

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday
October 21 2015 at the Centre of Excellence, County Ground, Taunton.

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

1. Apologies were received from committee members Martin King, Edward Martin and Ian Latchem
2. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (September 22 2015) 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) Andy Fairbairn, Somerset Cricket Board's Cricket Development Manager regarding player bans. He said that when a player receives a ban from one league, that ban is also upheld by all other leagues. Being a county with many different leagues there could be instances of players playing in one league for a different side due to having a ban in another league. He indicated that he was prepared to act as a point of contact for this information sharing. For this to work, he would need the SCL to inform him of player bans as soon as they are issued. He would then share this information with the remaining Somerset leagues and adjacent leagues so that the ban can be properly imposed. The Committee thanked Andy for his initiative and agreed to participate in the scheme. b) Bishops Lydeard Cricket Club regarding the future of the club. Mark Thomas, Secretary BLCC said that that the Club would continue to play in the SCL during the forthcoming season. He confirmed the conversation between Justin Hayward (BLCC) and the Hon. Secretary when it was agreed that BLCC would be placed in Division 4 in 2016. This 'two division' relegation would help the club to regroup as a club and bring through some younger players. The Committee supported the agreement and BLCC will play in Division 4 in 2016. c) Beaminster CC (Dorset Cricket League) had previously made a request for the club's 2nd XI to join the SCL in 2016. The Committee agreed that it would consider a request for the Club (both teams) to join in future years, but felt that the 2nd XI only was not possible. d) Other relevant items of correspondence would be raised at appropriate stages of the meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report, Umpires and SACO. The Hon. Treasurer provided a written report that outlined the Income and Expenditure Account for the Year. The report showed a surplus of £680. The report will be published with the AGM notice and agenda. He said that the umpires' appointments and payments would change in 2016 and SACO would be responsible for these arrangements in future years. The umpires would be appointed by Terry Sterland, (SACO) and would be put on the same financial basis as for WEPL games. In order to bring the umpires payments into line with WEPL appointments, the Treasurer noted that umpires will receive £35 but teams in SCL divisions 1 & 2 will be asked to contribute only £30 towards each umpire payment in the transitional year of 2016. The Hon. Secretary agreed to circulate all Division 1 & 2 teams with this information on umpires' payments. Observations of this payment scheme may be forwarded to the Hon. Sec.
6. The Hon. Secretary reported that the Presentation Night at the Shrubbery Hotel on Friday October 16th had been very successful although fewer people had attended it than in recent years. Peter Trego from Somerset County Cricket Club was the principal guest and he joined in a question and answer session with Richard Walsh, Cricket Correspondent for the Somerset County Gazette and the Sunday Independent. Peter then presented the trophies to the divisional winners. A draw for cricket equipment which had been given by Mr Najmi, Lords Cricket Balls took place during the evening.

7. The Committee noted that there had been an error in the original calculation of the 'Team of the Month' prize for June. Initially, the prize had been judged to have been won by South Petherton 1st XI, but after an appeal against this award it was noted that both Trull 2nd XI and Belvedere 1st XI had the same number of average points as South Petherton. The Committee determined that, as set out in the rules for this award, the drawing of lots should take place. In the ensuing draw Trull 2nd XI was declared the winning team for June. The prize, a Getaway Break for two at a Best Western Hotel, will be presented at the AGM. The prize for August was won by Baltonsborough.
8. The Committee determined the winners of the AVCO Trust Young Player of the Year and the Glastonbury Mowers All Rounders from submissions by clubs and committee members. The trophy for the Young Player of the Year was awarded to Ollie Phillips of Long Sutton CC. The All Rounder's trophy was awarded to Steve Redwood of Barrington CC. Both trophies, together with the Don Crouch Memorial Trophy will be awarded at the AGM.
9. It was agreed that Amanda Counsell, the League's Welfare Officer and Ray Hancock, the Hon. Secretary will draw up a Club Welfare Officers' Qualifications Sheet. This document would be required to be completed by every club welfare officer before the season commences. The CWO will need to list the dates of attendance at a S&PC course, an ECB Safe Hands course or an ECB Safe Hands Refresher Course together with details of the DBS certificate (ECB version). This form will be circulated with the minutes of the AGM and will be required to be returned to the League's Welfare Officer by April 30 2016 - at the latest. If the form is not submitted by that date, then matches in the SCL cannot be played until such time as it has been successfully submitted. The Management Committee is able to check all national records. Any club and/or CWO who needs guidance should contact Amanda at the earliest opportunity rather than wait to the beginning of the next season. The relevant SCL rule is:-

** 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 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 DBS, SH and S&PC certification must be made available to the League Welfare Officer before the season commences. **Clubs that fail to appoint a qualified person and/or fail to provide evidence to the League Welfare Officer 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).*
10. It was noted that the WEPL re-structuring process had been completed at the end of the season and WEPL now comprised 70 teams in three tiers. 15 teams returned to the SCL and were placed in the appropriate divisions using the formula devised and notified before the 2015 season started.
11. The Committee discussed the cricket balls used in 2015. The members felt that the ball had been good value for money compared with other leagues' balls. The use of two new balls per match was regarded as a successful initiative. Discussion on the supply and use of a superior ball had taken place at the recent meeting with representatives of Division 1 & 2 teams that had returned from WEPL to the SCL. A quote for a 'superior' ball had been acquired and at £18 it equated to more than twice the price of the existing ball price of £8. This will be determined by Division 1 & 2 clubs at the AGM.
12. The Hon. Secretary said that he had prepared the fixtures for 2016 and it was agreed that these should now be circulated. The number of teams in Divisions 9N & 9S was only nine in each division. It was agreed that a format for two matches between teams from each region would be mandatory, count towards points in the respective divisions and be fined points and £s in accordance with Rule 5 Matches. (b) Championship points (iv) & (v) if they were cancelled. This compulsory innovation was aimed at giving all teams 18 league matches in the season.

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) Re-write Rule 3 Administration (h) to that shown in minute 9. b) Cancelled games for failure to raise a team to be limited to 3 cancellations. A fourth cancellation will mean expulsion from the SCL. c) All teams MUST provide a scorebook (home and away) and a scoreboard at the home venue. d) '40 over' games for divisions 7, 8 and 9 with a bowlers maximum to be 10 overs. e) The timescale for inputting/verifying results will be condensed. f) Removal of 'Overseas Player' restriction (Burnham). g) Revised targets in rain affected games (Hardington & West Coker). h) Maximum number of overs a bowler may bowl in an innings be 20% (Hardington & West Coker). Rule changes/additions for Divisions 1 & 2 only – to be voted on by reps from Divs. 1 & 2 only. j) Starting time to be brought forward to 1.00 pm (Taunton St. Andrews). k) Introduce fielding circles. l) Leg side wides, providing that there is an official umpire. m) Two superior balls per match. n) Points penalty of 2 points for either/both teams if the team fails to bowl its 45 overs within 2 hours, 45 minutes.
14. The Management Committee was advised by Toby Strang that a number of grounds that had been under scrutiny had made positive efforts to improve both on and off field facilities. He said that the Grounds Sub-Committee would be keeping a careful watch on developments, particularly in the case of school/college facilities.
15. The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.
16. The date of the next meeting, which will be the AGM, was confirmed for Monday November 23rd at 7.30 pm. at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster.