

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday February 9 2010 - at The Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster.

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Derek Hicks, Tom Packman, Amanda Counsell, Miles Knight, Toby Strang and Ray Hancock.

1. Apologies were received from Martin King, Matthew Lunn, Ian Latchem and Ian Stolworthy.
2. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (Oct. 14 '09) were approved.
3. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
4. Correspondence had been received from:- a) Stephen Edmonds, new Hon. Secretary of the WSCL introducing himself. b) Simon Easton thanking the SCL for a grant towards his tour of the West Indies with the West of England team. c) A note from Mike Wall (Wedmore) suggesting that both home and away teams score the Don Crouch Trophy marks. d) Two letters from David Derrick (Wellington) No.1. regarding the issue of the soccer team over-running into the cricket season and the action the club was taking. No. 2. the need for Insurance re-assurance in relation to the period after Feb. 28 when insurance cover changes over. e) A note from Watchet CC regarding their request to North Petherton to move the game at Watchet to another date as the Carnival celebrations could be intrusive on the pitch on July 25. The Committee was concerned that NP was unable to accede to the request and Derek Hicks (Umpires' appointments Secretary) and Tom Packman (umpire) said that if they were appointed to the match they may well have to abandon it if safety and security became an issue. The Hon. Secretary was asked to contact both clubs and try to negotiate a change of date. f) Requests from Belvedere and Huntspill for additional handbooks in April. This request was agreed and the costs will be added to the clubs' invoices. g) The Hon. Secretary said that he had written to Middlezoy CC to give the Club the Support of the SCL in its bid to create a new cricketing facility in the village. h) The Committee was sorry to hear of the death of Colin Vile, a stalwart of local cricket in Taunton and a member TSCRO Cricket Club. The Secretary was asked to write to the Club and express the Committee's condolences.
5. The Chairman, Malcolm Fox gave details of meetings and correspondence that he had had recently with the officers of the WEPL and other County/Bristol leagues. He expressed his frustration at the total lack of progress after the consensus view for change had been strongly made by Somerset clubs in WEPL and the officers of the neighbouring leagues. He said that it was quite disheartening that traditionalistic attitudes still prevailed in the insular WEPL administrative structure when everyone was crying out for change. He hoped that it was still not too late for changes to be made so that a re-arranged structure could come into place for the 2011 season. However, he was fearful that this may not happen.
6. The Committee noted the recently published ECB Guidelines for 'junior players in open age cricket' and expressed its concern about the inaccuracy of the age banding within the document. SCL rules allow children in Year 7 and upwards to play in its 'open age cricket' but the wording determining the low age for participants was not clear. Amanda Counsell thought that there had been a further clarification statement and she agreed to follow up the investigation. *Subsequently she ascertained that Paul Bedford, Head of Operations {non first class cricket – ECB Lord}s had written:-*
*“Please find attached a copy of **the revised** Guidelines for Junior Players playing in Open age Cricket and advise clubs of the changes. **1. The guidelines will allow junior players in Year 8 at school (Under 13 at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season) to play in open age cricket providing ‘Explicit Written Consent’ to play in open age cricket has been obtained prior to play. N.B. The existing Player Profile dated November 2008 contained in ‘Safe Hands’ is not sufficient to cover the ‘Explicit Written Consent’***

element as it does not refer specifically to open age cricket. This requirement recognises the need for parents or guardians to be aware of the significance of allowing their young child to participate in open age cricket rather than purely junior cricket. 2. Any player in Year 7 or below (Under 12 at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season) cannot play in open age cricket with or without explicit written consent.”

The SCL Committee determined that it would adjust Rule 7 (e) to read:- “7 (e) **Minimum age of players. Children who were under the age of 12 at August 31st of the previous year will not be permitted to play in the SCL during the current season. Note. This will allow those children who are in Year 8 or upwards in the senior/middle school in the current season to play in the SCL.** Furthermore, the Committee agreed to adopt the revised ECB Fast Bowling Directives in relation to young cricketers. These will be published later on the result sheet and the Pre-Season Circular.

7. The Hon. Secretary reported that the work on preparing the electronic results system was well underway and an information meeting headed up by John Squirrell with support from David Derrick will be held in early March for a number of committee members. The finer points of the system will be discussed including the procedure for inputting results and the Don Crouch scores.
8. The future use of the results sheet was discussed and at this point in time it was considered that it was necessary to complete it in the normal way and have both captains sign it. The sheets would then be returned to the Results Secretary by fax or post to arrive by the following Thursday at the latest. This is necessary to ensure the points have been correctly calculated and teams have not been unfairly strengthened.
9. The Committee noted the withdrawal of Crewkerne and Evercreech 2nd XI from the SCL and was advised by the Hon. Secretary that two other clubs were also considering their positions in Div. 4NE. He would ascertain the outcome of these clubs’ decisions and would try to make a meaningful fixture list in a different format to give teams 18 fixtures. A possible new entry into the SCL for 2011 was discussed, but no action to propose a possible entry point was made until the club could give firm assurances of its status.
10. The issue of overseas players in the SCL in season 2010 was discussed in the light of the article in the SCCC Handbook 2009/10 entitled ‘Managing Your Overseas Player.’ The conditions, as set out in the document relating to the immigration laws, concerned the Committee in as much as the SCL should not be placed in a position where an ‘illegal’ player played in its competition. The existing OP1 form would be modified to contain a signed undertaking by the club official completing it that all conditions had been fulfilled according to the ECB and Home Office regulations. (Article shown at Appendix A).
11. The Committee received a request from Winscombe CC to put out a representative team in the Club’s 125th Anniversary Cricket Week in July. However, due to past experiences in trying to raise midweek sides it regrettably turned down the request. However, it did suggest that a request could be put onto the website to attract teams from inside and outside the County.
12. The detail for the Handbook had now been received from all but one club and the Hon. Secretary was already preparing the copy for the printer. The Hon. Treasurer reported that he had contacted some advertisers and was awaiting their replies. Some coloured pages were included in the 2009 handbook and it was agreed to increase the number of coloured sheets this time.
13. The Committee considered the Club Ground Facilities Survey form that had been prepared by Toby Strang and his sub-committee. Toby suggested a few more modifications to the form and these were agreed. The form will be distributed as part of the pre-season package at the EGM on April 19 and ALL clubs must return a copy to Toby Strang by Monday May 31st at the latest. Fines of £20 will be issued to those clubs that fail to meet this deadline. The

Committee congratulated Toby, Derek and Tom on their efforts. (Form shown as Appendix B).

14. The Hon. Secretary reported that he had purposely over ordered the number of cricket balls required as he has regularly received additional requests for balls during the season. The 2010 supply of balls will be delivered to the EGM and distributed as usual.
15. Many clubs were in the process of renewing the PL insurance cover through the SCL block scheme and the Hon. Secretary reported that the scheme had been extended to clubs in the West Somerset Cricket League as well. Policy documents will be distributed with the pre-season package.
16. The Hon. Treasurer said that payment for balls and insurance should not be made until clubs receive an invoice from him.
17. The 2009 Averages had been produced as a result of the statistics provided by those interested clubs – about 60% of clubs returned their averages. In future, the averages will be produced through the electronic results service and should cover 100% of the players who meet the minimum criteria for inclusion.
18. The Committee received a written report from Ian Latchem setting out a format for changing the divisional structure in 2011. (See minute 12 of the AGM – Nov. '09). The Committee felt that this format presented an excellent interpretation of the rule change, but may need finer tuning at the end of the season in the light promotion and relegation unforeseen issues. (Format shown at Appendix C).
19. The Committee confirmed the arrangements for the EGM on Monday April 19th and determined the tasks of committee members in handing out handbooks, balls, results sheets and team cards. It noted that there will be an item on the agenda regarding the inputting of results and recommended that anyone involved in this aspect should try to attend the meeting. Written instructions for the operation of the system will also be produced for the process.
20. The Presentation Night 2010 was confirmed for Friday October 15 and the form of it will be discussed with the Sponsor and the possible involvement of a celebrity cricketer.
21. It was agreed that the pre-season circular would feature many of the usual facets. There would be a slight revision of some of the items and some of the issues agreed at this Committee Meeting will be added.
22. The only item raised under any other business concerned one raised by the Chairman over the Hon. Secretary's workload. He suggested that others on the Committee may be prepared to look after some specific aspects and welcomed any volunteers to help. However, at the moment, 'business as usual' would remain.
23. The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

APPENDIX A.

Managing Your Overseas Player.

The use of Overseas Players has been a feature of recreational club cricket for many decades. Their presence has offered many pleasing aspects, not least leaving a legacy of skills which local club members have clearly benefitted. However all Clubs who have followed this cause over the years have had to adjust over the Winter of 2008-09, to dramatic new rules on bringing Overseas Players. Gone is the system of Work Permits and Working Holiday Maker Permits.

A Points Based System (PBS) based on the Australian Method has now come into force which governs NON EU Migrants coming into this country to be paid to work. The Government Policy revolves around two key concepts- Safe Borders and Safeguarding Work Opportunities for the indigenous population, which will apply to any club who is "employing" a NON EU Overseas Player. There is also a robust enforcement system to investigate and prosecute illegal employment.

There is a separate system called a SPORTS VISA. Both are explained below in a form of Q&A in this article.

Question 1

What do we have to do if we want to employ an Overseas Player?

Your Club will need to gain Sponsor Status as an Employer from the UK Border Agency. Application (cost of which is £400.00) is made Online www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers. It will take around 30 minutes to fill in. Cricket Clubs are restricted to applying for Tier 5 Sponsor Status (the legislation provides for 5 tiers though at the time of writing not all the tiers are open. To accompany the application, you must post to the UK Border Agency four documents (The Border Agency will return these by recorded delivery.- Clubs will have to pay postage costs for special delivery return)

- a) The Club's last audited accounts
- b) A verification from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) that your club is of suitable standing to become a sponsored employer. Application to ECB must be by Prescribed Form Annex B downloadable from the ECB web site and the completed application form must be accompanied with a £20.00 cheque. The ECB have stated that they will in normal circumstances only give an endorsement where a Club comes within in at least one of the following categories
 - It is 'Clubmark Accredited'
 - It is a Focus Club as designated by the County Board
 - It is Chance to Shine Club as nominated by the County Board
 - In 2009 Season it will be playing in a ECB recognised Premier League
 - In 2009 it will be playing in a League recognised by the ECB as a professional League which demonstrates a clear player pathway for the development of talent There will inevitably some clubs who will not fit in with this category, and those clubs must NOT under any circumstances seek to ignore or side wind these regulations by illegally employing a non EU Migrant.
- c) The Club's current Employer Liability Insurance Policy with cover of £5 million
- d) VAT registration number or Community Amateur Sports Club Registration number or a charitable body number

Question 2

What is our Liability as a Sponsor?

The answer is considerable. Your Club Officers are accepting responsibility for the migrant whilst in this country that he or she strictly complies with the terms of their VISA (permission to be in the UK). Remember that a Cricket Club is an Unincorporated Association and in the face of a legal claim it is the officers who are liable. The Club will need to appoint person or persons within its organisation (either persons who are themselves paid or are otherwise Officers of the Club) to act as

- a) a Key Contact- a link between the Club and UK Border Authority- this person can be a Club's Solicitor
- b) An Authorised Officer who is responsible for who at the Club has access to the Sponsorship Management System-
- c) A Level 1 user-this is someone who will keep the web based Sponsor Management system up to date. He or she will be able to apply for Certificates of Sponsorship, make changes to the Sponsor's details, amend the system concerning the activities of the Migrant change of circumstances such as address must be reported.
- d) A Level 2 user- this user has a more restricted use of the Sponsorship Management System

If the migrant disappears your liability will cease, and the Enforcement Agencies appointed by the UK Border Agency will take over conduct of tracing the Migrant.

There are two levels of Sponsor Status- A and B- with B status, this requires that the Club works more closely with the UK Border Agency due to concerns with the Club or the identity of the club's personnel

Question 3

OK we are now a Tier 5 Sponsor, but how do we get our chosen Player into the Country for 2010?

Firstly You will need to again apply ON LINE for a Certificate of Sponsorship to bring in a particular named player into this country. The cost of each application for a Certificate of Sponsorship is £10.00. The player will need to satisfy two tests

- a) A Skills Test namely that firstly he or she has played at least FIVE (5) first class games within the previous 24 months and has a coaching qualification of at least UKCC level 2 or if with no such coaching qualification, an undertaking to attend a Coaching Course with evidence that the course has been paid for. Secondly it will need to be shown that the Migrant has a good grasp of speaking English
- b) A Maintenance Test. The England and Wales Cricket Board will have to give an Endorsement to the suitability of the Migrant to come into this country to play AND coach. The endorsement will be based upon the following three tests being satisfied
 - The Migrant is "internationally established at the highest level"
 - The Migrant will make a "significant contribution to the development of the game"
 - It is appropriate to fill the post with someone from outside the European Economic AreaApplication to the ECB must be on prescribed form Annex E which can be downloaded from the ECB Web site- there is a fee of £30.00 charged by ECB. Secondly the player will need to get a VISA from the British High Commission of his or her Country of Residence to come into this Country. The VISA will contain details of what the Migrant can do in this country and in time his or her biometric details. As a matter of good practice every club employing an Overseas Player should retain a copy of the player's passport and visa.

Question 4

What is a Sports VISA?

The Sports VISA is designed primarily for a Migrant who is coming into this country for up to SIX months, on a sabbatical from work, who plays cricket in this country and can satisfy the following

- Joins as an as an amateur for a predominantly amateur club. A Government Statement of

Intent in October 2008 gives a definition of what amounts to being an Amateur Player namely "An amateur is someone who engages in a sport solely for personal enjoyment and who is not seeking to derive a living from the activity. No financial reward (including cash prizes appearance money fees and sponsorship can be received)

- Does not intend to charge for his services whilst in this country. It appears that payment by the club of board and lodging for the Migrant and other reasonable expenses genuinely incurred are permitted
- Does not intend to study
- Has the funds to return at the end of his or her stay

The use of Sports VISAs for Professional Players is extremely limited being restricted to "series of sporting events" Paying an Overseas Migrant to play or not charging a match sub, or providing an Income to the player are likely to be seen as actions which could be seen under the legislation to be "employing" a Migrant. The penalties for illegal employment include a prison sentence! The cost of a Sports VISA is £65.00 and is issued by the British High Commission in his or her Country of Residence at the Commissioner's discretion The Government of the Country of Residence is responsible for the actions of the Migrant.

APPENDIX B



The Best Western Shrubbery Hotel Somerset Cricket League

Club Ground Facility Survey

Following the recent AGM - Please complete the SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE detailed below:

Please circle either YES/NO against each question listed.

Name..... Club..... Team.....

With reference to your usual home ground (which may not be the club's main ground)

Please complete an additional form if you use two grounds.

Do you have:-

1. A place (i.e. **CLEAN** premises) within the immediate or very close proximity to the playing area for players to change – if not in separate rooms, then in shared accommodation. **YES/NO**
2. Toilet facilities in proper working order – either unisex or differentiated – but including WC as well as urinals. **YES/NO**
3. Water on tap that is solely for washing (i.e. not shared with a food preparation area)
HOT Water **YES/NO**
COLD Water **YES/NO**
4. SHOWER facilities in working order. **YES/NO**
5. Electricity for lighting in working order). **YES/NO**
6. Some seating for the batting side, scorer(s) **YES/NO**
7. Some cover (temporary if not permanent) for the batting side, scorer(s) – to protect from sun (if only!) and rain when either play is continuing or (for both sides) when play is temporarily interrupted. **YES/NO**

8. Adequate and sufficient seating for the tea interval. **YES/NO**
9. Ease of access for vehicles to within a reasonable distance of the pavilion, changing facilities or playing area – not least for emergencies. **YES/NO**
10. Have a First Aid Kit at the ground (i.e. not at some distant clubhouse). **YES/NO**

To summarise the key points covered by the above survey are to capture the overall picture of

- Fit for purpose
- Health, hygiene and safety
- Hospitality
- Duty of care (with reference to young players)

**This form must be returned to Toby Strang – SCL Grounds Standards Sub Committee.
35 Walnut Drive, Somerton, Somerset TA11 6LL by Monday May 31st at the latest.
Failure to do so will result in a £20 fine.**

Email toby@strang35.freeseve.co.uk

APPENDIX C

Draft Format of Divisions for Season 2011

All positions determined **after** promotions and relegations have been made

New Division

1. Comprises top 10 teams from Div1. (1st XI Comp.)
2. Comprises top 10 teams from Div2. (1st XI Comp.)
3. Comprises top 7 teams from Div3. (1st XI Comp.)
Comprises top 3 teams from Div1. (2nd XI Comp.)
4. Comprises bottom 3 teams from Div3. (1st XI Comp.)
Comprises top 3 teams from Div 4. (1st XI Comp.)
Comprises 4 teams from positions 4 - 7 from Div1. (2nd XI Comp.)
5. Comprises bottom 7 teams from Div4. (1st XI Comp.)
Comprises bottom 3 teams from Div1. (2nd XI Comp.)
6. Comprises top 7 teams from Div 5. (1st XI Comp.)
Comprises top 3 teams from Div2. (2nd XI Comp.)
7. Comprises bottom 3 teams from Div 5. (1st XI Comp.)
Comprises top 3 teams from Div 6. (1st XI Comp.)
Comprises 4 teams from positions 4 - 7 from Div2. (2nd XI Comp.)
8. Comprises bottom 7 teams from Div 6. (1st XI Comp.)
Comprises bottom 3 teams from Div2. (2nd XI Comp.)
9. NE Comprises the 10 teams from Div 3NE (2nd XI Comp.)
9. SW Comprises the 10 teams from Div 3SW (2nd XI Comp.)
10. NE Comprises the 10 teams from Div 4NE (2nd XI Comp.)
10. NE Comprises the 10 teams from Div 4SW (2nd XI Comp.)