

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday
July 29 2010 at The Bridgwater Sports and Social Club, Bridgwater.

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Ian Latchem, Derek Hicks, Tom Packman, ,
Amanda Counsell, Miles Knight, Toby Strang, David Derrick, Ian Stolworthy and Ray
Hancock.

1. Apologies were received from Matthew Lunn and Martin King
2. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (May13 '10) were approved.
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes included:- a) [Min. 8.] Both Ray Hancock and Tom Packman reported that they had been monitoring the scores for the Don Crouch Trophy and had noted the 'week by week' scores by a regular printing of the statistics as the main information base gave a cumulative score only. Cancelled games (weather and non-weather cancellations) gave 'rogue' scores and it was hoped that these problems could be addressed in the future with an adjustment to the input arrangements.
4. Correspondence had been received from:- a) A note from Peter Clements suggesting that penalty points be shown in a separate column to motivate persistent offenders to get their administration correct. David Derrick felt that it would be possible to put this column into the tables next year, but it could be an unwieldy exercise. b) James Weetch of Stogumber asked about the opportunity for future coaching courses being made available to people from league clubs. The Chairman said that he would discuss the situation with Andrew Moulding the SCB Cricket Development Officer. c) Mike Wall of Wedmore raised the question of a difference of opinion between captains about the suitability of playing conditions. The Committee agreed to recommend that the 'status quo' should remain in the case of bad weather and that meant that if the captains disagreed then play should continue if the players were on the pitch and they should remain in the pavilion if play had been suspended or not started. The home team officials should determine if the ground is fit to start play, and after the game has started the umpires – even if they were players taking that role – should decide when the pitch conditions merited the suspension of play and also the resumption of play. The Committee trusted that in all circumstances common sense should prevail. d) Toby Strang raised the issue of dangerous and unsuitable playing surfaces. It was agreed that clubs experiencing these problems should advise the Hon. Secretary in writing so that the issue can be addressed. Some clubs were named and the Hon. Secretary will speak to their representatives. e) The 'off-pitch' facilities were also discussed and once again clubs experiencing a lack of basic amenities including access, toilets, shelter, seating etc. should advise the Hon. Secretary. It was noted that this poor provision was often found on a club's second ground. (More information in minute 11 below).
5. The Hon. Treasurer said that it had been a quiet period since the last meeting. However, he raised questions about the provision and need for the handbooks and triplicate results sheets. Ian Stolworthy agreed to seek more competitive estimates and the Committee would renew its discussion on the issue at the next meeting.

6. The Chairman, Malcolm Fox gave details of the most recent set of meetings and developments that he and the Hon. Secretary had had with officers of the WEPL, the SCB and the Feeder Leagues. He explained that Paul Bedford of ECB had devised a questionnaire in conjunction with the CDMs of Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire that required circulation by league secretaries to all clubs in their competitions. He expressed his concern over the wide range of clubs that would receive the documentation as for many of them it was totally irrelevant. The Committee reviewed the questionnaire and agreed that the most appropriate action was to endorse the proposal listed as appendix 2. It felt that clubs needed guidance on the response to the document as most of them would have had no previous knowledge of the current discussions that have been taking place between the officers of WEPL, the CDMs and the feeder leagues. It was agreed that the questionnaire should be sent to all league contacts (about 400 in all) and a note added to it to explain that only one response must come from each club, it must be sent back to Andrew Moulding not the Hon. Secretary, that clubs are under no compulsion to return the form if they feel that it is dealing with issues that are not relevant to their relationship with the WEPL.
7. The Hon. Secretary reminded the Committee that Whitchurch CC has withdrawn from the SCL with effect from the end of the current season and he has received enquiries from potential new clubs, but at the moment no firm applications have been made. Both Glastonbury A and Westonzoyland representatives had expressed their clubs' wish to rejoin the SCL in 2011.
8. The Committee confirmed the re-formatting of the divisions at the end of the season to create the new 'continuous' set of 12 divisions for the 2011 season as agreed at the AGM in November 2009. The Hon. Secretary said that he had acquired a different matrix for fixtures that would cope with the mixture of 1st XIs and 2nd XIs in the same division. This matrix is currently being used in the adjoining leagues and would benefit the SCL in the long term if the change to the model referred to in No. 6 above was adopted in 2012. The SCL divisions for 2011 are shown in at the end of these minutes as *Appendix 1* the notes in this appendix will explain the process that the Committee will adopt to form the new divisions.
9. The Hon. Secretary reported that the electronic system for reporting results and scorecards was working well when clubs input and verified results as requested. However, any failures in the system were entirely due to poor club administration as demonstrated by the vast majority of clubs that carried out the process correctly every week. The imposition of 'points' fines as well as money had had a perceptive effect on those clubs that showed poor administration. The Committee determined that the 'points fines' for the failure to input/verify results/scorecards would be raised to 6 points deduction for the games played in August. The Hon. Secretary said that he continued to receive congratulatory messages regarding the SCL system.
10. The Committee discussed any possible rule changes and determined that it would raise the issue again at the end of season meeting if any need for adjustment became apparent. However, it did discuss the issue of players being paid to play in the SCL and agreed to look at legislation to prevent it.
11. The Committee received Toby Strang's report of the Ground Facilities Survey that he had carried out in recent months. He also produced a summary of the forms that demonstrated a number of issues that needed addressing. It was noted that the **mandatory** requirement of a first aid kit applied to 5 clubs that needed to address the problem immediately. It was agreed that the survey in full, together with the summary should be sent to all clubs.

12. The Committee discussed a number of disciplinary items. a) The SCL received a notification that Dave Burton of Fitzhead had been banned from playing for 3 WSCL games with effect from July 3. The implications of the ban had not been made clear to Fitzhead by the WSCL and the player played in the SCL on July 10. As a result the SCL added a further week to the ban and he was not permitted to resume playing until July 31. b) It had been brought to the notice of the Committee that Sparkford 2nd XI strengthened its team on June 26 at Burnham when the 1st XI was without a fixture. The team included Simon Gerring (1st XI Captain) who scored 98 runs batting at No. 5 and Simon Hunt who bowled 12 overs in the game contrary to the regulation of not bowling before the 25 over mark. These contributions had a major impact on the result of the match where the winning total of 248 was reached by Sparkford with the final ball of the game. The Committee decided to remove all points gained by Sparkford 2nd XI in the match as the club had blatantly ignored the rules. (Pre-season circular 2010 – note 8 b.) c) The Committee considered a panel umpire's report of the behaviour of named individuals and other team members in the match between Watchet and North Petherton. After various discussions and additional information, it decided to ban Martin Strong for 4 matches commencing Aug 7; Matt Lovell was banned for 3 matches commencing Aug. 7 and the club was fined 10 points. d) The Committee was made aware of the concerns expressed by a Division 2 club regarding a recent match played in that division. The Chairman agreed to speak to the offending club.
13. The Committee discussed the Presentation Night and it was decided that Ian Stolworthy and the Hon. Secretary would both pursue the option of a cricketing celebrity to distribute the trophies and speak. The price for tickets would remain the same as the previous year at £17.50 per ticket.
14. There were two items of any other business that the Committee considered. a) The team of the month for both May and June had resulted in a tie between:- for May, Street 2nd XI and Wellington 2nd XI and for June, East Huntspill 1st IX and Kilmington & Stourton 2nd XI. The Chairman drew lots and the May prize was won by Street 2nd IX and the June prize was won by Kilmington & Stourton 2nd XI. b) It was agreed that clubs could change the date of the fixture on Saturday August 14 (SCCC in the twenty 20 finals) providing that both teams were in agreement, the Hon. Secretary was advised of new date and the re-arranged match took place before the end of the season on Saturday August 28.
15. The date of the next meeting was recommended for mid/late September and a date for it would be circulated shortly.
16. The meeting closed at 10.40 pm.

APPENDIX 1

Format of Divisions for Season 2011

All positions determined **after** promotions and relegations have been made

New Division

1. Comprises top 10 teams from Div 1. (1st XI Comp.)
2. Comprises top 10 teams from Div 2. (1st XI Comp.)
3. Comprises top 10 teams from Div 3 (1st XI Comp.)
4. Comprises top 10 teams from Div 1. (2nd XI Comp.)
5. Comprises top 10 teams from Div 4. (1st XI Comp.)
6. Comprises top 10 teams from Div 5. (1st XI Comp.)
7. Comprises top 10 teams from Div 2. (2nd XI Comp.)
8. Comprises top 10 teams from Div 6. (1st XI Comp.)
9. NE Comprises the 10 teams from Div 3NE (2nd XI Comp.)
9. SW Comprises the 10 teams from Div 3SW (2nd XI Comp.)
10. NE Comprises the 10 teams from Div 4NE (2nd XI Comp.)
10. SW Comprises the 10 teams from Div 4SW (2nd XI Comp.)

The Committee will determine the final make-up of the divisions should it be necessary to promote more or relegate less than the usual two teams.