



# SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of Division 7 & 8 meeting to discuss restructure of divisions on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 7.30pm on Zoom

**Present - Edward Martin, Amanda Counsell, Matthew Counsell, David Derrick, Toby Strang, Andy Barrett, Simon Glover, Nicola Clarke and Andy Fairbairn**

**31 of 33 clubs were represented, see appendix**

1. Edward Martin opened the meeting, and asked Matt Counsell to make a short presentation to the clubs to illustrate why changes to the current regional divisions 7 & 8 were needed.

2. MC went on to explain that the MSL committee were concerned that the current structure no longer fills the brief of reduced travel times, and was leading to more cancellations, and teams were playing each other 3 or 4 times a season.

MC shared the current travel times for all clubs, and shared the revised structure of 4 divisions of 9. Rules regarding strengthening of teams, and cancellation of the lowest team remain in place, but the suggestion was that games between teams from the same club would be played in week 1 and week 10 (the traditional turn around point) to prevent teams from using those games to their benefit towards the end of the season.

The 4 x 9 structure significantly reduces travel time for some clubs, and the average travel time is generally 35 minutes. It was hoped reduced travel time would appeal to u18s, u25s and players with families, and help convert casual players (5 or less games) into regular players. This structure would also make the divisions more resilient if teams drop out, rather than a potential division of 6 or 7 teams.

Teams would have 16 games, and 2 weekends free.

There would be 0 relegations and 1 promotion from each division.

3. Clubs were invited to ask questions and raise any concerns. Discussions were had surrounding diluting the competition, and make it harder for clubs to narrow the gap between teams.

There were also comments regarding how teams were regularly fielding less than 11 players and this was not competitive either, so any actions to keep players in the game were welcome.

It was felt that the lack of relegation would allow young players to enjoy the game more, and there were still the same number of promotion spots as previously.

A play-off was suggested, but the issues of weather, pitch availability and player availability in September was cited as potential stumbling blocks but the MSL committee would consider further if a plan was proposed in the normal manner.

4. EM outlined the two options. Leave as the current structure, or reorganise the divisions to reduce travelling (to vote for option two was to accept the rule changes). It is the duty of the

MSL to fill the brief set out by clubs, but ultimately it was up to the clubs to accept the recommended changes.

c) Promotion and relegation shall be on a two up/two down basis, except that promotion within Divisions 6 - (S and N) shall be two teams per division and relegation from Division 5 to Division 6 shall be four teams, put into the most appropriate regional division and Division 7 (Red, Green, Blue, Yellow) where it will be one team promoted and put into the most appropriate regional division, subject to amendments by the Management Committee; any such amendments to be notified to all member clubs as necessary. Positions are to be determined by the aggregate number of points obtained during the season. However, the bottom 6 divisions will be regionalised irrespective of the number of divisions.

d) A club's 2nd XI (or lower level team) must be in a lower division than its 1st XI (or higher level team), and promotion will be denied to the 2nd XI (or lower level team) or relegation enforced on the 2nd XI (or lower level team) to ensure this so that a club shall have no more than one team in any one division. except in Division 7 and below where teams from the same club can be in the same division.

5. Clubs were then asked to vote, Andy Fairbairn counted the votes.  
 23 clubs voted in favour of the changes  
 8 clubs voted against the changes  
 The proposal to change the structure of divisions 7 & 8 was carried.

## Appendix

Results from tonight:

DIVISION 7N	Present	
Burnham-on-Sea CC - 2nd XI	Y	Galaxy
Cheddar CC - 2nd XI	Y	
Churchill CC - 2nd XI	Y	
Harpree Villages CC – 1st XI	NO	
Lydford Sports CC - 2nd XI	Y	
Middlezoy CC - 2nd XI	NO	
Purnell CC - 2nd XI	Y	
Wells CC - 2nd XI	NO	
Wembdon CC - 4th XI	Y	
Weston Super Mare CC - 4th XI	Y	
DIVISION 7S		
Castle Cary CC - 2nd XI	NO	
Crewkerne CC - 2nd XI	NO	
Ilminster CC - 3rd XI	Y	
Kilminster & Stourton CC - 2nd XI	Y	
North Perrott CC - 3rd XI	NO	
North Petherton CC - 2nd XI	Y	
Taunton CC - 3rd XI	Y	

TICC Curry Rivel- 1st XI	NO
Wincanton CC - 1st XI	NO
Yeovil CC - 3rd XI	Y

**DIVISION 8N**

Cranmore CC - 2nd XI	Y
Glastonbury 1 <sup>st</sup> XI	Y
Mark CC - 1st XI	Y
Peasedown-St-John CC – 1st XI	
Wedmore CC - 2nd XI	Y

**DIVISION 8S**

Chard CC - 3rd XI	
Huish & Langport CC - 2nd XI	Y
Ilton CC - 2nd XI	Y
Queen Camel- 1st XI	Y
Sparkford CC - 2nd XI	Y
Stoke St. Gregory- 1st XI	Y
Taunton Deane CC – 5th XI	Y
Wellington CC - 3rd XI	Y

FOR	23
Against	8