

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday
June 29 2016 at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster.

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Derek Hicks, David Derrick, Toby Strang, Amanda Counsell, Matt Counsell, Edward Martin, Martin King and Ray Hancock.

1. **Apologies** were received from Tom Packman, Ian Latchem, Andy Fairbairn and Matt Lunn.
2. **The Minutes** of the previous Management Committee Meeting (March 22 2016) and the EGM (April 11 2016) were approved.
3. **There were no matters arising.**
4. **Correspondence** received would be dealt with during the appropriate item in the agenda.
5. **The Hon. Treasurer**, Tom Packman sent a written report. He said that there was little to report at this stage of the season. No one was in debt to the League and he noted that he had received 3 claims for tea expenses. Unfortunately, there was an error with the Somerset County Sports advert in the handbook which had gone undetected. There was a blank panel in the top third of the page which should not have been blank and as that was fairly crucial to the advert he had waived their charge.
6. **Report from Disciplinary Committee** that met earlier to deal with cancelled games and other disciplinary issues. The Committee had noted the large number of cancelled games due to failure to raise a team, but agreed to take no action at this time. One particular cancellation had prompted the Hon. Secretary to issue a code of conduct for cancelling a game. This is shown in Appendix A. It was suggested that the loan scheme could help some teams to avoid cancellations. The Committee felt that early cancellations may help teams find a 'friendly' fixture, but also appreciated that teams were making every effort to complete their own team in the first instance.
7. **Umpiring and SACO.** Derek Hicks said that the Premier Division was well covered with two umpires per game and Division two matches had some umpires, but could do with more to fill the gaps. It was noted that some teams had failed to make their reports to the appointments secretariat and they would be contacted to improve their administration.
8. **Website.** It was noted that there were no issues with the website which was working well.
9. **Transfers and loans.** The committee encouraged clubs to use the loan form system to raise teams when their own resources were low.
10. **Withdrawals and new members.** The Committee expressed its concern over the number of withdrawals that had already taken place and noted that some clubs were likely to follow if they continued to cancel matches. The Hon. Secretary said that he had received an enquiry from Beaminster in Dorset to explore the possibility of membership of the SCL. The club would possibly be interested in joining the regionalised section of the SCL. The Committee agreed to accept an application from the club for membership.
11. **The use/misuse of social media.** The Committee was advised of instances of social media (twitter and Facebook) being used to bring the game into disrepute with comments from some users. So far, the

examples given were not too derogatory, but the advice of the Committee was that members of the SCL should not indulge in the unsavoury use of the media. Disciplinary action would be taken if necessary and members were reminded of the etiquette associated with the game and be aware of the possible consequences.

12. **The extra competition devised for Divisions 9N & 9S in 2016.** The withdrawal of some teams in Divisions 9 had meant that the cross border games have lost their fairness and distorted the picture. The Committee resolved that ALL cross border games be regarded as “friendly matches” and the points accrued to date would be taken from the tables of Divs.9N & 9S. Further points would not be added, but the Committee hoped that the matches would continue to be played on a friendly basis to guarantee some cricket for those teams that remained.
13. **Merit Award – teas.** It was suggested that the Committee consider promoting an award for the best teas. It was agreed that the Hon. Secretary would devise a form which teams could use to make a nomination if they wished. This would be done at the end of the season.
14. **National Cricket Playing Survey - 2016.** A further ECB survey had been circulated but the Committee decided that it was too early after the previous one to make a judgement on some of the actions and recommendations.
15. **Ground conditions.** The Grounds Committee chairman said that currently there was nothing to report but he had been alerted to a potential problem with the off field facilities at a Division 7 club. He would now monitor the problem.
16. **Don Crouch scores.** Edward Martin reported that there were currently no problems with scores recorded by clubs. At this point in time, he noted that only 3 clubs had scored less than an average of 8, two clubs were very close to 8 and he was in contact with the 3rd club about improving its performance.
17. **Club welfare officers, SPC, Safe Hands courses and DBS certificates.** Amanda Counsell, League Welfare Officer noted that SCL clubs had attained the necessary standards.
18. **Overseas players.** The Hon. Secretary said that he had received a number of requests from clubs to reconsider the issue of overseas players in the SCL. This would be ‘extra’ to the existing legislation of the OP2 permissions. Clubs had felt that an overseas player could have a ‘boosting’ effect on the team, could help address the shortage of players in the club squad and offer coaching etc. to the teams, particularly the younger members. The Committee will review the situation again before the next meeting and will await comments from the clubs regarding the re-introduction of overseas players in the SCL.
19. **Team of the Month – May.** The Team of the Month prize for May was won by East Huntspill.
20. **Possible rule changes.** The Committee will investigate the introduction of ground circles for games played in Divisions 3; 4; 5.
21. **Presentation Night.21st October 2016.** The Hon. Secretary said that the Presentation Night will be held at the Shrubbery Hotel on October 21st Richard Walsh has already indicated that he has spoken to James Hildreth of SCCC who has agreed to attend as the principal guest of the SCL.
22. **Issues raised by clubs.** There were none.
23. **Items of any other business.** a) **Interleague match.** The Assistant Secretary said that he had received a request for a match between the SCL and WSCL possibly on a Sunday in September. The Committee agreed that he should explore the possibility further. b) **Team Cards.** It was noted that some teams

were failing to complete the cards and handing to the umpire/opposing captain before the game. Team Captains are reminded that **Rule 5 Matches (j) Results Sheets i)** applies and failure to do so becomes a disciplinary offence.

24. The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Appendix A

Cancelled games. Any club that cancels a game due to weather conditions or failure to raise a team MUST follow the procedure set out below:-

DO NOT USE EMAIL,
DO NOT USE TEXT MESSAGING,
DO NOT LEAVE ANSWERPHONE MESSAGES.

These cancellations MUST be made by holding a discussion/telephone conversation with the opponents to ensure that the message has got through. Failure to cancel a game (home or away) using a conversation will result in a disciplinary meeting.