



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Monday December 9, 2019 at Wembdon Cricket Club, Bridgwater

All clubs were represented at the meeting with the exception of Purnell CC, Peasedown CC and Burnham on Sea CC. These clubs were fined £40 as per rule.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. There were apologies from Derek Hicks.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting (AGM 10 December 2018), which had been circulated beforehand, were accepted as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The Chairman, Malcolm Fox welcomed members of the SCL to the AGM and said that clubs had enjoyed an excellent season with good weather, and this had been reflected in the quality of the cricket. He explained that a new sponsor had taken over from the Shrubbery Hotel in the Best Western Hotel Group. He was delighted that Monmouth Scientific Ltd. had agreed to sponsor the SCL and the first year of the sponsorship had been most successful. He noted that commitment to all aspects of sport was providing a testing time and cricket was no exception. He urged all people involved in sport to seek out a solution to this aspect of participation. He felt that it was important that youngsters and fringe players be involved and be given a prolonged opportunity to play and contribute.

He said that in recent weeks we had received the news that Ian Latchem had died. Ian, who had been a life member of the League, had made a major commitment to the League in its early days through his role as the Results Secretary. He reminded members of the results service that Ian operated before calculators and computers become the tools of the administer. He wrote everything by hand and his 'end of season' averages were a work of art. He noted that Ian's funeral will take place at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath on Wednesday December 18 at 2.30 pm.

5. The Honorary Secretary outlined the key aspects of his report, which had been previously circulated to all members. He noted that the Somerset Cricket League had found a new sponsor in 2019 when Monmouth Scientific Ltd. became the 4th sponsor of the League since its inception in 1973. He said that the SCL is most grateful to David Pomeroy, Chairman and founder of the Bridgwater based company for his decision to support local cricket. He noted that David is also Chairman of Middlezoy Cricket Club, so he knows what cricket means to the clubs and players in the County. The League again lost several teams during and prior to the playing season. However, on the brighter side, Leigh on Mendip CC and Kilmington & Stourton CC have entered additional teams. Three new teams have joined the SCL for the 2020 season. Stoke St. Gregory from the WSCL; Beaminster 2nd XI from the Dorset County League and TICCR Curry Rivel. Taunton St. Andrews 2nd XI and Staplegrove 1st XI will play in Tier 3 of WEPL in 2020. The former won the J C Bail Trophy for the winners of the Premier Division of the SCL. T.St.A had a comfortable 28-point margin over Staplegrove. Instead of the usual promotion/relegation of two teams, the SCL received three teams from Tier 3 of WEPL

(Somerset Division) due to the anomalies in the make up in the WEPL divisions after promotion and relegation had taken place. However, the issue was resolved at Div. 3 level as that division was already depleted. All divisional trophy winners received their awards at the SCL Presentation evening at Wembdon. The Sunday Independent Cup, which is awarded for the highest points' aggregate of all 11 divisions was won by Trull 1st XI for the second year running. The Ladbrokes Trophy for the 'Club of the Year' was won by Lympsham & Belvedere CC, while the Don Crouch Trophy, which is awarded for sportsmanship based on the scores recorded by their opponents, was won by Huish & Langport 2nd XI. The Committee determines the Young Player of the Year and the best All Rounder. In 2019, the young player trophy was renamed "The Monmouth Scientific Cricket League – Young Player of the Year Trophy". It awarded this new trophy to James Hawksworth of Long Sutton CC and Kevin Curtis of Temple Cloud CC took the Glastonbury Mowers All Rounders Award. The Team of the Month prizes were won by four different clubs and were distributed on appropriate times during the season. Monmouth Scientific Ltd. took over the provision of the prizes and gave tickets for SCCC 20/20 matches amongst other goodies. He noted that the 'Rules Meeting' was again cancelled due to a lack of proposals. Drawing up the fixtures list continued to be a difficult job. Matching home & aways coupled with ground unavailability on some Saturdays has made it a time-consuming task. Furthermore, the low numbers of teams in divisions 8N & 8S has required some imagination to give all 14 teams 18 fixtures. Properly qualified Club Welfare Officers has become a key issue in most sports organisations and cricket is no exception. Bad language, dissent aimed at the officials and opponents, misuse of social media sites, together with bad behaviour often witnessed by the spectators, have again raised concerns amongst the Committee. This year the League's Dinner and Presentation Evening was held for the first time at Wembdon Cricket Club. The Club did a magnificent job in hosting this event and this year the principal guest, Dom Bess was joined by Matt Counsell in a 'question and answer' session. He concluded his remarks with thanks to the members of the Management Committee for the contributions they make towards the successful and efficient running of the business of the Somerset Cricket League.

6. The Treasurer explained the details and structure of the Monmouth Scientific sponsorship deal. He then reported to the meeting that the accounts for the year ending 30th September 2019 showed a surplus of £1668.57p and that the League had assets valued at £21482.90p. The Management Committee were aware that they needed to justify the build up of assets and are considering further measures of expenditure that would be of benefit to member clubs. He reminded clubs that there was now an application form on the Forms Menu of the League website for subsidy of SCB Courses. Clubs subscriptions for 2020 had already been collected and those for 2021 would stay at the same level. The price of the 2020 league cricket ball would be maintained at £9 per ball. The Treasurer mentioned that the league held a small quantity of 2019 league cricket balls and clubs could order either six or twelve of these at the price of £7 per ball on a first come first served basis.
7. Election of Officers: -
 - a) The following persons were proposed by the Management Committee and accepted by the meeting for re-election for a three-year term on the Management Committee. Ray Hancock and Edward Martin.
 - b) Honorary Auditor. Andy Stephens Winscombe CC.
8. Club Welfare Officers and the Registration of Players. Amanda Counsell (SCL Welfare Officer) said "Welfare - all clubs have had an email reminder telling them if they need to update any welfare qualifications from data previously share with league. For any current CWO a refresher is available in Taunton on 3rd February 2020 and any Safeguarding and Protecting children course can be renewed online and take about any hour. For all new welfare officers, they need to attend a full safe hands course which is running in Bath in March and attend a safeguarding and protecting children course which are run by SASP or WESPORT. Also, important that within your clubs that your DBSs need to be up to date and that includes, all CWOs, Captains and Coaches. These are now completed online, don't take too long to complete.

PC Website

A full audit will take place over the next few weeks and players who have not played in the last 18 months in the SCL will be removed. This will help with transfer issues.

If you have anyone who owes your club money and that you need blocked from moving for 2020 please let me know with details by 27th December.

Registrations have become lax, ideally a player should register themselves on your club play cricket site and then as a club you can apply for league registration.

So, moving forward if clubs register players, they need to enter full address, date of birth and passport type.

OP2 - I am hoping not to remove current OP2 players (currently taking advice from ECB) - if I need to, if they have been with your club for the last 2 years, I will not ask to see proof of visas etc again unless details have changed.

Our user guide will be updated before the start of the season and will be permanently housed on the home page of the website.

Umpires

If your club has a league umpire allocated the umpires' reports are required through 'who's the umpire'. This year we had to chase many times for late reports. From 2020 any late reports will incur a 3-point penalty as laid down in our rules. It is really important that these are completed as the umpires are providing us with a service and the reports help the umpires gain valuable feedback for their development and future roles within umpiring.

9. Edward Martin, the Disciplinary Committee Secretary, discussed discipline in general and also raised a number of issues including the points system and its implications for the Don Crouch Trophy. This will be a club competition in 2020 rather than a team one. He suggested that some consideration should be given to having 50 over matches in the top division in readiness for those teams that get promotion to WEPL.
10. Andy Fairbairn, Somerset Cricket Board Executive Director spoke to a paper that he had distributed at the meeting. This included an ECB update, "Inspiring Generations – New Strategy for 2020 – 2025" and Somerset Cricket Board's support and development during the same period. A copy of Andy's paper is attached to these minutes. Further information can be found at www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk update on the user guide and a note about questionnaires.
11. Matt Counsell of the Somerset Cricket Board & SCL Management Committee said "the Contacts Questionnaire will be sent out in early January by the Somerset Cricket Board with their Club Support Offer (Club Affiliation).
To ensure the league can communicate effectively with the right people at your club in 2020 we require all clubs to complete this questionnaire ASAP when you receive it. These details will also be available to the leagues and competitions that you enter who use Play-Cricket to manage their competitions so you will not have to complete multiple questionnaires for different leagues you play in. Thank you to all clubs who have already updated contacts ahead of the 2020 season".
12. SOMERSET SENIORS CRICKET - Nigel Manley
Somerset run Seniors' teams in the Over 50, Over 60 and Over 70 age groups with all age groups participating in the National League. The Over 50s run two sides who play on Sundays and/or Thursdays. The Over 60s run two sides who play on Tuesdays. The Over 70s, who are returning to the National League in 2020 having played in a Regional Counties League for the past few seasons, play on Thursdays. In addition Somerset Seniors are running a friendly team with a mixture over Over 60s and Over 70s in 2020.
Eligibility is straightforward with players qualifying to play for Somerset if they meet any one of the following criteria.
 - a) Live in Somerset
 - b) Have been born in Somerset
 - c) Play or have played regularly if no longer playing for a team in Somerset

Players can actually play for a team if they are a year young i.e. 49 in Over 50s, 59 in Over 60s, 69 in Over 70s although there are restrictions on the number of underage players playing in a match. The Over 60s 1st XI has been particularly successful in the National Competition recently, reaching the semi-final in 2014, becoming National Champions in 2015 and they were losing finalists this season.

Somerset Seniors try to spread their home fixtures across the county but are fortunate to play on some of Somerset's best grounds. Venues in 2019 included Wembdon, Taunton Deane, Midsomer Norton, North Perrott, Brislington and Clevedon to name but a few.

Pre-season nets have been arranged for the Over 60s and Over 70s at Weston-Super-Mare CC for four Wednesday mornings, the first being on March 18th.

Somerset Seniors would be delighted to welcome any new members, be they players, umpires or scorers. It may well be that some older club members have stopped playing regularly or even at all but would welcome the opportunity to play again.

Contact for Somerset Seniors can be found on the link on the Somerset Cricket Board website but I append single contacts below.

Over 50s Chris Golding Email cgolding@idealstandard.com

Over 60s and Over 70s Adrian Procter Email trudenade@hotmail.com

or from 1/1/20 somersetseiniorscricket@gmail.com

13. The results of the ballots for Rule Changes of the Somerset Cricket League were given.

Proposed Rule Change No. 1

Cheddar CC

Propose 30-minute tea interval for SCL, but this interval must be no longer than 30 minutes.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

WEPL is currently 30 minutes and SCL 20 minutes in the rule book. The tea interval of 20 minutes is unrealistic especially with the increase of buffet style teas with the home side waiting for the visiting side to serve themselves first, especially if the home side is then fielding after tea.

For 31 Against 4 Abstain 1 Carried

Proposed Rule Change No. 2

Cheddar CC

Wide lines should be painted blue or white –

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Currently blue or red and when they are red they can be difficult to see with wear and tear and sun glare. **The Management Committee second this proposal if 'white' is disregarded. ie. ONLY BLUE**

For 26 Against 4 Abstain 5 Carried

Proposed Rule Change No. 3

Management Committee

5 v) When a game is cancelled for any reason other than the weather, the defaulting team shall be awarded 0 points **on the first occasion**, provided the match is cancelled by 9 pm on the preceding Friday, but will lose 8 points if the cancellation is any later. To ensure that this is recorded correctly, this must be **emailed to Registration/results secretary before the 9.00 pm deadline. Any further cancellations during the season will result in the defaulting side being awarded MINUS 5 POINTS per cancellation.**

For 25 Against 7 Abstain 7 Carried

Proposed Rule Change No. 4

Management Committee

5. MATCHES (n) Don Crouch Trophy. The average marks of ALL club teams, recorded in the team captains' reports, will determine the winner of the Don Crouch Trophy.

For 33 Against 1 Abstain 5 Carried

14. There were no items of any other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

Ray Hancock.
Hon. Secretary
January 2, 2020