

# **The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League**

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday  
October 14 2014 at the Centre of Excellence, County Ground, Taunton.

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Amanda Counsell, Matt Counsell, Martin King, Derek Hicks, Matthew Lunn, David Derrick, Edward Martin and Ray Hancock.

1. Apologies were received from committee members Tom Packman, Toby Strang, Andy Fairbairn and Ian Latchem
2. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (September 10) were approved.
3. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes, other than those that related to items to be discussed later in the agenda.
4. Correspondence was received from:- a) Taunton Cricket Club regarding the composition of the divisions in 2015. The Committee did not support the suggested composition, but noted that the correspondence included a proposal for a rule change that will be put to the AGM. b) It was noted that the Secretary and Chairman had been corresponding with officials of Watchet CC about a disciplinary charge and administration procedures. The Club now recognised the League's communication channels and accepted the current manner of dealing with individual issues.
5. The Hon. Treasurer, in his absence from the meeting, provided some details of his report that were delivered by the Hon. Secretary. He anticipated a surplus of £1,500 due mainly to the sale of the reserve stock of balls from the previous year and less expenditure on umpires' expenses due to the shorter journeys that the umpires' representative had planned. He said that he would be proposing no increase to the annual subscription, but would be levying a £1 additional amount on the umpires' charge, paid by clubs, to make a more realistic fee for the officials.
6. The Hon. Secretary reported that preparations were well in hand for the Presentation Night at the Shrubbery Hotel on Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>. Early indications showed that there were likely to be about 180 persons at the function. Steve Kirby from Somerset County Cricket Club would be the principal guest and after presenting the trophies Steve would join in a question and answer session with Matt Counsell, Somerset Cricket Board administrator and member of the SCL Management Committee.
7. The Committee set up a small Sub-Committee (MC; ML & RH) to determine the winners of the two outstanding trophies, namely the AVCO Trust Young Player of the Year and the Glastonbury Mowers All Rounder's Trophy. Clubs will be requested to nominate players for these awards which will be presented at the AGM.
8. Amanda Counsell, the League's Welfare Officer said that she had circulated all clubs with the details of the courses currently available for the Club Welfare Officers who needed to have appropriate qualifications in place before the start of next season. (\*\* See rule 3 below). She had contacted the club CWO if she had their email otherwise she had contacted an officer from the club's list. She had checked with SCB/ECB and discovered that over 20 of the declared Welfare Officers currently do not have a DBS and at least 12 more have expired and not been renewed. Furthermore, over 35 CWOs had not attended the ECB Safe Hands course. The Management Committee is now able to check all

national records, so the League's Welfare Officer (Amanda) wished to encourage teams to be honest in their declaration of the qualifications held by their individual CWOs. It was noted that most clubs had declared, at beginning of season, that their CWO had a DBS! The CWO needed to have a current DBS certificate (ECB version); current S&PC certificate; a current ECB Safe Hands certificate. Any club and/or CWO who needed guidance was recommended to contact Amanda at the earliest opportunity rather than wait to the beginning of the next season.

**\*\* 3. ADMINISTRATION.**

*(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 31<sup>st</sup> 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).*

9. The Chairman gave a short report on developments in WEPL. MC indicated that the SCB was involved, with others, in a sub-committee to look at the future shape and scope of the WEPL structure.
10. The Committee discussed the cricket balls used in 2014 and noted that 3 split balls had been returned to the Hon. Secretary which he would discuss with the supplier. However, the members felt that the ball had been good value for money compared with other leagues' balls. The Hon. Secretary noted that the supplier had responded to the League's comments regarding the hardness of the ball. The number of balls to be ordered for 2015 would be determined after the AGM had debated and voted on a Committee proposal to use two balls per match.
11. The Hon. Secretary said that he had prepared the fixtures for 2015 and it was agreed that these should now be circulated.
12. Matt Counsell showed the Committee details, with graphs, of the ECB player survey. In particular, his remarks were concentrated on the whole of the West of England; Somerset and the Somerset Cricket League responses and how this compares nationally. The Committee noted the drop in player participation and the recommendations for addressing the situation. It was clearly evident that start times, the number of overs and the length of the game were salient factors that emerged from the survey. Andy Fairbairn was currently very active in working with groups to address the issues and the Committee hoped that he would be able to give an illustrated presentation to the AGM. The Committee also hoped that the SCL membership would give careful consideration to Andy's remarks at the AGM when it debates and votes on any relevant proposals.
13. The Committee discussed some possible rule changes and agreed to formulate those shown below. The detailed rule changes/additions will be circulated with the AGM documentation. a) Two new balls per match. b) Adjustment to the last time for starting a match. c) An additional rule to allow more participation by the away team in the decision to cancel a match for weather/ground conditions. d) '40 over' games for all divisions or selected divisions. e) The use of a proper 'transfer form' available on the website. f) Revision of rules to reflect the submission to Hon. Secretary of 'no paper' club details

sheets; 'paperless' results input, but the use of team cards to opposing captains. g) Problems on inputting and verifying procedures to be written into the rules. Club Proposals h) Change to the team strengthening rules (Bishops Lydeard). i) Removal of 'Overseas Player' restriction (Burnham). j) Starting time to be brought forward to 1.00 pm (Shapwick & Polden). k) Starting time to be brought forward to 1.30 pm (MC if 1.00 pm is not carried in S & P proposal). l) Promote more teams rather than save relegated teams (Taunton).

14. A proposal by Long Sutton to have a system whereby players could be loaned to other clubs on a short term basis was discussed and thought to have some merit. However, the philosophy and mechanics of such an arrangement would need careful consideration. The Committee decided that it could not see a clear way forward to address this concept, but would put the idea on the agenda for the AGM and open it up for general discussion. Long Sutton CC would be asked to lead the discussion.
15. The Management Committee decided to leave any discussion on the Grounds Sub-Committee issues until the next meeting.
16. The terms of reference for marking teams under the Don Crouch System was being reviewed by Matt Counsell and the Committee would issue a new set of guidelines before next season commences.
17. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.
18. The date of the next meeting, which will be the AGM, was confirmed for Monday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm. at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster.