

The Restructure of WEPL & SCL

Preamble.

1. At the end of the 2015 season, the WEPL Board will make the promotions and relegations in the same way that it has done in previous seasons. (Note. At this point at the start of the 2015 Season it is not possible to 'guess at' which teams will remain in the WEPL and which will return to feeder leagues.
2. However, at the end of the 2015 season, any 1st XI team in Premier 1 & 2 & Tier 3 can guarantee WEPL membership in 2016.
3. At the end of the 2015 season most 1st XI teams in tier 4 of WEPL will remain in WEPL 2016, but some that finish at the bottom of Bristol, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wilts divisions will return to their feeder league.
4. The top FOUR 2nd XIs from Premier 1 (2nd XI Comp.) will remain in the WEPL structure in the appropriate new Tier 3 division (ie Bristol or Somerset or Gloucester or Wiltshire).
5. Currently, there are 80 teams in the 1st XI structure of the WEPL. In 2016, these 80 x 1st XI teams will be reduced to 66 teams due to the change of the WEPL format and the retention of 4 x 2nd XIs.
6. As a result of No. 5 above, 14 x 1st XIs currently in the Tier 4 of WEPL will be returned to their feeder leagues. This averages out at 3½ teams per feeder league. So each feeder league can anticipate anything from 2 – 5 of these teams returning dependent upon the geographical factor.
7. Added to this number of 1st XIs, three of the four feeder leagues (not Somerset) will get back 10 x 2nd XI teams from Tier 4 of the defunct WEPL 2nd XI competition. It is their problem to cope with these teams. Fortunately, Somerset teams were never involved in Tier 4 of the 2nd XI competition of WEPL. The exercise of integration of 2nd XIs into the linear SCL was carried out a few years ago and these teams currently sit in SCL divisions between Div. 3 to Div. 7.
8. The total number of 2nd XIs to be returned from Tiers 1, 2 & 3 of the WEPL 2nd XI competition will be 36 (ie 40 teams less the 4 teams retained in the new structure). On this basis, each feeder league can expect about 9 2nd XIs, but this will clearly depend on the geographical make up, particularly from Premier 1 & 2.

The Somerset Scenario.

9. We anticipate that we will receive back 3 or 4 x 1st XIs and 10 x 2nd XIs. (Note. Andy's survey showed that Bath, Midsomer Norton & Lansdown have decided to play in the B & D. This is not surprising for travelling and time constraints.
10. Currently, the SCL has 11 divisions comprising 10 teams in each (in theory, but a few less in reality) as there are only 107 teams signed up for the 2015 season.
11. The SCL will put any 'relegated 1st XI team from WEPL' into the top SCL division.

12. The SCL will put any 're-allocated 2nd XI team from:-
 - a) WEPL' Prem. 1 (2nd XI comp.) into SCL Div. 1
 - b) WEPL' Prem. 2 (2nd XI comp.) into SCL Div. 2
 - c) WEPL' Tier 3 (2nd XI comp.) into SCL Div. 3
 - d) WEPL' Tier 4 (2nd XI comp.) into SCL Div. 3
13. The final decision relating to 12.a), b), c), d) will be made later when a whole raft of other factors are known and taken into account. The SCL Management Committee will make this decision in the best interest of the teams concerned and the league as a whole.
14. These additions will inevitably mean that throughout the Somerset Cricket League more teams than usual will be relegated, some will be promoted only to find that they finish up in the same numerical division and some may seem to go even two divisions lower. However, hopefully every team will be playing alongside teams of a similar standard.
15. The SCL Management Committee will make these decisions (points 11 & 12 above) without reference to the WEPL or other feeder leagues' strategies at the end of the 2015 season.
16. The outcome of these movements will make the SCL a league of approximately 120 teams.
17. The SCL Management Committee will publish this document on March 11 as agreed by the working group.
18. The SCL Management Committee will give these details to its member clubs both in writing and through discussion at the EGM on April 13.
19. The message that the SCL will be giving to its membership is:-
 - a) It cannot foresee the exact number of 1st and 2nd XIs that will join the SCL for the 2016 season, but it is likely to be about 13.
 - b) Many teams will be placed in a lower numerical division after the re-structure.
 - c) As there is uncertainty about the number of "new arrivals", every team should 'play its heart out' to finish as high as possible in its appropriate division!

Malcolm Fox
Ray Hancock
Somerset Cricket League
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