

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Monday
July 21 2014 at The Centre of Excellence, County Ground, Taunton.

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

1. Apologies were received from Ian Latchem and Martin King.
2. The Chairman welcomed Andy Fairbairn, Somerset Cricket Development Manager to the meeting. Andy said that he hoped to participate on a regular basis in the meetings of the various leagues in Somerset. This would enable him to build up an accurate picture of Somerset's recreational cricket and ensure that he and the Somerset Cricket Board were in a position to act and support leagues whenever possible.
3. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (March 4th 2014) and the EGM (April 14 2014) were approved.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Correspondence had been received from:- a) A number of clubs relating to teams that cancelled due to lack of players, debatable ground conditions that resulted in unnecessarily cancelled games – these involved photographic and video evidence, the interpretation of the rules, issues surrounding the strengthening of teams when a more senior team was without a fixture, quality of playing surfaces and other queries and complaints. b) The Committee was concerned at the volume of correspondence and queries which was overloading the system, particularly when many issues could be resolved by examination of the rules, the pre-season circular and reference back to the regular emailed information that is sent to all 450 email contacts! c) Some clubs had complained about matches being cancelled due to pitch conditions being unfit for play, when a physical inspection carried out by the visitors ascertained otherwise. Whereas the Committee had sympathy for the visitors inconvenienced by these needless cancellations it currently has no power to make a judgement based on photographic evidence and others' opinions. Nevertheless, the Committee has determined that the home clubs responsible for these cancellations have broken the ECB Code of Conduct and Spirit of Cricket and a letter has been sent to these clubs to warn against future misjudgements. As a result, the Committee will look at measures to address this problem before the AGM when a new rule will be framed. Currently in Division 1 with panel umpires there is an independent assessment, but without an independent assessor no further action could be taken outside of Division 1 at this point in time. Until the problem is addressed, the recent statement made by the Hon. Secretary in his email of July 10th 2014 and repeated in Appendix C is applicable. d) Other correspondence would be dealt with during the appropriate item in the agenda.
6. The Hon. Treasurer, Tom Packman, gave a verbal report and said that there would be no need to apply the additional sum of £5 for all teams that he had recommended at the AGM. This was due to the more healthy state of the League's balances than originally forecast.
7. The Chairman, Malcolm Fox spoke about the limited information emanating from the WEPL in relation to any future developments. He said that he would keep the Committee in the picture as to any further developments. He was supported by Andy Fairbairn who, along with other CDM's attends the Board's meetings. Chris Norton, Chairman of WEPL, contacted the SCL about promotion and

relegation at the end of the season following the withdrawal of Westlands from the Somerset Division of WEPL (Tier 4). Chris advised that:- “The, situation is that, to keep WEPL's Somerset Division competitive, there will still be one club eligible for relegation back to SCL at the end of the season. This means we may ask you to provide 2 clubs for promotion to the WEPL pyramid in 2015 so that the Somerset Division will have its full complement of 10 clubs. As you know, the geographical anomalies in our current system can mean that the bottom club is reprieved. We are working at correcting that but this note is to give you advance warning of what could happen in September. At the end of this season, the WEPL board will have a special meeting with the Feeder Leagues dedicated to confirming relegation and promotion issues”. It had been noted that a number of Division 1 clubs had enquired about this issue, so it was pertinent that this explanation can now be given to Division 1 clubs.

8. Derek Hicks noted that the number of umpires in the SCL was adequate for this year, but he was concerned that there may be fewer available in the future as a number had expressed their intentions to progress to a higher league. The Committee discussed the possibility of running a basic umpires course for cricketers who both play and umpire in the same game. Derek offered to run such courses (north & south venues), which would have no qualification at the end of the 3 hour session, but it would equip the volunteer to make more competent decisions. It may be a cost free course if sufficient interest was shown in it. Clubs would be circulated about the details.
9. Andy Fairbairn gave details of the initial results of the ECB Player Survey. He encouraged any player (and non-player) who had not already completed the survey to visit the SCB website (www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk/news/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-cricket-ecb-national-player-survey) and give their opinions. In the SCB area, he noted that 363 teams were currently playing senior cricket while a further 278 played midweek, indoor and junior cricket. However, these figures were slightly lower than those in 2013 by 20 teams.
10. David Derrick gave a report on the weekly results system and he was supported by Amanda Counsell and Toby Strang the other monitors. He said that generally the system appeared to be working well and so far there had been fewer problems than previously. He said that some fines had been levied, some had been appealed and clubs were generally conforming to the system. David noted that the calculation of points was still being incorrectly made, but he and Ian Latchem had resolved all issues. The Committee asked David to discuss with John Squirrell, the Website Manager, the possibility of the initial input of results triggering off the points allocation. This would prevent human error affecting the calculation of the points.
11. The Hon. Secretary noted that a number of clubs had still not updated their Club Details on the Website. This caused the monitors in particular and everyone in general who wanted to access telephone numbers etc. to be disadvantaged. It was resolved to publish the list of clubs that had not carried out this update this year and give them a finite time to carry out the task before fines would be issued. A further communication problem existed in relation to the listing of players firstly by failure to register them and subsequently the home team not completing the scorecard results input after the match with all names. Fines will be issued if this aspect of Results Input is not carried out accurately as detailed in the handbook on pages 18 & 19.
12. It was noted that some visiting teams were verifying incomplete scorecards. The incomplete scorecards should not be verified, but should be reported to the appropriate monitor who will take action. It was noted that some results sheets were still being received by Ian Latchem, the Results Secretary after the deadline. (Rule5 (j) Results Sheets – page 11 in the Handbook).
13. The Committee was most concerned about the issue regarding the large number of cancellations due to teams being unable to raise a team. The Hon. Secretary had received many communications about the

problem, but the Committee could see no immediate solution to it. The Committee determined to look at ways of dealing with the issue and will address suggestions at a future meeting.

14. The costs and times of travelling were debated and a suggestion to regionalise divisions 6 & 7 was considered. It was agreed that the Hon. Secretary would circulate all clubs in Divisions 5, 6 & 7 to gauge their support, or otherwise, for such a change. It was necessary to obtain the views of the 30 clubs involved by the end of the season as the fixtures for 2015 are made soon after the season finishes and well before the AGM. The Management Committee would make the decision on regionalisation based upon the results of this circulation. A further idea to allow the amalgamation of 2nd XIs to overcome the difficulty some clubs have faced this year will be investigated. This initiative will again be circulated by the end of the season so that it can be put into place by clubs that would benefit from it.
15. The Committee had been advised of recent incidents of thefts from changing rooms. It encouraged everyone in the SCL to be vigilant and if possible have a locking system for changing room doors.
16. Some companies had provided information regarding PL insurance. However, the Committee decided that the SCL would not get involved with the insurance aspect again.
17. Concern had been expressed by some clubs about the lack of facilities and state of playing surfaces in relation to clubs' second grounds and school/council/village hall pitches. The Grounds Committee members will shortly make a visit to one South Somerset club that had been reported. Meanwhile, The Committee agreed that the minimum 'off pitch' facilities must contain provision of a toilet within easy reach of the boundary, a cover of an appropriate size to accommodate two teams in the case of inclement weather, a scorers' table and chairs for players. The Committee needs to build up a comprehensive picture of grounds that do not have the correct facilities and the playing surface is below an acceptable playing standard and is also unsafe. Clubs are requested to complete the Ground Report Form where standards are not met on the grounds they visit. These forms can be found on the SCL website. www.somerset-cricket.org.uk
18. a) The Chairman reported on three cases that involved disciplinary action. In two instances he met the officials of the club and in the third he wrote to the club. The Committee felt that his actions had been entirely appropriate to address the problems and the clubs involved had confirmed that they accepted his decisions and advice. b) The Committee was concerned about the increased amount of 'sledging' and other abusive language that was more apparent than in years past. Club captains were to be reminded about their pivotal role in managing the behaviour of the players.
19. The Committee was most concerned when members saw the mid-season scores for teams for the Don Crouch Trophy. It felt that any team registering an average score of less than 7 was unacceptable. Furthermore, teams with scores below 8 also needed to address their deficiencies. The Don Crouch scores to date will be published with these minutes. (Appendix A).
20. The Committee noted that SPC courses will no longer be run by the SCB as the main attendees were coaches who received the training through a different source. In future, Club Welfare Officers should attend SPC courses promoted throughout the County by SASP. The Committee also endorsed the next stage of training for CWOs that will be attendance on an ECB Safe Hands or Safe Hands Refresher course. *Rule 3 Administration (h) – page 9 of the handbook sets out the training.* This Rule is shown in full in Appendix B of these minutes. These courses will be notified to all clubs by the Hon. Secretary.
21. The Committee agreed to extend the period for the registering of overseas players (Rule 7. Players. (d). Overseas players ii). by removing the registration date of May 31st. However, the overseas player must still have been domiciled in the UK for the whole of the period since October 1 2013. This action applies from July 21 '14 and the rule will be adjusted at the AGM.

22. The Committee left discussion of any possible rule changes until the next meeting. Other suggestions were expected to be raised from clubs.
23. The Committee agreed to revise the criteria for the Team of the Month from next year onwards. It felt that an element of the Don Crouch score should be included in the calculations.
24. The Hon. Secretary said that the Presentation Night will be held at the Shrubbery Hotel on October 24th. Matt Counsell, in conjunction with Richard Walsh, agreed to find the Principal Guest from the SCCC staff.
25. Issues raised by clubs. There were none.
26. Items of any other business. There were none.
27. The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

APPENDIX A

Grp A Don Crouch Scores

Team	Captain's Conduct	Team Conduct Off The Field	Team Conduct On The Field	Conduct Of Individuals	Acceptance Of Umpires' Decisions	No Of Matches	Total Points	Average
East Huntspill 1	14	14	14	14	14	7	70	10.00
Castle Cary 2	10	10	10	10	10	5	50	10.00
Huish & Langport 1	20	20	20	20	20	10	100	10.00
Uphill Castle 2	20	20	20	20	19	10	99	9.90
Wincanton 1	16	16	16	16	15	8	79	9.88
Kilmington & Stourton 1	20	20	20	18	20	10	98	9.80
Watchet 1	22	22	21	21	21	11	107	9.73
Belvedere 1	18	17	17	17	18	9	87	9.67
Wedmore 1	16	16	16	15	14	8	77	9.63
North Curry 1	21	22	20	20	21	11	104	9.45
Burnham 1	17	18	16	16	17	9	84	9.33
Ashbrittle 1	19	19	19	19	17	10	93	9.30
Chilton Polden 1	13	13	13	13	13	7	65	9.29
Bridgwater A	20	20	21	20	21	11	102	9.27
South Petherton 1	16	17	17	16	17	9	83	9.22
Purnells 1	18	16	16	16	17	9	83	9.22
Cheddar 1	18	19	19	18	18	10	92	9.20
Ilminster A	13	13	13	12	13	7	64	9.14
Baltonsborough 1	13	13	13	13	12	7	64	9.14
Huntspill & District 1	14	15	15	15	14	8	73	9.13
Taunton Deane Cavaliers	16	17	17	16	16	9	82	9.11
Kilve 1	19	20	18	17	17	10	91	9.10
Ilton 1	21	21	19	19	20	11	100	9.09
Middlezoy 1	23	23	21	21	21	12	109	9.08
Taunton A	14	15	14	14	15	8	72	9.00
Bishops Lydeard 2	12	13	14	13	11	7	63	9.00
Staplegrove 2	19	18	17	18	18	10	90	9.00
Temple Cloud 1	19	18	17	17	19	10	90	9.00
Mark 1	16	16	16	16	16	9	80	8.89
Hardington & West Coker 1	11	11	11	11	9	6	53	8.83

Grp A Don Crouch Scores

Team	Captain's Conduct	Team Conduct Off The Field	Team Conduct On The Field	Conduct Of Individuals	Acceptance Of Umpires' Decisions	No Of Matches	Total Points	Average
North Perrott 1	18	18	17	17	18	10	88	8.80
East Coker 1	19	19	17	16	17	10	88	8.80
Wells 1	17	18	15	13	16	9	79	8.78
Trull 1	16	16	16	16	15	9	79	8.78
North Newton 1	18	19	19	18	21	11	95	8.64
Bagborough 1	14	14	14	13	14	8	69	8.63
Weston Super Mare 3	16	16	16	15	14	9	77	8.56
Castle Cary 1	17	17	16	13	13	9	76	8.44
Huish & Langport 2	18	18	16	15	17	10	84	8.40
Barrington 1	19	20	15	14	16	10	84	8.40
Cheddar 2	17	17	14	12	15	9	75	8.33
North Perrott 2	19	17	16	14	17	10	83	8.30
Street 2	17	18	17	15	16	10	83	8.30
Wellington 2	12	10	11	11	13	7	57	8.14
Sparkford 1	13	11	11	11	11	7	57	8.14
Lydford 1	11	9	8	10	10	6	48	8.00
Horrington 1	16	18	15	15	16	10	80	8.00
Purnells 2	17	16	15	15	17	10	80	8.00
Butleigh 2	16	15	14	12	13	9	70	7.78
Leigh On Mendip 1	19	18	16	15	15	11	83	7.55
Broadway & Horton 1	11	13	12	13	11	8	60	7.50
Banwell & Churchill 1	12	11	11	10	11	8	55	6.88
Curry Rivel 1	15	16	15	10	17	11	73	6.64
Long Sutton 1	16	14	14	7	11	10	62	6.20
Westlands 2	17	18	10	8	13	11	66	6.00
Frome 2	11	11	11	8	9	9	50	5.56
Lympsham 1	11	13	12	8	11	10	55	5.50
Peasedown St. John 1	11	13	9	8	9	10	50	5.00
Fitzhead 1	12	12	9	8	8	10	49	4.90
Cranmore 1	7	9	7	5	5	9	33	3.67

Shaded yellow = Cause for concern – needs to be addressed.

Shaded blue = sportsmanship performance must be addressed.

Grp B Don Crouch Scores

Team	Captain's Conduct	Team Conduct Off The Field	Team Conduct On The Field	Conduct Of Individuals	Acceptance Of Umpires' Decisions	No Of Matches	Total Points	Average
Chard 750	8	8	8	8	8	4	40	10.00
Huish & Langport 3	18	18	18	18	18	9	90	10.00
Huntspill & District 2	6	6	6	6	6	3	30	10.00
All Saints 1	14	14	14	14	14	7	70	10.00
Chard A	14	14	14	14	14	7	70	10.00
North Perrott 3	14	14	14	14	14	7	70	10.00
Taunton Deane Crusaders	20	20	20	20	20	10	100	10.00
Taunton St Andrews B	18	18	18	18	18	9	90	10.00
Wells 2	12	12	12	12	12	6	60	10.00
Weston Super Mare 4	12	12	12	12	12	6	60	10.00
Broadway & Horton 2	14	14	14	14	14	7	70	10.00
Wincanton 2	16	15	16	16	16	8	79	9.88
Uphill Castle Crusaders	13	14	14	14	14	7	69	9.86
Barrington 2	11	12	12	12	12	6	59	9.83
East Huntspill 2	12	11	12	12	12	6	59	9.83
Trull 2	12	12	12	11	12	6	59	9.83
Ilton 2	16	16	16	15	15	8	78	9.75
Middlezoy 2	22	21	21	21	21	11	106	9.64
Watchet 2	16	16	15	15	15	8	77	9.63
South Petherton 2	20	19	19	19	18	10	95	9.50
Crewkerne 2	12	12	11	11	11	6	57	9.50
Wedmore 2	11	12	11	12	11	6	57	9.50
Temple Cloud 2	14	14	13	12	13	7	66	9.43
Long Sutton 2	12	14	13	14	13	7	66	9.43
Burnham 2	13	15	16	14	16	8	74	9.25
Sparkford 2	15	14	15	15	15	8	74	9.25
Crewkerne 1	17	17	17	16	16	9	83	9.22
Spaxton 1	21	20	20	20	20	11	101	9.18
Leigh On Mendip 2	11	11	11	11	11	6	55	9.17
Chilton Polden 2	10	9	9	9	8	5	45	9.00

Grp B Don Crouch Scores

Team	Captain's Conduct	Team Conduct Off The Field	Team Conduct On The Field	Conduct Of Individuals	Acceptance Of Umpires' Decissions	No Of Matches	Total Points	Average
Wembdon Wyverns	16	17	16	16	16	9	81	9.00
Bridgwater Sports 1	16	16	16	16	17	9	81	9.00
Uphill Castle Cavaliers	11	11	11	10	10	6	53	8.83
Evercreech 1	11	12	11	9	10	6	53	8.83
North Petherton 2	14	15	12	13	15	8	69	8.63
Lympsham 2	12	12	12	12	12	7	60	8.57
Kilmington & Stourton 2	12	13	13	15	15	8	68	8.50
Lydford 2	7	7	6	7	7	4	34	8.50
Wellington 3	17	18	18	16	15	10	84	8.40
Belvedere 2	16	18	17	17	16	10	84	8.40
Banwell & Churchill 2	9	9	8	8	8	5	42	8.40
Glastonbury Lambs	7	7	7	6	6	4	33	8.25
Winscombe 2	14	15	15	13	16	9	73	8.11
Taunton St Andrews A	14	14	12	12	12	8	64	8.00
Westlands 3	17	15	13	13	14	9	72	8.00
Cranmore 2	18	17	15	14	15	10	79	7.90
Wedmore A	9	9	10	10	9	6	47	7.83
Wembdon Academy	12	17	15	15	15	10	74	7.40

Shaded yellow = Cause for concern – needs to be addressed.

APPENDIX B

Rule 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 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).

APPENDIX C

In recent weeks there has been a number of cancellations that have been made rather hastily when weather/ground conditions have been cited as the reason. Clubs are reminded that the SCL rules allow for a start with **limited overs up to 5.00 pm on match days.**

Rule 5 Matches (d) (d) Weather Conditions

i) In the event of a late start because of weather conditions, overs shall be deducted, and the remaining overs shall be divided equally between the two sides. A full match of 90 overs cannot start after 2.30 pm. (2.15 pm. for the Senior Division) and no match can start after 5.00 pm.

If there is any doubt about pitch conditions, then teams should allow for a reduced overs game, providing that a start can be made before 5.00 pm.