

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday September 22 2015 at Winscombe Cricket Club

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

1. Preliminaries. The Chairman welcomed all Committee members to the meeting. He thanked Matt Lunn for making the arrangements and Winscombe Cricket Club for hosting the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from Ian Latchem, Toby Strang, Edward Martin and Andy Fairbairn.
3. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (June 18 2015) were approved.
4. Matters arising. There were none.
5. Correspondence. A number of emails had been received and forwarded to committee members and all would be considered at the appropriate place in the meeting.
6. The Hon. Treasurer said that the accounts showed a similar picture to previous years and he would be preparing a final set of accounts for committee consideration at the next meeting. He anticipated that a profit of about £800 would be achieved this year. He had recently sent out invoices that itemised next season's subscriptions and fines issued for the 2015 season. He noted that the cost of umpires to the SCL was approximately £28 per umpire and clubs were charged £24 for each one used.
7. The Committee was advised about the different system of umpire appointments in 2016 together with the raised cost of £35 per umpire. The cost to Division 1 & 2 clubs would be £30 (ie. The SCL would subsidise the cost with £5 from the funds). It was noted that SACO would be the appointing body in future, but Derek Hicks would retain his role with umpiring arrangements as 'Umpiring Advisor' to the SCL. SACO will also be responsible for receiving umpires' reports and the marking of pitches, while club captains will be responsible for marking the umpires and making their returns to SACO.
8. Matt Counsell gave details of the Don Crouch scores (sportsmanship) and expressed his concern over some teams with low marks. The Committee agreed that the tables should be published (Appendix A) with the minutes. The new system of marking teams had given a more accurate picture of sportsmanship and it was agreed that teams with lower than 80% would receive a letter from the League with targets to improve their performance in future. The team with the best score was Barrington 2nd XI with an average of 97.61%, while all three Uphill Castle teams finished in the top 20 teams – a remarkable club result..
9. The Disciplinary Committee had met on a number of occasions and were due to meet again in week beginning September 28. A full report will follow in due course.
10. The Chairman and Hon. Secretary reminded the committee of the details of the WEPL restructure that had now been realised. WEPL will comprise 7 divisions in three tiers. The Hon. Secretary had prepared the fixtures for WEPL (Tiers 1 & 2) and will now complete the Somerset Division in Tier 3. This will be done in conjunction with the fixtures for the SCL.
11. The Committee confirmed the final tables for 2015 that were shown at the meeting. It agreed that these should be published with these minutes. (Appendix B).
12. The Committee determined the winners of the various trophies awarded by the Committee. a). The Ladbrokes Merit Trophy for the Club of the Year was awarded to Westlands Sports Cricket Club. b). Barrington 2nd XI won the Don Crouch Memorial Trophy with a very good score of 97.61%.

c). Sunday Independent Cup was won by Long Sutton 1st XI with the highest number of points (579 Pts.) scored in any division.

13. The Committee noted that the Results Service had worked well again this year. The monitors will change their roles slightly in 2016. Amanda Counsell will be the monitor for Divisions 1 to 6 and Toby Strang will be responsible for the 6 regionalised divisions (7 – 9). David Derrick will act as adjudicator for all fines and disputes. The times of the submission of results and the verification process will change in 2016 and be brought forward by 12 hours. The home team will be responsible for entering the result of the match and the full scorecard on the SCL website using the prescribed procedure before midday on the day following the match (ie Sunday noon for Saturday games). This result and scorecard must be verified by the away team before Monday midday following the match played on Saturday using the prescribed procedure.
14. The Committee determined that the top division in the SCL in 2016 will be called the “Premier Division” and the remainder be numbered 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7N; 7S; 8N; 8S; 9N; 9S.
15. Promotion, relegation and composition of divisions for 2016. The Committee considered the document outlining the proposed promotions, relegations and the 2016 composition that had been prepared by the Hon. Secretary. It noted that - as proposed and carried at the EGM in April 2015 - regionalisation of the last six divisions would be made for Season 2016. The proposed format was agreed and is shown in Appendix C. At the end of Season 2016 promotion/relegation between the SCL Premier Division and SCL Division 2 will be on a ‘two up and two down’ basis. The promotion/relegation for the remaining divisions will be similar, but there will be 4 teams relegated from Division 6 to the regionalised divisions 7 North and 7 South. It was also agreed that any club that withdraws a team after the ‘cut off’ date of October 3rd 2015 (when the 2016 will be completed) will be fined £100. This will help compensate for the additional administration costs involved in re-writing fixtures etc. Meanwhile, representation will be made to WEPL about a ‘two up and two’ down promotion/relegation between the “Top” division in the 4 feeder leagues and Tier 3 in WEPL.
16. The committee received a copy of the notes relating to a special meeting held on 16 September with committee members and some representatives of teams that will play in the SCL as a result of the WEPL re-structuring. These notes are shown in Appendix D. The Committee noted the observations from the meeting and agreed to frame proposals for Division 1 & 2 clubs to be determined at the AGM. These changes would be reviewed by committee at the next meeting and would include umpires for all matches with a higher price than previously; a higher priced ball; penalties for overrun when official umpires are present; final 3 games to start at 1.00 pm.; leg side wides; fielding circles; bowling restrictions.
17. The Committee discussed some possible rule changes/additions. a) Only 3 games may be cancelled for reasons other than for weather/pitch conditions, 4th cancellation will result in removal from SCL. b) Special rules for Division 1 & 2 clubs. c) 35 or 40 over games for divisions 7 – 9. d) If 35/40 overs is agreed, then bowlers may bowl a maximum of 8/10 overs respectively. e) For all divisions last 3 games of season will start at 1.00 pm. f) Already received, rule change from Taunton St. Andrews - 1pm start all season for the top 2 divisions. No exact proposals were made, but the items will be discussed at the next committee meeting in October and then formulated into proposals for the AGM. The Committee encouraged clubs that wish to put forward their own rule changes to do so as soon as possible but no later than October 16th.
18. It was agreed that the standard cricket ball used in previous seasons will be used by all teams playing in Divs. 3 – 9. The ball to be used for Divs. 1 & 2 will be debated later. The cost of the ball will be £8.50 and the more expensive ball will be £14/15.
19. Concern was expressed by members about the standards at some venues for both the pitch and off field facilities.
20. The Hon. Secretary gave details of the Presentation Night which will take place at the Shrubbery Hotel on Friday October 16. The principal guest will be Peter Trego of the SCCC. Peter will present the trophies and join Richard Walsh in a question and answer session. Tickets, which are

available from the Hon. Secretary, are again priced at £18. As the SCL Umpires Panel has now finished, the Committee will use the opportunity to present umpires with a long serving memento.

21. The Hon. Secretary said that the fixtures for 2016 would be made as soon as the exact composition of the League can be ascertained. (Any further withdrawals to be made by September 30 – see No. 15 above) A similar matrix to that used last year will be used again this year to reflect the mixture of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th XIs within the same competition. The fixtures are likely to be circulated to all clubs soon after October 8.
22. The Committee nominated five members (namely Malcolm Fox, David Derrick, Ian Latchem, Tom Packman and Derek Hicks) who had served their 3 year term for re-election to the Management Committee at the AGM in November. **The Committee is keen to enlist some younger members and anyone interested should advise the Hon. Secretary.**
23. The Committee discussed the level of expenses paid to officers.
24. Any other business. a) There had been an error in publishing the result of the ‘Team of the Month’ competition for June. It had been subsequently noticed that Trull 2nd XI had the same average as South Petherton 1st XI. Both teams had recorded an average of 35 points (Trull 2nd XI = 140 pts. from 4 matches played and South Petherton 1st XI = 105 pts. from 3 matches played). The Committee ‘drew lots’ for the prize and in the resulting draw Trull 2nd XI was awarded the Team of the Month prize for June. However, the Committee agreed to give a consolation prize to South Petherton for the disappointment.
25. The date of the next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday October 21st at 7.30 pm. at the Centre of Excellence, County Ground, Taunton.
26. The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

APPENDIX A

DON CROUCH SCORES – SEASON 2015

APPENDIX B

SCL FINAL TABLES 2015

APPENDIX C

COMPOSITION 2016

APPENDIX D

NOTES from SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE RULES MEETING