

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE BEST WESTERN SHRUBBERY HOTEL  
SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE  
HELD AT THE SHRUBBERY HOTEL, ILMINSTER  
ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> 2008**

All clubs were represented at the meeting with the exception of Barrington, Broadway & Horton, and Sampford Arundel. (These clubs were fined £40 as per rule).

1. Apologies were received from Brian Stockhill.
2. Malcolm Fox, the Chairman, gave a resume of the Panel Umpires meeting that had taken place on April 7. The meeting discussed issues relating to Health & Safety; the updating of umpires on the changes to League Rules and the use of ECB cards for captains to complete prior to the toss being made. These cards give details of the team members and ages in the case of young players. The umpires also discussed disciplinary issues and this led onto the next agenda item.
3. The Chairman then reminded club representatives that the Committee would take a strong stance on all reported disciplinary issues. If clubs/individuals were found guilty, then monetary and points fines would be applied in the future seasons.
4. Ray Hancock, the Hon. Secretary, gave details of the League's insurance scheme and noted that 41 clubs involving 94 teams had joined the scheme. 15 clubs had not responded and the remainder had made their own arrangements. He reminded clubs that they must display a copy of the PL insurance and asked those clubs that visited another clubhouse to advise him if PL Insurance certificates were not on view. He said that a copy of the individual club policy was to be found in the club package with the results sheets. He would again be circulating the latest list of clubs indicating their intentions regarding PL insurance.
5. The Hon. Secretary outlined the Committee's recommended statement on the 'Strengthening of Teams'. He reminded members of the discussion that took place at the AGM and the clubs' wish to have guidelines set down. The suggested set of regulations were agreed by the members at the meeting and will be incorporated in the Pre-season circular. They are:-

***Strengthening of Second and Other Teams by Regular players from Higher Teams.***

*It is the responsibility of clubs, selection committees and captains to ensure that the situation of strengthening 'lower level' teams is not abused, particularly when 'higher level' teams have no fixture.*

*The Management Committee reminds clubs that it is contrary to the regulations set out in the pre-season circular and the spirit of the Somerset Cricket League for clubs to strengthen their 2nd. XIs; 3rd. XIs; and even 4th. XIs when they have a free 1st XI (or other 'higher level' team) date as a result of fixture changes or a vacant date. All results sheets will be scrutinised thoroughly to check against this practice, but the non-offending clubs are encouraged to bring this practice to the notice of the Committee if they believe that it has taken place.*

*A 'higher level' batsman playing in a 'lower level' team for the reason of choice to play at home or for his own convenience or due to the lack of players available for selection should not bat higher than No. 7. However, if the individual in question has sustained a bad run of form*

*(note – this can be verified by the Results Secretary for Management Committee purposes) in the 'higher level' team then he should be allowed to bat wherever in the batting order, without any restriction.*

*A 'higher level' bowler playing in a 'lower level' team for the reason of choice to play at home or for his own convenience or due to the lack of players available for selection should not bowl earlier than 3<sup>rd</sup> change (5<sup>th</sup> bowler) or after 25 overs have been bowled, whichever is the latter. However, if the individual in question has sustained a bad run of form (note – this will be verified by the Results Secretary for Management Committee purposes) in the 'higher level' team then he should be allowed to bowl wherever it is deemed appropriate in the sequence of bowlers, without any restriction.*

*On the occasions when 'higher level' players are helping out due to the lack of the normal players then the maximum number of such players shall be 3 players. (Note – this will be verified by the Results Secretary for Management Committee purposes)*

*The Results Secretary will be particularly vigilant in respect of the games where a higher team has a vacant date.*

*The practice of **unfair strengthening of lower level teams** on days when higher level teams are without a fixture, or when situations that are contrary to the guidelines set out above are contravened, will be dealt with as a disciplinary action. The Management Committee will take a very firm stance by the imposition of monetary and points fines if a team is found to have breached these regulations.*

*Should a team believe that opponents are unfairly strengthening teams then they should raise the complaint with the Hon. Secretary or the Results Secretary.*

The Chairman emphasized that this regulation would not be written into the rules at this stage, but would be applied by the Committee if it was noted by the Results Secretary or a complaint by a club that strengthening had taken place contrary to the adopted regulations.

6. The Hon. Secretary emphasised that results **MUST** be phoned/faxed before 11.00pm on Saturday evenings as the telephone rings in Ian' bedroom. Any results phoned/faxed on Sunday mornings must reach Ian by 10.15am in order to meet deadlines for the website and the newspapers. Late results will attract a £10 fine. Clubs were reminded that they must put the 'Don Crouch score' on all results sheets before sending them to Ian, as per Rule 5(k) namely:- **Don Crouch Trophy mark.** *The home club must record a mark out of 10 on the Result Sheet for the Don Crouch Trophy. This will also enable the Committee to monitor that the criteria for 'sportsmanship' is being upheld and this information could also be used in cases of disciplinary complaints. Any team failing to complete this section of the form will be fined £10 per failure.*
7. The Chairman explained his concern that coaching qualification courses for many clubs that comprised the Somerset Cricket League were basically unobtainable. He outlined his strategy to overcome this lack of provision by announcing that the Somerset Cricket League, working with the SCB, would be promoting a Level 1 Course in the autumn on the weekend 25 – 26 October 2008 at Huish Episcopi School with an assessment course on the following Sunday. A level 2 course will be held in October 2009 for the successful candidates of this year's level 1 course. Applications for places would only be accepted from SCL clubs and it was further

emphasised that careful consideration would be given in the allocation procedure to committed club representatives who intended to apply their skills to local club coaching. The costs of the course were unknown at the moment, but with funding from the SCL, the SCB and the ECB it was hoped that a modest fee would be reached.

8. The Hon. Secretary explained that this year the League's communications system would be entirely based on e-mail. The league database has approximately 400 addresses and seems to be experiencing few difficulties now that the initial problems have been removed. He said that clubs should keep their information up to date as far as new, changed and departed addresses are concerned and advise him accordingly. Clubs that wished to add further e-mail recipients could do so by e-mailing the Hon. Secretary on [raysomcricket@btconnect.com](mailto:raysomcricket@btconnect.com) with the details.
9. The only item raised under any other business related to the Management Committee's decision to admit Stogumber Cricket Club to Division 3 for the Season 2009. The following minute applies:-

*A request from Stogumber Cricket Club to join the Somerset Cricket League in Season 2009 had been received. The Committee unanimously agreed that this club should be admitted to Division 3. The reasoning for this was that they are 'on a par' with Ashbrittle and Fitzhead. Furthermore, the rule change that was passed at the AGM gave authority to the Committee to take this action. This will cause 3 relegations from Divs. 3-5 and the lowest '2<sup>nd</sup> XI' team in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI competition will be moved back into the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI competition if all else remains the same. It was recognized that other resignations and problems relating to the WEPL could also effect the situation.*

10. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.
11. The club packages that included the results sheets and insurance certificates, where appropriate, were distributed with the standard cricket balls.

Ray Hancock  
Hon. Secretary.