

# The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
at 7.30pm at The Centre of Excellence, County Ground, Taunton.

Those present Malcolm Fox, Toby Strang, Tom Packman, Martin King, Derek Hicks, Matthew Lunn,  
Matthew Counsell, David Derrick, and Ray Hancock.

1. Preliminaries. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Amanda Counsell, Edward Martin, Ian Latchem and Andy Fairbairn.
3. The Minutes of the previous meetings, (October 11; Rules Nov. 21 and AGM Dec 5. '16) were approved.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Correspondence. There was none other than items that had been received and circulated by email to members or related to items later in the agenda.
6. The club details sheets had been received from all clubs via the website. The Hon. Secretary had prepared the 2017 handbook copy of club details and had emailed it to all clubs for checking purposes. This had proved to be a valuable exercise as a number of errors had been rectified. A few clubs had given notice that there could still be some late adjustments due to club AGMs being delayed. It was hoped that in future all SCL clubs could hold their AGMs by mid-January so that accurate information would be available for the handbooks to go to the printer in good time. It was noted that all clubs had identified its Club Welfare Officer and Amanda Counsell, the SCL's Welfare Officer, said that she anticipated that all CWOs would have received the appropriate training, qualifications and DBS certificates by the start of the season. There were still places available on the Full Safe Hands Courses at Bath (March 9) and Exeter University (March 7) and a Safe Hands Refresher course, which will be held at Tiverton on March 6. The Hon. Secretary said that he had ordered the 2017 cricket balls and there would be additional balls for sale if clubs needed them.
7. The Committee noted the withdrawal of Fitzhead CC from the SCL due to a drop in the number of playing members in the Club. Fitzhead would continue playing with one team only in the WSCC. The Committee wished the Club well in the future and reminded the Club that it would be very welcome to return to the SCL if membership improved.  
Bagborough CC made a request to play in Division 4 rather than Division 2 in 2017. The club had recently lost a number of players and had assessed its resources for the coming year. In order to maintain two teams (the other one is in the WSCL) it felt that it could not meet the playing standard required by a Division 2 team and would let down both the Club and the other 9 teams. Division 4 had recently lost Fitzhead CC for a similar reason, and now comprised 9 teams. The Bagborough request, which would have been 'better made' in September before the construction of the 2017 Composition of Divisions, would have been met at that time. The club would have dropped two levels. A similar request made by Kilmington & Stourton CC in September was agreed and K & S will play in Division 5 in 2017 rather than Division 2 where the team had finished up. The precedent has been set and it was decided that the Bagborough request should be judged on similar criteria. It will be unfortunate for Division 2 teams as they will be reduced to 16 league fixtures, but it will be a bonus to Division 4 teams as they will now have a full fixture list.  
The committee spent considerable time assessing the request and in the final analysis determined that the movement of Bagborough CC 1<sup>st</sup> XI from Division 2 to Division 4 was in the best interests of all concerned. Bagborough CC will take over the fixtures previously allocated to Fitzhead.

8. The Assistant Secretary had produced a sheet listing the various monetary costs, fines etc. (Tariff 2017 - see copy attached as Appendix A).
9. Committee reviewed the loan scheme that was introduced in 2015. It felt that it had been a successful initiative and the Committee would continue with it in 2017. The Hon. Secretary noted that on a number of occasions he had been asked about a 'pool of players available for loan'. He agreed to promote this aspect of the loan scheme in 2017.
10. The Flexi League, which will start this year, will comprise 4 teams (Weston super Mare 5<sup>th</sup> XI; Uphill Castle 4<sup>th</sup> XI; Shapwick & Polden 4<sup>th</sup> XI; Taunton Deane 5<sup>th</sup> XI). Stuart Roberts of W s M CC has volunteered to organise the competition and will be meeting with the other club representatives and Matt Counsell (SCL & SCB) shortly. The Hon. Secretary offered to re-write the flexi league fixture list in the light of the withdrawal of Baltonsborough CC. He noted that he could still offer 12 fixtures, played on the same dates as previously agreed. The preliminary meeting will have this offer on its agenda. The Committee expressed its gratitude to Stuart for undertaking this initiative in the first year of its operation. David Derrick had produced a 'Results and Data Management scheme' which he would operate for the collection of the results and the construction of the table.
11. The Results monitoring Arrangements of 2016 would be repeated in 2017. Amanda Counsell and Toby Strang will monitor the Divisions 1 – 5 and Divisions 6 – 8 respectively and David Derrick will be responsible for administering the fines and will also receive any appeals.
12. Derek Hicks said that it was most likely that the top two divisions of the SCL would receive two umpires per match and there may even be occasions when Division 3 matches could also be covered by an official umpire. The cost of an umpire in 2017 will be £40 and clubs in Division 3 should note this additional cost.
13. It was agreed that the section in the Handbook (Pages 48 & 49) would remain the same as there had been little modifications to the Common Laws of the game.
14. The Hon. Secretary said that he was in the process of finalizing the copy for the printing of the handbook. He would use the same printing company and request help from Ian Stolworthy (Lydford) in setting up the arrangements etc.
15. The Hon. Secretary said that he would be sending out a reminder to all clubs to submit a copy of the club's Public Liability Insurance Certificate' to him before the season commences. SCL Rule 3 (e) applies. *(e) 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.*
16. The Committee briefly discussed any rule changes. Members were requested to note any items that may need addressing as the season progressed. Meanwhile, the Secretary and Treasurer will review some of the time statements in the Rules to reflect recent changes in the number of overs and the length of the game.
17. It was agreed that the 'Club Ground and Facilities Sub Committee' would continue checking on the state of grounds and the facilities at some of them. There had been improvements at some school grounds in readiness for the season to start. It was noted that the SCB is promoting a Groundsmen's course and a proper structure for ground keeping has been set up. The SCL will help SCL clubs with financial support for club groundsmen to attend a SCB course.
18. The Committee confirmed the arrangements for the Spring Meeting on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster. At the end of the meeting, the committee members will hand out a club package bag with handbooks, team cards and cricket balls. A central venue or two venues for this distribution was discussed and it was agreed that the Shrubbery Hotel offered the best facilities for such an operation. However, the Committee determined that the future pattern of essential meetings

would be arranged in such a way that the Rules meeting would take place in the centre of the County. It also set out a provisional list of future meetings – both Committee and full membership. See Appendix C

19. The Presentation Night 2017 will be held on Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>.
20. Committee agreed to produce an updated version of the pre-season circular for subsequent distribution via email. It was agreed 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 as always would determine some decisions in the light of explanations/recommendations etc. that are recorded in the Circular.
21. The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

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## APPENDIX A

### THE SHRUBBERY HOTEL SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE TARIFF 2017

➤ **Annual Subscriptions**

£50 for a **Club**'s most senior team entered and then £25 for each subsequent team entered.

➤ **Meetings**

A fine of £40 will be levied for a **Club**'s non-attendance at any of the following official League meetings

**AGM**

**Spring Meeting**

*The Management Committee recommends that Clubs attend the Rules Workshop to be held at the end of each season where any amendments will be raised and debated...*

➤ **Administration**

A fine of £20 will be levied on any **Club** that has not updated its Club Officer details online for the season ahead by 1<sup>st</sup> February.

➤ **Match Play**

When an official League match is cancelled in any season for any reason other than the weather the offending *side* will be deducted 30 points and fined a minimum of £20 in the first instance; any subsequent cancellations in the same season other than for weather by the same *side* will result in a further deduction of 30 points on each occasion, but no further monetary sanction will be applied.

*This does not apply to the Flexi League...*

➤ **Match Result Input and Verification**

A monetary fine of £10 and a deduction of six divisional points will be made if (a) the home *side* has not input full match result/scorecard records and SCL Sportsmanship Award ('Don Crouch Trophy') figures for the five categories involved by midnight on Sunday for matches played on a Saturday (for matches played on a Sunday and a Monday the deadline for performing these actions moves to midnight Monday and midnight Tuesday respectively) and (b) if the away *side* has not verified the full match result/scorecard records and provided SCL Sportsmanship Award ('Don Crouch Trophy') figures for the five categories involved by midnight on Monday for matches played on a Saturday (for matches played on a Sunday and a Monday the deadline for performing these actions moves to midnight Tuesday and midnight Wednesday respectively). *This does not apply to the Flexi League...*

➤ **Hospitality**

Any official League match cancelled by the visiting team after 8.00pm on the day preceding the match will incur a £30 fine in addition to any other applicable fines.

This sum to be passed to the home team to help defray expenses.

*The non-defaulting Club is expected to claim these expenses through the League using the relevant pro-forma and by no other method...*

➤ **Club Welfare Officer – Failure to Appoint a Suitably Qualified Person**

If a properly qualified CWO has not been appointed to the complete satisfaction of the League's Welfare Officer by 30<sup>th</sup> April in any season then the **Club** will not be permitted to play in the fixtures allocated to it. Such games will be considered to be forfeited games under the League's rules. The defaulting Club's teams each lose 30 points on each playing occasion that a CWO remains un-appointed to the League's satisfaction (the non-defaulting side will receive 35 points on each occasion). Additionally, a fine of £20 will be levied on each team a defaulting Club fields in the SCL on the first transgression under this process; as long as a CWO remains un-appointed defaulting Clubs (and their teams) incur 30 point deductions per playing occasion, but no further monetary sanction will be applied.

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## APPENDIX B

### FACILITIES, YOUTH CRICKET & OTHER CRITERIA

To improve and maintain the general standards of facilities for all clubs, it is considered by the WEPL Board that the current regulations, which are drawn up from those considered a pre-requisite for Premier Leagues by the ECB, should be strictly enforced. The assertion that 'To play at the highest level of recreational cricket in Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire, clubs must maintain the appropriate high standards' is one which the Board wishes to emphasise.

#### Facilities

Each of the following criteria underpin the accreditation of WEPL as an ECB Premier League and are considered mandatory for clubs in Tiers 1, 2 & 3 with exception of para 1.7 which applies to Tiers 1 & 2 only. Compliance with these requirements will be monitored through the submission of regular match reports by the appointed umpires and by random audit by the Standards Committee or their nominees:

1.1 The preparation of the **Pitch** must be under the control of the Club's Executive Committee. It must be flat, correctly prepared and marked and consistent in performance over the whole pitch. Any necessary repairs must be carried out leaving no holes or uneven areas on the pitch or any of the adjacent pitches. No watering shall be carried after mid-day of the Thursday before the match and the final cut of the pitch should be carried out on the morning of the match and in any event no earlier than 24 hours prior to the start of the match. The whole pitch is to receive the same treatment and on the day of the match, must be re-marked between innings unless not required by the umpires.

1.2 A light and heavy roller together with a brush and line marking equipment must be available between innings with a designated person available to use them.

1.3 The maintenance of the **Outfield** must be under the control of the Club's Executive Committee. It must be generally level and free from ruts, bare areas, debris, litter or any foreign matter and should be cut to a reasonable length as late as possible during the week preceding the match. Any damage resulting from the playing of winter sports on the outfield must be made good prior to the start of the league season.

1.4 **Sight screens** or other plain light coloured uninterrupted backgrounds must be provided at both ends of the ground and should be capable of accommodating pitches across the full width of the square. These should, where possible, be placed outside the boundary but if not, they must be clearly roped or boarded off from the field of play.

1.5 The **Boundary** must be clearly marked with a white line, rope or fence with markers placed at 20 yard intervals. Every effort should be made to maintain the boundary at a minimum distance of 50 yards from the pitch.

1.6 Fully mobile **Covers** capable of covering the full length and width of the pitch must be provided. These must be available at all times during the match and should be sufficiently mobile to allow immediate use if and when required. Adequate supplies of sawdust, towels and/or other drying aids must also be kept available.

1.7 **For Tier 1 & 2 clubs only**, adequate side-sheets and run-up sheets must be provided and be available on match days.

1.8 All clubs must provide adequate **Practice Facilities/Nets** which must be maintained in a safe condition and be available to both teams prior to the match.

1.9 An adequate supply of suitable **spare balls**, including a new or nearly new ball, shall be made available to the umpires before play.

1.10 **Accommodation** must be provided adjacent to the playing area for each team and must include, as a minimum, separate clean and secure changing facilities for each team. Adequate showers and washing facilities with hot and cold water and separate men's and women's toilets must be available to players and officials. Separate men's and women's toilets must also be available to spectators.

1.11 **Indoor catering and seating facilities** must be available and every effort should be made to provide adequate external seating for players and spectators.

1.12 Separate secure changing facilities must be provided adjacent to the playing area for the **umpires**.

1.13 A fully operational **Scoreboard** must be visible from the playing Area and must clearly display the total runs scored, wickets fallen, overs bowled and runs scored in the previous innings. Every effort should be made to incorporate a display of the Duckworth/Lewis position.

1.14 Adequate undercover accommodation with clear line of sight to the umpires must be available to the **Scorers** who should be provided with suitable under cover facilities during play and, if requested, be supplied with electrical and electronic (WiFi) supplies.

1.15 A working **Clock** must also be sited so as to be visible to umpires and players from the playing area.

1.16 A **Telephone** capable of receiving incoming calls and available for outgoing calls must be available to players, officials and visitors.

1.17 An adequately stocked **First Aid Kit** must be available as shall be an accident book. Also every effort should be made to have a qualified First Aider available.

1.18 Adequate **Car Parking** must be available for players and officials with reasonable access to the changing facilities and playing area.

1.19 All Clubs are required to run an effective **Youth Programme** open to boys and girls at least three age groups. This programme should provide coaching, practice and playing opportunities for hard ball cricket for youngsters over the age of eleven and soft ball cricket for those younger.

1.20 All clubs must have formally adopted into their Constitution/Rules, and be in full compliance with, the **ECB “Safe Hands - Welfare of Young Persons in Cricket”** Policy and have appointed at least one fully trained Child Welfare Officer and have DBS clearance in place for all those deemed appropriate.

1.21 All clubs must be **Clubmark** accredited.

1.22 A **Website** linked to the ECB Play-Cricket site must be up and running and all League clubs must register all players who may play in the 1st XI or 2nd XI on the site in the appropriate category.

1.23 A set of the latest **Club Accounts** shall be made available for inspection by the Standards Committee on request.

## **Penalties**

The appointed Umpires will report any shortfalls in meeting the above mandatory criteria to the Standards Committee Chairman by using the Umpires Report form.

Penalties will be applied as follows:

First failure to meet any of the 12 criteria above: *noted and initial warning*

Second failure to meet any of the 12 criteria: *noted and final warning*

A third and any subsequent failure to meet any of the 12 criteria: *2 match points deducted from season's total*. Note: This could result in a deduction of **more** than 2 points in any one match.

Tier 2 and 3 Clubs who otherwise qualify for promotion may not be considered eligible for promotion to the Tier above if they consistently fail to comply with the stated criteria. Clubs in all Tiers who consistently fall short in any of the mandatory criteria may face a disciplinary hearing, a points deduction, a fine, relegation or, in extreme circumstances, expulsion from WEPL.

## **Feeder Leagues**

All Clubs playing in the Feeder Leagues must comply with the above Facilities Criteria and are expected to be able to demonstrate that these have been in place throughout the preceding season. Failure to do so will preclude entry into the WEPL pyramid at Tier 3.

## **Significantly sub-standard Pitches.**

Pitches should always attract a score of at least 14 on the grading criteria for marks. It is the expectation that all pitches at this level should receive a mark that is rated as 'Good.' a club produces a pitch which is not at that level, following receipt of the Umpires' Report, the club will be warned on the first occasion, given a final warning on the second occasion and 5 match points deducted on the third and any subsequent occasions.

In addition, if the umpires mark any individual pitch category below 3 WEPL will be entitled to seek an explanation either by 'phone or visiting the ground.

However, mitigating circumstances may be taken into consideration eg where exceptionally wet weather unavoidably causes water to flow under covers and the umpires are satisfied that all reasonable precautions have been taken by the Club in which case clubs would not be penalised if the match takes place in such circumstances rather than being cancelled. Insufficient preparation during reasonable weather or the use of a worn or over-used pitch would be penalised.

In line with the ECB's latest recommendations for accredited Premier Leagues, any club not maintaining a minimum average mark of 14 over the whole season will be expected to liaise with the Board regarding remedial action to be taken with a view to resolving any problems with the square. This will involve visits by a County Board Pitch Advisor in conjunction with representatives of the League Development Committee. Any subsequent recommendations for corrective action must be carried out. The ECB recommends that clubs failing to achieve the benchmark average having received advice shall be demoted by WEPL.

Followed by the tables on pages 27 & 27 of the 2016 edition of th

## **APPENDIX C**

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Management Committee       | Tuesday March 21            |
| Spring Meeting – All clubs | Monday April 10             |
| Management Committee       | TBA in June/July            |
| Management Committee       | Tuesday September 26        |
| Management Committee       | Tuesday October 10          |
| Rules Meeting – All clubs  | Tuesdays November 7 or 14 * |
| AGM – All clubs            | Tuesdays December 5 or 12 * |

- To be confirmed by start of season