

SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting

held on Monday September 21st 2009 at The Ruishton Inn, Ruishton, Taunton.

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Ian Latchem, Tom Packman, Amanda Counsell, Ian Stolworthy, Martin King, Derek Hicks and Ray Hancock.

1. There were apologies from Matthew Lunn, Toby Strang.
2. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (June 29 2009) were approved.
3. Matters arising. The Hon Secretary said that he:- a) had received two emails from clubs regarding the possible limitation of overseas players in 2010; b) received good reports on the League Tie from recipients; c) had had to acquire more cricket balls than the initial order; d) had had to check a few enquiries regarding the strengthening of teams issue, but none had broken the rules; e) had followed up any queries regarding press reports that were uncomplimentary; f) produced a mid-season circular and a further information sheet in August for the benefit of the clubs.
4. The Hon Secretary reported that he had received a variety of email communications and other correspondence. It was dealt with as follows: a) a suggestion by Cheddar to 'loan' players to their opponents 'on the day' in order that a game could be played and a match could be enjoyed by all concerned. This initiative was welcomed by the Committee, but with the usual 'cancelled games caveat' of +30/-30. b) a suggested rule change to have earlier starts and/or 40 over cricket was made by Chilton Polden. The Committee felt that an earlier start was not possible, but that the 40 over game could meet with some favour by clubs and that Chilton Polden should frame a proposal to the AGM if they felt it was feasible. c) the Chairman said that he had received a letter from Michael Crouch to say that his mother (wife of Don Crouch) had died during the year. He had replied to Michael expressing our sorrow to hear of the news and reminded him of the way that the trophy in memory of Don was being used for a very positive purpose in the SCL. d) The Chairman said that he had written to Glastonbury CC regarding the sub-standard facilities used by Glastonbury Lambs and 'A' teams. He was awaiting a response from both the club and Mendip District Council (the club's landlords) before further action would be taken. This could include expulsion from the League.
5. The Treasurer gave an interim report on the League's financial situation. He said that income was lower in respect of the Annual Dinner (2008), the bank interest, adverts in the Handbook and fines. There had been additional spending on the promotion of the coaching course, the ties, the Handbook and the umpires' expenses. However, some additional income had been derived from a '50p a ball' profit on the cricket ball sale together with the sale of surplus stock and the adjustment of VAT. Nevertheless, he anticipated a £700/£800 loss on the season. He also advised the Committee of the death of Derek Lovell who had been the Hon Secretary of the West Somerset Cricket League. The Committee received the news with much sadness.
6. The Hon Secretary gave details of places that may be available on SCB coaching courses. There would be Level 1 courses in Radstock (October) and Taunton (January) and a Level 2 course in Witherwood, Bristol in November. It was agreed that he would bring these courses to the notice

of the league clubs after checking the exact availability of the places with Andrew Moulding and Brian Hoyle of the SCB.

7. The Committee was advised that two instances of ill discipline had been dealt with by the clubs at their own Committee level. In both cases, the punishment had been increased by the League's Committee as it was felt to be insufficient. As a result, Martin Coppell of Wells Wanderers and Simon Mahoney of Temple Cloud were both given 3 match bans. The Committee was pleased to hear of the clubs taking this initiative and hoped that similar action could be taken in the future.
8. The Committee was advised of the final 'Don Crouch' scores for the season. It was noted that 5 clubs had scored a maximum 10 point average. However, it was determined that the Don Crouch Trophy for 2009 would be awarded to 3 clubs that attained the 10 point average from the most games played (8 matches) and subsequently Wells 1st XI, Spaxton and Glastonbury Lambs were named. Huntspill 1st XI and Belvedere A were commended for the same average from lesser games. The Committee was pleased to note that the lowest average score was 6, a positive improvement on last year's low average of 4!
9. The Committee confirmed the final tables for Season 2009 and noted that these appear on the League's website and will be circulated with these minutes.
10. The Hon Secretary reported that it had previously been agreed by the Committee, and clubs had been notified, that the averages for the season 2009 would be the responsibility of each club to submit them in an electronic format. He would be issuing an Excel document on which clubs should list their playing statistics and submit them to the Webmaster, John Squirrell whose email address would be sent with the form. It is the responsibility of each club to provide its own LEAGUE statistics; if they fail to do so then their players will not appear in the SCL Averages for 2009. All submissions must be received by John by the closing date of 18th October at the very latest.
11. The Committee determined the awards for the Season:- The Don Crouch Trophy was awarded jointly to Wells 1st XI, Spaxton and Glastonbury Lambs all with a maximum average score of 10 per match from 8 games. The Ladbrokes Merit Trophy for the Club of the Year was awarded to Westlands CC for coming second in both Division 1 and Division 2 (2nd XI Comp.). The Sunday Independent Cup was awarded to Middlezoy CC for attaining the highest number of points gained in the season (563 points). The award for the Young Player of the Year and the Glastonbury Mowers All Rounders Award will be determined at the next meeting and it was agreed to extend the closing date for nominations to October 13.
12. The Chairman gave details of the latest developments in relation to the meetings and dialogues that had taken place regarding the WEPL/SCL structures. He said that more ongoing discussions were taking place in the next few weeks and that he hoped there would be a positive resolution to the issue. He would keep the Committee informed of the result of these discussions.
13. The Hon. Secretary explained how he had devised the composition of the 1st XI Competition with 60 teams after the promotions and relegations had been completed. Ilton had won promotion to the WEPL and Barrington would replace them in Division 1. Temple Cloud and North Newton were relegated to Division 2 and were replaced in Division 1 by Ashbrittle and Watchet. In Division 2, Peasedown dropped out earlier in the season and go to Division 6 while Fitzhead were relegated to Division 3. Stogumber and Horrington were promoted to Division 2.

In Division 3 Evercreech dropped out earlier in the season and go to Division 6 while Hardington & West Coker and Mark were relegated to Division 4. It was determined that Four clubs – Middlezoy, Kilmington & Stourton, Huish & Langport and Lydford - would be promoted to Division 3. Banwell & Churchill were relegated from Division 4, while Wells Wanderers, Sparkford and East Huntspill were promoted from Division 5. Spaxton were relegated from Division 5, while Baltonsborough, Westonzoyland and Meare were promoted from Division 6. The remaining clubs in Division 6 together with Peasedown, Evercreech and Chard 'A', who could not play in Division 4SW as their 4th XI was already in that Division, would comprise the full complement of 10 teams. The Committee approved the 2010 Composition of the 1st XI Competition.

The 2nd XI Competition would also comprise 60 teams. Chard 2 would accompany their 1st XI into the WEPL pyramid and would be replaced by North Perrott 2 in Division 1. Frome 2 and Wellington 2 were relegated from Division 1 while Uphill Castle 2 and Westlands 2 were promoted from Division 2. Watchet 2, Castle Cary 2, Cheddar Cavaliers and Ilminster 'A' were relegated to the third tier while Wells 2, Wedmore 2, Belvedere 2 and Huish & Langport 2 were all promoted to Division 2.

Wincanton 2, Horrington 2, Bridgwater Sports 2 and Lydford 2 were all promoted from the fourth to the third tier. The 20 teams in the third tier were all placed geographically in Divisions 3NE and 3SW. Division 3 NE comprised Burnham, Castle Cary 2, Cheddar Colts, Cranmore, Glastonbury A, Horrington 2, Lydford 2, Sparkford 2, Uphill Castle Cavaliers and Wincanton. Division 3SW comprised Barrington 2, Bridgwater Sports 2, Cheddar Cavaliers, East Huntspill 2, Ilminster 'A', Long Sutton 2, North Petherton 2, South Petherton 2, Taunton St. Andrews 'B', Watchet 2. Chard 'A', Kilmington & Stourton 2.

Four teams were relegated from the third tier to the fourth tier namely Belvedere 'A', Mark 2, Chard 'A' and Kilmington & Stourton. Two additional teams were admitted into the SCL 2nd XI competition (level 4) namely Middlezoy 2 and Taunton Deane Crusaders, while the relegated Chard 'A' moved into Division 6 of the 1st XI competition. The 20 teams in the fourth tier were all placed geographically in Divisions 4NE and 4SW. Division 4 NE comprised Banwell & Churchill 2, Belvedere 'A', Brent Knoll 2, Cranmore 3, Evercreech 2, Kilmington & Stourton 2, Mark 2, Peasedown 2, Uphill Castle Crusaders, Wedmore 'A'. Division 4SW comprised Chard 750, Chilton Polden 2, Huish & Langport 3, Huntspill & District 2, Ilminster 'B', Ilton 2, Kilve 2, Middlezoy 2, Taunton Deane Crusaders and Wembdon Academy. The Committee approved the 2010 Composition of the 2nd XI Competition.

14. The Hon Secretary said that he would now make the fixtures for 2010 and trusted that all those clubs that had any special ground arrangements to honour in 2010 would have already advised him.
15. The Hon Secretary reported on the Pilot Scheme for the electronic submission of results and said that it had been very successful and the only problems concerned the late submission of statistics by club representatives. It could be expanded for all divisions and full results sheets if required.
16. It was noted that there was a space on the Management Committee for an additional member at the AGM in November. Clubs were asked to give thought to nominating a member, particularly one who was still an active cricketer within the league structure. It was suggested that if any member is interested in joining the Committee or wants further details of the commitment then it would be useful if the club could contact the Hon Secretary in advance.

17. The Hon. Secretary reminded members and clubs that any proposals for rule changes should be sent to him by October 13 at the latest for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on Wednesday October 14th.
18. The Hon. Secretary gave details of the Presentation Dinner at the Shrubbery Hotel on Friday October 16th. He said that John Edney, Chairman of Somerset County Council would be the League's principal guest and John would present the various trophies. He said that numbers were already in the region of 70 and he expected many more during the forthcoming weeks. He would be carrying out further advertising of the event.
19. Any Other Business. a) The Committee was asked to look at some form of legislation for the determination of wides in the game. b) It was agreed to move the following agenda items to the next meeting of the Committee. i) a discussion paper for the AGM delegates to consider for the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd XIs competitions to form one continuous league: ii) the League's data base of club details etc.: iii) committee membership: iv) rule changes: v) honoraria: vi) standard cricket ball contract: vii) preparation of a "Minimum Standards Document" for grounds, facilities etc.
20. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.
21. The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday October 14th at the Shrubbery Hotel at 7.00 pm.
The AGM will be held at Bridgwater Sports and Social Club on Monday November 23 at 7.30pm.

Ray Hancock
Hon. Secretary.