. The officer will need to have a current CRB/DBS and hold certificates that show that he/she has attended both a Safe Hands and a Safeguarding & Protecting Children Course during the last 3 years. Evidence of the CRB/DBS and S&PC certification must be made available to the Hon. Secretary before the season commences. The Safe hands certificate must be made available to the Hon. Secretary by December 31st 2014. Clubs that fail to appoint a qualified person and/or fail to provide evidence to the Hon. Secretary shall not be permitted to play a league match until the documentation has been provided. These forfeited games will be treated under Rule 5 (b) Championship Points (iv) & (v).

iv)If a game is cancelled for reasons other than the weather, the non-offending side shall be awarded thirty-five points and the match will count as a win for the non-offending team. The offending side will receive no points.

v) When a game is cancelled for any reason other than the weather, the defaulting team shall have 30 points deducted and shall be fined a minimum of £20 at the discretion of the Management Committee. Any further similar cancellations in the season shall result in a 30 point fine per cancellation, but no further monetary fine.

13. The Hon. Secretary reminded clubs that they must complete the club details section on the website by January 31st 2015 at the latest.

14. Any other business. There was none

15. The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.