

## **West of England Premier League (WEPL) Re-structure**

### **Update for members of the Bristol & District and the Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire County Cricket Leagues**

As you are probably aware, at the WEPL AGM on January 7 the clubs voted overwhelmingly for the Re-structure. The details are below.

This structure was unanimously proposed by WEPL, the 4 Feeder Leagues and the 3 County Boards in response to the evidence from the 2014 National Cricket Playing Survey and discussions among and between Clubs, Boards and Leagues. It cannot be emphasised enough how much this unity and common sense of purpose has transformed the situation and provides a firm platform for the next stages. A key benefit will be reduced travel time and cost, with only teams needing cricket of a higher standard than can be provided in-county playing in a multi-county system.

It was agreed that the proposal would not include the detailed implications for individual clubs because that would divert the discussion to “my club” rather than focusing on the principles of the proposed structure. The principles will be worked up by all interested parties with a definitive objective of publication before the start of the 2015 playing season, and hopefully communication at the various leagues’ Balls Meetings. These principles will cover the implications for all the teams currently in WEPL and the four Feeder Leagues.

As the 2015 season progresses these principles will be converted into predictions as to how, if the current league positions remained unchanged until the end of the season, each team will be impacted. These predictions will be updated on a monthly basis throughout the season to ensure that each team will have a clear indication of its likely place in the new structure for the 2016 season. NB While it is not anticipated that any team will be placed in a “clearly wrong” position, it is accepted that it may take two to three seasons for the totally correct placements to stabilise.

The following principles have been agreed for the divisions below WEPL in the B&D and three County Leagues:

- The Feeder Leagues will continue to be linear, which will also be the new arrangement for the top 3 WEPL tiers
- Fixtures will be jointly planned by WEPL and the 4 Feeder Leagues to avoid ground clashes
- The standard of WEPL 2<sup>nd</sup> XI relative to Feeder League teams is difficult to assess and therefore, for 2016, WEPL Tier 4 2<sup>nd</sup> XI teams could be moved from WEPL to the Feeder Leagues “en bloc’ and, if necessary, processes to accelerate promotion/relegation will be adopted
- The Facilities Criteria and Playing Conditions for all the leagues will need to be reviewed, and adjustments made where necessary to maximise the quality of both the cricket played and the grounds on which it is played. If necessary, these adjustments will be staged over more than one season.

There is clearly much work to be done and, although this will be led by the groups above, there will be consultation with clubs and players to inform the process.

If you have any questions, please talk to your local League Officers.

