

# The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday  
June 18 2015 at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster.

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Derek Hicks, Toby Strang, Matt Counsell, Tom Packman, Edward Martin, Ian Latchem, Martin King and Ray Hancock.

1. **Apologies** were received from David Derrick, Andy Fairbairn, Amanda Counsell and Matt Lunn.
2. **The Minutes** of the previous Management Committee Meeting (March 17<sup>th</sup> 2015) and the EGM (April 13 2015) were approved.
3. **There were no matters arising.**
4. **Correspondence** had been received from:- a) Brian Pearson concerning the frustrating and disappointing instances of teams conceding matches as a result of being unable to raise a side. The Committee considered Brian's submission and shared his concerns, but it felt that not all measures proposed could be adopted. However, it did resolve to put forward new rules to try and address the problems outlined in his email. b) The Committee had received an 'Open Age Cricket – Parental Consent Form' from the ECB (SCB), which clubs should use for younger players. Copies can be obtained from the Somerset Cricket Board office at the County Ground. c) The Hon. Secretary had received a very supportive letter from Alan Parsons, Taunton St. Andrews 'B' team captain regarding the Secretary's initiative to promote additional matches for division 9 teams by way of a 'cross regional' competition. d) Other correspondence would be dealt with during the appropriate item in the agenda.
5. **The Hon. Treasurer**, Tom Packman, gave a verbal report. He said that he expected to pay a fee of £25 to umpires in the future and he anticipated a small surplus at the end of the year. However, there were a number of factors that may alter this prediction. He said that long serving umpire, Mervyn Parsons had died earlier in the year and he had made a SCL donation of £250 to Mervyn's charity, the Air Ambulance. He noted that Andy Stephens of Winscombe CC had agreed to be the interim Hon. Auditor for the League. The SCL Management Committee was pleased to accept Andy as its auditor for the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2015 and it was agreed that if both parties were happy with the arrangements, then his appointment would be formalised at the AGM in November.
6. **WEPL update.** It was noted that a regular update of the possible WEPL composition for next season could be found on the Play Cricket website. Meanwhile, Tom Packman had produced a version that indicated the possible 2016 SCL composition based on results to date. This version showed that 13/14 teams were likely to return to the SCL in 2016. It was agreed that a regular update provided by Tom would be circulated to all Somerset Cricket League contacts during the second half of the season. The Committee agreed to set up a working group to review the current league rules and make modifications to the playing conditions for the 'new upper divisions'. Eventually, these changes would be the subject of a captains' meeting that the League would arrange, before putting final proposals to the AGM in November.
7. **Disciplinary issues.** The Chairman gave details of recent disciplinary issues that had been notified, discussed and in some cases resolved. a) Wellington 3<sup>rd</sup> XI v Wincanton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI – Wellington deducted 15 points for over strengthening the team with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI players. b) Westlands 3<sup>rd</sup> XI v North Perrott Academy XI – investigations are still ongoing. c) East Coker v Burnham on Sea 1<sup>st</sup> XI. The Committee noted the comments made by East Coker and the apology given by the Burnham umpire.

However, the Secretary was requested to write to Burnham, ascertain the club's views and warn against future indiscretions. d) Details were reported by panel umpires of an incident at Winscombe CC in Bagborough's innings when a Bagborough batsman, Ashley Dingle, confronted the bowler in the middle of the pitch, was subsequently run out, walked off the pitch, left the ground and drove off. Bagborough's depleted team lost the match by 3 wickets. The Committee learnt that the Club had banned Mr. Dingle for 3 games and felt that no further action was required by the SCL. g) The Committee was dismayed by the number of reported incidents in such a short period. It resolved to take firm action with any future reported issues.

8. **Clarification and a revision of the recommendations for the strengthening of teams.** The Committee reviewed one of the earlier disciplinary issues and agreed to re-write a part of the 'Strengthening Rules' from the pre-season circular by adding a clarification.

"If a batsman/bowler is dropped by the club's selection committee due to loss of form (this must be demonstrated by the production of appropriate statistics) then he may take a normal part in the NEXT LOWER TEAM only. If he is dropped through more than one team level (ie. 1<sup>st</sup> XI to 3<sup>rd</sup> XI) he must adhere to the batting/bowling conditions shown below in appendix A." The new complete strengthening statement is shown in Appendix A.
9. **Umpires Panel update.** Derek Hicks noted that the number of umpires in the SCL was barely adequate this year. However, a new format will be required in 2016 when 13/14 teams return to the upper echelons of the SCL. He noted that SACO had suggested that a discussion on the future of umpiring should take place. The Committee nominated Malcolm Fox; Derek Hicks; Edward Martin and Ray Hancock to represent the SCL in any discussion group. A further meeting with umpires should be held at the end of the season.
10. **Website issues.** There were no issues with the website which was working well. Inexperienced users sometimes had problems, but these were resolved by the monitors in most cases. There had been a problem when a team had used 10 bowlers and there was only input space for 8 bowlers. RH agreed to speak to DD and JS.
11. **Transfers and loans.** The use of a form for transfers had significantly improved the process. RH reported that the loan scheme was working well and the loan form, which is downloadable from the website, had regulated the process. One oversight regarding the loan of players where teams were without a league fixture had now been corrected.
12. **Cancellations & withdrawals.** The Committee expressed its concern over the number of cancellations that had been made in the first 7 weeks of the season. In particular, two clubs had defaulted 4 times. The Committee wanted to encourage teams to play cricket rather than to be removed from the structure. However, it intended to introduce a new rule at the AGM that would give teams a maximum of 4 cancellations before they were removed from the league. In the meanwhile, the Committee instructed the Hon. Sec. to write to the main offenders and give notice that it should fulfil 100% of the fixtures in the second half of the season. Failure to do so would mean automatic exclusion from the league programme. If this occurred then teams would be encouraged to play 'friendly' games in lieu of the 'lost' league matches. A list of teams that have cancelled matches due to failure to raise a team is shown in Appendix B.
13. **The 'extra' competitions in Divs. 5 & 9.** The Hon. Secretary noted that a number of clubs had not fulfilled the 'extra' matches that had been specially arranged to fill gaps in the fixture lists. Some games had been played and he had received some score sheets. However, there were some sheets missing from some matches that had taken place. He agreed to publish a list of known games played after the mid-point in the season.

14. **Regionalisation in 2016.** The regionalisation of the last 6 divisions will be made for the 2016 fixtures as agreed at the EGM in April 2015.
15. **The 2015 National Cricket Playing Survey.** The Hon. Secretary said that he had circulated the details of the 2015 ECB Player Survey and hoped that as many individual cricketers as possible would complete the questions. It had been constructed in such a way as to produce even more valuable statistics. Cricketers can access the survey through:-  
<http://www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/news/national-playing-survey-2015-help-us-get-it-right>.
16. **Ground conditions. Reports on recent ground problems.** Toby Strang gave a comprehensive report on a number of pitches, grounds and facilities that had been brought to his attention. a) The quality and standard of the second pitch at Bridgwater CC had been reported by the umpires, although recent indications showed an improvement. b) Toby Strang had made arrangements with Dennis Breakwell to visit East Coker and give advice on pitch preparation. c) It was noted that Taunton Deane had taken over responsibility from the Council for the pitch preparation at the Castle School, although it intended to continue playing at Blagdon Hill in the short term. d) Players at Chard's second ground now had access to toilets in the school. e) Taunton St. Andrews use of Bishop Foxes School was questioned as toilets were still unavailable on that site and players had to walk some distance to the Wyvern Club. It was appreciated that vandalism was a key factor in the lack of the necessary facilities. f) Glastonbury Lambs could only offer an artificial pitch at the Tor Centre and changing, toilet and showering facilities were now in the main pavilion 250 m away. It was regarded that this was not acceptable, particularly when facilities were originally available in the adjacent building. Toby Strang agreed to continue monitoring and advising clubs that failed to meet the required standards. **These had to be in place by the end of this season if the aforementioned teams wish to continue playing in the SCL next season.**
17. **Don Crouch scores.** Matt Counsell reported that it appeared that clubs liked the new scoring system for the Don Crouch 'sportsmanship' scores. He expressed concern about a number of clubs that regularly seemed to be gaining quite low scores. In particular, the committee was concerned by a number of low scores received by the same clubs on a regular basis. These clubs will be contacted shortly and be required to attend a league disciplinary hearing to explain club policy.
18. **Club welfare officers, SPC, Safe Hands courses and DBS certificates.** The Committee noted that all clubs with exception of Baltonsborough had made the appropriate arrangements for the Club Welfare Officers qualifications. This club would be expected to address this omission or face expulsion from the SCL.
19. **Overseas players, Quality of cricket balls.** The Hon. Secretary noted that the list of overseas players on the OP2 list was now complete for the season. 17 overseas players with residential qualifications were permitted to play in the SCL this year. He also reported that he had received no adverse comments about the 2015 cricket balls.
20. **Team of the Month – May.** The Team of the Month for May was won by Long Sutton 2<sup>nd</sup> XI with 140 points from 4 games at an average of 35. In second place was Long Sutton 1<sup>st</sup> XI (174 pts from 5 games at av. 34.8); 3<sup>rd</sup> place was Taunton Deane Cavaliers (173 pts from 5 games at av. 34.6); 4<sup>th</sup> place was South Petherton (172 pts. from 5 games at av. 34.4).
21. **Possible rule changes.** The Committee will propose a rule that will limit the number of games that a team may cancel in a season due to lack of players. See minute 12 above.

22. **Presentation Night.16<sup>th</sup> October 2015.** The Hon. Secretary said that the Presentation Night will be held at the Shrubbery Hotel on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Richard Walsh has already indicated that he has spoken to Peter Trego, the SCCC beneficiary, who is likely to attend this year.
23. **Issues raised by clubs.** There were none.
24. **Items of any other business.** The Hon. Secretary pointed out that all disciplinary issues should have been sent to the Disciplinary Secretary, Matt Counsell as shown in the Handbook. However, most reports were still being sent to him. A note in the next circular would advise clubs of this change and in the meantime reports would be forwarded to Matt. In order to remind clubs of the Committee members responsibilities, a copy of the Management Committee members and their responsibilities (shaded yellow) is shown in Appendix C
25. The meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

## Appendix A.

### **b. 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 by the monitors 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 a cancellation of the higher level game 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 and the monitors for Management Committee purposes) in the 'higher level' team then he should be allowed to bat wherever in the batting order, without any restriction. If a batsman is dropped by the club's selection committee due to loss of form (this must be demonstrated by the production of appropriate statistics) then he may take a normal part in the NEXT LOWER TEAM only. If he is dropped through more than one team level (ie. 1<sup>st</sup> XI to 3<sup>rd</sup> XI) he must adhere to the batting/bowling conditions shown below.

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 a cancellation of the higher level game 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 can be verified by the Results Secretary and monitors 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. If a bowler is dropped by the club's selection committee due to loss of form (this must be demonstrated by the production of appropriate statistics) then he may take a normal part in the NEXT LOWER TEAM only. If he is dropped through more than one team level (ie. 1<sup>st</sup> XI to 3<sup>rd</sup> XI) he must adhere to the batting/bowling conditions shown below.

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 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.

The Results Secretary and monitors will be particularly vigilant in respect of the games where a higher team has a vacant date. Should a team believe that opponents are unfairly strengthening teams then they should raise the complaint with the Hon. Secretary or the Results Secretary.

## Appendix B

**Teams that have cancelled matches due to failure to raise a team up to and including week 8.**

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>TEAM</b>	<b>No. of cancellations</b>
Division 3	Glastonbury 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	1
Division 4	Cheddar 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	1
Division 5	Baltonsborough 1 <sup>st</sup>	3
Division 6	Purnell 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	1
Division 7	Chard A 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1
Division 8SW	Castle Cary 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	1
Division 9NW	Cheddar 3 <sup>rd</sup> XI	3
Division 9NW	Shapwick & Polden 4 <sup>th</sup> XI	1
Division 9NW	Uphill Castle Crusaders 4 <sup>th</sup>	1
Division 9NW	Wedmore A 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4
Division 9SE	Glastonbury Lambs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4
Division 9SE	Huish & Langport Academy 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1
Division 9SE	Ilton 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	2
Division 9SE	Lydford 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	3

## Appendix c

# OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2015

PRESIDENT: Stuart Shepherd

**CHAIRMAN:** Malcolm Fox, Wildlands, Church Lane, East Harptree, Bristol.  
(Re-elected 2012) BS40 6BD Tel. 01761 221494. [mf@foxwear.co.uk](mailto:mf@foxwear.co.uk)

**HON. SECRETARY:** Ray Hancock, MBE, The Jays, Moss Lane, Ruishton, Taunton.  
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**ASSIST. SECRETARY** David Derrick, 2 Park Villas, Waterloo Road, Wellington.  
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**RESULTS SECRETARY:** Ian Latchem, 33 Pine Court, Radstock, Bath. BA3 3HL  
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**HON. TREASURER:** Tom Packman, 35 Greenway Avenue, Taunton. TA2 6HY  
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## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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