



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Honorary Secretary's Report 2021

Prepared by Ray Hancock
November 2021

The Somerset Cricket League continued to flourish even against a background of covid and other limitations. West Monkton C. C. joined in 2019/20 but had to wait until 2021 to play in a proper league structure as 2020 was still the year of the 'Bubbles'. In the club's first year in our League, it did exceptionally well by finishing second and gaining promotion to Division 1.

The Somerset Cricket League was able to organise a more conventional programme in 2021 as cricket returned to its normal format of leagues, promotion, relegation and competitions. 104 teams competed in 11 divisions and the only change related to covid cases where games were not played and an average system determined the points won. The League lost Weston s Mare 5th XI, but otherwise escaped unscathed.

At the time of writing this report the numbers have continued to increase and in 2022 the SCL will comprise 110 teams in 11 full divisions. The seven new teams that have joined the SCL for next season are Wiveliscombe 1st XI, North Curry, North Newton 2nd XI, (all from the WSCL); Shaftesbury Road (WsM), Bear Flat 2nd XI, Compton Dundon and Mark 2nd XI. At the other end of the spectrum, North Petherton 1st XI and Yeovil 1st XI were promoted to Tier 3 of WEPL, while Taunton St. Andrews 2nd XI and Staplegrave 1st XI have re-joined the Somerset Premier Division from Tier 3.

North Petherton won the J C Bail Trophy for the winners of the Premier Division of the MSC.SCL and the club's 1st XI had a comfortable 16-point margin over Wells 1st XI. The Brian Stockhill Trophy for the winners of Division 2 was taken by Lympsham & Belvedere 1st XI with 530 points - a large 63-point margin over Bridgwater 3rd XI. Burnham on Sea 1st XI took the Bryan Lobb Memorial Trophy by winning Division 3 with a margin of 17 points over second placed West Monkton 1st XI. At the end of the competition, Wedmore 1st XI was 38 points clear of Ilton 1st XI and won the Terry Mockridge Memorial Trophy. Street 1st XI with 522 points won the Shrubbery Hotel Trophy in Division 5 with a 11-point advantage over Cranmore 1st XI. Division 6 was the first of the regionalised divisions. The Southern version was won by Wellington 2nd XI with 486 points. This was a 21-point margin over Sparkford 1st XI in second place. In the North, Churchill 1st XI won with 554 points, the highest accumulation of all divisions. This was achieved by creating a comfortable margin of 68 points over second placed Horrington.

Mark 1st XI totalled 323 points at an average of 24.85 points in Division 7 (Yellow) where the division comprised only 8 teams. The average system had also been used to determine league positions in the yellow division. Weston super Mare 4th XI were in second place with an average of 23.5 points even though the team had 6 more points than Mark. However, the average system prevailed and Mark beat Weston by 1.35 average points. Wincanton 1st XI won Division 7 (Green) with a one-point advantage over Castle Cary 2nd XI. The scores were the closest of the season with Wincanton scoring 460 points

and Castle Cary amassing 459 points. In Division 7 (Blue), Kilmington & Stourton 2nd XI, won the division with 416 points, while Glastonbury 1st XI finished the season only 3 points behind them. In Division 7 (Red) Ilminster 3rd XI took the title by recording an average score of 22.57 from 316 points while Stoke St. Gregory with more points (337) finished 2nd with an average score 22.47.

The Sunday Independent Cup, which is awarded for the highest points' aggregate of all 11 divisions was won by Churchill 1st XI. The Committee determines the Young Player of the Year and the best All Rounder. In 2021, the young player trophy was renamed "The Monmouth Scientific Cricket League – Young Player of the Year Trophy". It awarded this new trophy to Jimmy Clark of Cheddar C C and Tom Hall of Winscombe C C took the Glastonbury Mowers All Rounders Award.

The Team of the Month prizes were won by four different clubs. The sponsors, Monmouth Scientific Ltd. took over the provision of the prizes and gave each winning club a high-quality bat. The winners were Glastonbury 1st XI (May); Churchill 1st XI (June); Kilmington & Stourton 2nd XI (July); Castle Cary 2nd XI (August). The Don Crouch Trophy, which is awarded for sportsmanship based on the scores recorded by their opponents, was won by Queen Camel C C. This year the trophy was won by the average scores of all club teams rather than an individual team.

The individual performances for the season have been accurately catalogued in the various statistical pages on the ECB website and those interested in this aspect of the game should consult the website (<https://somcl.play-cricket.com/>) for this detailed information. **play-cricket.com** continued to provide a huge range of cricket statistics, while also managing the registration and results systems. Amanda Counsell from the Committee made a major contribution in registrations and results recording on the website. The SCL was also fortunate in that John Squirrell continued to manage the website using his unique skills to meet the challenges offered by the ECB's play-cricket website. The 'Rules Meeting' did not take place this year and the items suggested for debate will be dealt with at the AGM.

Drawing up the fixture list continues to be a time-consuming exercise. Matching home and away coupled with ground unavailability on some Saturdays made it a difficult task. Furthermore, the changes in the divisional structure of teams in the Divisions 7's has required some imagination to complete the task. The fixtures in the WEPL pyramid were relatively easy to organise and I was able to complete that aspect of the fixture's exercise in good time and before I embark on the Somerset League. The WEPL group, involving officers of WEPL and the feeder leagues, determined that all fixtures will be released on December 15 across the WEPL region.

Properly qualified Club Welfare Officers has become a key issue in most sports organisations and cricket is no exception. Safeguarding and protecting children in sport has become a key responsibility for all clubs and we in cricket are very fortunate to have a team of experts based at headquarters who are quick to respond to any concern. In the Somerset League we are fortunate that we have a very competent officer, Amanda Counsell who ensures all clubs have suitably qualified officers to deal with club welfare.

This year the League's Dinner and Presentation Evening returned to the County Ground after an absence from the home of Somerset cricket of 20 years. Stuart Shepherd, who organised the event this year. reported that approximately 160 people attended. It was an excellent evening and enjoyed by all who attended. Both the guests, Lord Archer and Jason Kerr were well received and engaging. The Chairman, Edward Martin, expressed his thanks to Stuart for a well-organise event. The raffle raised £595, and this sum will be donated locally to "Love Musgrove".

Ray Hancock
Hon. Secretary MSC.SCL,
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