

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday March 4 2014 - at The George Inn, Middlezoy

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Derek Hicks, Tom Packman, Matt Counsell, David Derrick, Toby Strang, Amanda Counsell, Matthew Lunn and Ray Hancock.

1. Apologies were received from Ian Latchem, Martin King and Edward Martin
2. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee and AGM Meetings (Oct. 10 '13 and AGM Nov. 18 '13) were approved.
3. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
4. Correspondence. There was none other than items that had been received and circulated by email to members.
5. The results service and monitoring had worked well with each monitor dealing with fines and any other issues. It was noted that some club representatives had made poor excuses when the club had failed to meet the necessary time deadlines. Comments such as:- 'I was away from home for the weekend and nobody else was available'; 'my computer was broken'. The monitors wished to remind clubs that the imputer/verifier should contact them if, for any reason, they could not meet the deadline and this could avoid a fine (£s & points). It was noted that mistakes in the calculation of points numbered about 40 transgressions per season. It was agreed that the return of the white paper copy to Ian Latchem would continue for another year and the process would be reviewed after that time. However, the committee's intention is to phase out this aspect of the result service at the earliest opportunity. The Hon. Sec. would investigate the possibility of having Ian's new address printed on the reverse side of the white copy. It was noted that the Website Manager, John Squirrell, had removed all 2013 club registrations and club officials should enter new registrations during the next two months in readiness for the start of the season on May 3rd. Clubs were to be reminded that all fixture changes had to be completed by March 31st and notified to the Hon. Secretary.
6. The Committee noted the rule changes that had been agreed at the AGM and discussed the implications of them. a) The Committee re-affirmed its commitment to see properly qualified CWOs in all SCL clubs. The Hon. Sec. and Amanda Counsell would compare the club details sheets and bring SPC and Safe Hands courses to the attention of those who still needed them. Clubs were reminded of Rule 3 (h) that requires a properly credited Club Welfare Officer to be in place by the first game of the season. Rule 3 (h). states:- *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). ie a loss of 30 points for each match cancelled and 35 points awarded to the non-offending team.*
7. b) The Committee discussed the implications of the New Rule 3 (i) *Any match cancelled after 8.00 pm by the visiting team on the day preceding the match for reasons other than the*

weather/pitch conditions shall be fined £30 in addition to the fines levied in Rule 5 (b) (iv), (v). This sum will be passed to the home team to help defray expenses. It was agreed that the fine would be collected by the Hon. Treasurer and paid back to the non-offending club later in the season. The Hon. Sec. would prepare a document explaining how the system would operate.

8. The Committee confirmed its acceptance of the re-vamped OP2 form and Overseas Advice Statement designed to meet the conditions to verify permanent status of foreign nationals who wish to play cricket in the SCL. The new rule 7 (d) ii) states:- *Clubs will only be given permission for this kind of player if he is already resident in the UK on a permanent basis and his reason for being here is not primarily cricket. The player must be able to show that he has resided permanently in the UK for the SIX months prior to the season commencing.* These forms will be available from the Hon. Sec
9. The Chairman, Malcolm Fox gave details of recent correspondence and discussions that had taken place with the WEPL, the feeder leagues and County Board members. The Committee confirmed its intention to retain the 2nd XIs of teams in WEPL (Somerset) ie. Tier 4 under any set of circumstances. The Hon. Secretary explained that many clubs had already advised him of their wish to stay in the SCL structure and not be part of WEPL. The Committee noted that the ten 2nd XIs involved played in SCL divisions ranging from Div. 3 to Div. 8. Competition between these teams would be totally inappropriate with ill matched games of cricket being the norm. The loss of cricketers from the game would be a likely outcome. Furthermore, the current Division 1 had 4 teams with no 2nd XIs in the SCL which would create problems if one of them should win Division 1. It was planned that a meeting of WEPL, the 4 feeder leagues and the County Boards would be convened. The Chairman said he would keep the Committee informed of all future developments.
10. Derek Hicks circulated a list of Panel Umpires (past and present) that indicated that there had been a drop in those available to the SCL in recent years. However, he was quite optimistic that there would be umpires for all Division 1 games, although on occasions that would drop to one official per match. It was encouraging to note that new members were joining the panel, but conversely some wished to move to the higher echelons of the game. He planned to hold a meeting of SCL umpires in April at the Shrubbery Hotel. The SCL is still keen to enlist additional umpires and hopefully more local umpires would be prepared to join the SCL panel.
11. It was agreed to use the same printer for the provision of handbooks and result pads. Ian Stolworthy had offered to make the necessary arrangements. It was decided that the results pads would be printed in a similar fashion to previous ones with the additional the note of Ian's new address.
12. Toby Strang reported that the Grounds Sub Committee had concerns about toilet facilities on school grounds. In particular, the facilities at Chard's second ground at Holyrood School had been investigated, but the Club had been unable to convince the school authorities of the need to have appropriate facilities readily available. It was resolved that some committee members would visit Chard and discuss the problem further. The Committee felt that a reassurance should be sought from all clubs that used school facilities or similar.
13. The Hon. Secretary reported that he had ordered sufficient cricket balls for the season and additional requests for balls during the season could possibly be met while stocks lasted. The League had changed the ball supplier in 2013 to Lords International. The 2014 supply of balls will be delivered to the EGM and distributed as usual.

14. The Hon. Sec. reminded the committee of minute 12 (Oct. '13) that the PL insurance cover through the SCL block scheme would cease forthwith. The Hon. Secretary reported that he had circulated some insurance information that had been received to date and would continue to forward documentation when it arrived. **However, clubs should obtain their own insurance for the forthcoming season.** The Committee reminded clubs of the need to have Public Liability insurance in place before the season commences. Rule 3 (e) applies :- *Club Public Liability Insurance Policy. All member clubs must have a current Public Liability Insurance Policy in existence in order to participate in the Somerset Cricket League. A copy of this policy must be displayed in the clubhouse.* **Furthermore, the Committee determined that a photocopy/scanned copy of the PL Insurance certificate MUST be sent to the Hon. Sec. by April 30th 2014.** Clubs that failed to send a copy of the PL Insurance by April 30 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). ie a loss of 30 points for each match cancelled and 35 points awarded to the non-offending team.
15. The Hon. Treasurer said that payment for balls and insurance should not be made until clubs receive an invoice from him.
16. The Committee confirmed the arrangements for the EGM on Monday April 14th at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster. At the end of the meeting, the committee members would hand out a club package bag with handbooks, balls and result pads. Posters and agendas will be circulated to all SCL clubs by March 31st.
17. The Presentation Night 2014 was confirmed for Friday October 24 and Matt Counsell said he would talk to Richard Walsh and approach a Somerset cricketer with a view to him being the League's principal guest.
18. The Committee confirmed the details as set out in the draft pre-season circular that had been prepared for the meeting. It was agreed that the pre-season circular would feature many of the usual facets. It was further determined that the circular will be regarded on a similar basis to the rules in the case of transgressions and other relevant issues. The Disciplinary Committee would determine some decisions in the light of explanations/recommendations etc. that are recorded in the Circular.
19. The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.