

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting
held on Tuesday March 3 2009- at The Ruishton Inn, Ruishton, Taunton.

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Brian Stockhill (President), Ian Latchem, Derek Hicks, Tom Packman, Matthew Lunn and Ray Hancock.

1. Apologies were received from Amanda Counsell, Toby Strang, Martin King, Bob Foster and Ian Stolworthy.
2. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (Oct. 8 '08) were approved.
3. Matters arising from the previous minutes included:- a) [Min. 5.] a report by the Hon. Treasurer that he anticipated a deficit of £900 at the end of the current season due mainly to the reduced numbers that attended the dinner in October '08 and the subsidy towards the coaching course. At the moment he did not expect to recommend an increase in the annual subscriptions but he would carefully monitor the situation for any future change. b) [Min. 7] The Hon Secretary reported that he had received satisfactory assurances from Banwell & Churchill and Ilton that they had addressed the issue of cancelled games by their 2nd XIs and expected to be able to fulfil all fixtures in the forthcoming season.
4. Correspondence had been received from:- a) The League Cricket Conference that would be kept for reference purposes and for any referral on the issue of overseas players. b) Items from insurance companies. The first was a bid from PCM Risk Solutions to quote the SCL for PL insurance, which the Committee rejected. The second was from the current insurers, Mann Broadbent, offering to give a presentation on all insurance issues to clubs. The Committee agreed that this would take place at the EGM (April 20) and clubs would be reminded to bring any relevant insurance questions/concerns to the meeting. c) An email was received from Steve Chaudoir, Castle Cary CC, asking the Committee to consider a return to the 'non regionalization' of the 2nd XI Competition. It felt that this was an AGM issue and any reconsideration of the 2nd XI structure would require a proper proposal from clubs or the Management Committee at the end of the season. The Committee was not in favour of such a proposal. d) The Hon. Secretary had confirmed the order of 12000s of cricket balls for the coming season and had agreed with David Cooper of Crusader Sports that these will need to be delivered to the Shrubbery Hotel on April 20 for the EGM. e) The Hon. Secretary reported that he had received an email from Iain Fraser of Winscombe CC to say that the club would be running a Safeguarding and Protecting Children course and that there may be a few spare spaces for other clubs. The Hon. Secretary would circulate this information to clubs and the Committee recommended that all clubs without a suitably qualified Welfare Officer take advantage of a place on this course (April 2). f) Emails concerning overlapping seasons of cricket and soccer from Wellington CC were noted. The Committee gave its full support to the Wellington CC and offered to participate in any discussion forum with the interested parties. The Chairman and Hon. Secretary had been kept fully informed and would continue to monitor the situation.

5. The Committee was advised that the recent ECB Coaching Course for Level 1, which was part sponsored by the SCL, had been very successful and 24 candidates had taken the course. Most had completed the course and passed the assessment module, but a few had still to finalise some aspects. The Chairman said that he will be having further discussions with SCB's Cricket Development Officer, Andrew Moulding, regarding future courses that will be organised jointly between the SCL and SCB.
6. The Chairman, Malcolm Fox gave details of meetings that he and the Hon. Secretary had had with officers of the WEPL and 23 Somerset clubs. The purpose had been to clarify a number of aspects regarding the future administration and playing conditions of those clubs in the Somerset Division of WEPL and the status of their 2nd XIs. The Committee was advised of the current state of the discussions and it looked forward to a satisfactory outcome of them. It was noted that copies of the discussion papers and minutes were available on the website.
7. The Committee was advised of the recent changes set down by the ECB and the Government departments in relation to the recruitment of overseas players. It reaffirmed its position with regard to those players registered under an OP2 and OP3 application and agreed that the same process as before would continue. However, it stressed that all OP1 applications should now include an endorsement from the clubs concerned that the proper and legal processes had been followed. Photocopies of any relevant paperwork should accompany the SCL OP1 form which would require modification for 2009. The Hon. Secretary was asked to amend the OP1 accordingly to reflect these changes. It was understood that he would take advice from the League Cricket Conference on how the overseas players system should be managed by a League.
8. The Hon. Secretary reported that the detail for the Handbook was almost complete and most of it was already with the printer. There had been a few advertisers that had not yet responded, but it was hoped that these may still wish to advertise. The possible inclusion of some coloured pages was discussed and it was left to the Secretary and Treasurer to determine if this was feasible and possibly increase the advertising charge to those who took advantage of colour.
9. The Hon. Secretary produced a revised copy of the Results Sheet for 2009. The Treasurer had carried out a further modification and after a short discussion it was agreed that the latter revision would be used this year and clubs would be required to give a more detailed mark for the Don Crouch Trophy (sportsmanship award). Clubs failing to complete this section of the form would attract a similar fine as per Rule 5(k). It was also confirmed that clubs that received consistently low marks in any section could face a disciplinary hearing. Furthermore, the statistics would be analysed and retained by the Results Secretary and could be used at disciplinary hearings.
10. The Committee discussed the need to establish a policy for dealing with reports of unsatisfactory playing surfaces and facilities. It determined that grounds that are reported to the Hon. Secretary as being below an acceptable standard as far as the playing surface is concerned will be investigated if more than one complaint occurs. This will be carried out by the SCB Pitch Advisory Service and any costs involved will be invoiced to the club concerned. Complaints regarding 'off field' facilities will be investigated by member(s) of the Management Committee. In due course, the Committee will endeavour to draw up a 'Minimum Standards for Grounds and

Facilities' document with an agreed timescale for implementation of recommendations.

11. The Committee confirmed that the rules for 'Strengthening of Teams', introduced in 2008, will remain in place for the 2009 Season.
12. The Committee decided to purchase ties for members of the Umpires Panel. These ties will have the Shrubbery Logo woven into a green background. Club umpires will also be able to purchase a 'Green Umpires Tie' at a cost of £7.50. Shrubbery League ties for any other person will also be available for purchase. These ties will be similar to the umpires' ties, except that the base colour will be blue to create a distinction. These will also be available at £7.50. The details of the purchase arrangements will be sent out to all clubs by the Hon. Secretary.
13. The Hon. Secretary said that he had received quite a number of PL Insurance forms and would be confirming the exact details with clubs. Insurance generally starts on March 1st so clubs would be well advised to ensure that they have completed an insurance request form and returned it to him if they still require cover. A similar position exists in relation to cricket balls. A list of orders will be circulated to ensure that sufficient balls have been ordered to meet the needs of all clubs.
14. The Committee discussed the collection of statistics for the completion of averages at the end of the season. It had been agreed previously that clubs must keep a record of players' records for batting and bowling in SCL games and submit these figures at the end of the season electronically. The details of the electronic process will be sent out later in the season. If clubs fail to do this then their players will not appear in the League's set of averages.
The Committee also decided that it will run a 'Pilot Scheme' for the tandem input of results and the formulation of tables electronically. The Committee determined that two divisions will undertake this scheme in 2009 and the whole process will be monitored. In 2009 the two divisions that MUST carry out this initiative will be Division 1 and Division 2 (2nd XI Competition). The results for matches played in these divisions will be phoned/faxed/mailed to Ian Latchem in the usual way. In addition, a second inputting electronically through the clubs unique code must be made. The clubs affected by this initiative will be fined in the usual way if they do not send in their results through both systems. The details of this process will be sent out nearer the start of the season. This system needs to be piloted now so that we are in a position to implement a 'foolproof' results service eventually.
15. The Committee confirmed the arrangements for the EGM on Monday April 20th and determined the tasks of committee members in handing out handbooks, balls, results sheets and team cards. It noted that there will be a presentation by Mann Broadbent Insurance.
16. It was agreed that the pre-season circular would feature many of the usual facets. There would be a slight revision of some of the items and some of the issues agreed at this Committee Meeting will be added.
17. There were no items of any other business.
18. The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.