



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday
July 10 2019 at Huntspill & District Cricket Club.

Those present Edward Martin, Tom Packman, Amanda Counsell, Derek Hicks, Toby Strang, Matt Counsell, Andy Barrett, Simon Glover and Ray Hancock.

1. **Apologies** were received from Malcolm Fox (Chairman), David Derrick, Andy Fairbairn, Martin King, Stuart Shepherd and Matt Lunn.
2. **Chairman.** In the absence of the Chairman (Malcom Fox), Edward Martin was elected to chair the meeting.
3. **The Minutes** of the previous Management Committee Meeting (February 20th 2019) were approved.
4. **There were no matters arising.**
5. **Correspondence.** a) A request from Broadway & Horton had been received to consider the use of coloured clothing in future matches. The Committee discussed the concept and felt that it should be raised as a proposal at the AGM by B & H.. The idea had some merits, but costs and other factors, including the use of a 'pink' ball, needed addressing. b) It was agreed that any match that had been re-scheduled for Sunday 14th July could be re-arranged if England reached the final of the World Cup. c) It was noted that a number of clubs and some Management Committee members had received emails from play-cricket, often through the night, regarding the submission of reports etc. The members of the Committee felt that this was probably a new initiative by play-cricket and would ensure that clubs were required to take the necessary action to submit reports on time. d) Other items which had been received would be dealt with during the appropriate place in the agenda.
6. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer reported that the current year's accounts were likely to show another significant surplus. Under the current budgeted expenditure, the new sponsorship deal with Monmouth Scientific would likely produce similar results for the next two years. The subsidy of Somerset Cricket Board courses had shown some increased usage but it was felt that there was further scope for usage. The committee would consider at the end of season meetings how to best use the increasing finances for the benefit of the League.
7. **Disciplinary Issues.** The Committee considered a number of disciplinary issues that had occurred in the first half of the season a) Taunton 3rd XI had been unable to use their home ground as it had been commandeered by the WEPL 1st XI game whose pitch was regarded as 'too wet' for a match. Spaxton had offered to host the game, but the offer was rejected. The Committee apportioned the points as follows: - Spaxton 35 (team not at fault) and Taunton 3rds as 12 (weather affected draw). It was noted that no other game had been 'weather' affected on that day! b) Ilton 2nd XI travelled to Sparkford, but upon arrival found no-one at the pitch. The home team claimed to have sent an electronic message cancelling the game. This form of communication is no longer permitted in the SCL and a rule was passed at the AGM which required a conversation to take place. (See Rule 3. Administration, k)

Cancelled matches). The Committee awarded Ilton 2nd XI 35 points and Sparkford 2nd XI was deducted 8 points. c) The Committee discussed reporting on Play-Cricket. When low marks require a report, these reports are read, and action taken. These reports must be accurate and backed up with evidence when requested. Failure to provide the evidence in a timely fashion, when requested will lead to disciplinary action being taken against the person and Club which made the report. The Committee reminds Clubs that inaccurate reporting had no place in the SCL. d) An issue was reported about a player from an upper level team playing in a lower level one and playing a full part in the match. The Assistant Secretary had already ruled that in this particular instance the club had provided the necessary statistics to support the situation. This ruling is clearly set out in the Pre-season Circular, which can be found in the rules section on the website.

- 8. Open Age cricket and Minimum age of players.** The Committee heard of young cricketers playing in adult games that were not part of the SCL fixtures. However, it took the opportunity to re-emphasise the need for all clubs in all competitions and friendless to observe the ECB ruling on this subject.
- 9. Overseas Players.** The Committee noted the situation and guidelines for overseas players in domestic cricket. It decided to review the current SCL ruling at the end of the season. This would include the length of stay and permanent status in the UK.
- 10. Registrations/transfers/loan scheme.** The Committee felt that the registration of players on the play-cricket site was generally going well. It noted that Amanda Counsell had undertaken the task most efficiently and thanked her for the heavy commitment in this area of League administration. It was noted that some clubs were unsure of the player transfer process. A player may be transferred providing he has no outstanding debts or any disciplinary issues under investigation. Players who are no longer at a club should have their registrations removed. This makes it easier on the play-cricket system in relation to retaining correct details which includes accurate dates of birth. The loan scheme is still in operation, but concern was expressed about higher level players playing in lower level matches when teams were without a match. In these cases, the strengthening rules should be applied.
- 11. Play-cricket.com** The Committee noted that the use of the national cricket website was still working well.
- 12. Ex Professional Players in the SCL.** The Committee saw no difficulty in 'Ex-Pros' playing in the SCL when their professional contracts had ended.
- 13. Umpiring in the SCL.** Derek Hicks reported that umpires were standing at all Premier League (Div. 1) games and there were a few games in Division 2 that had also been covered. He noted that fines could be levied if clubs failed to complete umpires' reports.
- 14. Withdrawals.** The Committee expressed its concern over the withdrawal of East Huntspill 1st XI from Division 7N particularly as the SCL had not been informed that in reality the team was in fact the club's 2nd XI !! A strongly worded letter of disapproval had been sent to the club.
- 15. Team of the Month** – These awards had been taken over by Monmouth Scientific and in the first year the format of the prize will vary. In May, the team of the month prize (tickets for a T20 match at Taunton) was presented by Edward Martin to Kevin Curtis of Temple Cloud on behalf of MSL. A similar prize will be presented to Broadway & Horton 2nd XI which won the June Team of the Month award.
- 16. Possible rule changes.** The Committee decided to hold a full discussion of this item at the September and October committee meetings.

17. Presentation Night. October 25 2019 at Wembdon Cricket Club. The full details of the Presentation Night will be published later.

18. Items of any other business. a) Concern was expressed about the facilities and ground at Cranmore CC. The County's Grounds Maintenance team had viewed the ground and had offered to assist with the programme. The Treasurer also noted that SCL funds could be available to help with a loan. Matt Counsell was working with the maintenance team and noted that the SCB's Trailer could also be used in this context. b) Kevin Russell of Horrington CC had sent an email regarding 'scam emails' requesting money from clubs. These emails had taken many different formats in the past so clubs should be aware of this continuing problem. c) It was noted that some teams were not using scorebooks and that in a number of cases only one copy of the match statistics existed. Clubs must ensure that two books are used and the match details must be recorded by two people. d) The Committee discussed roles for the Committee members and highlighted tasks that could be incorporated in the future. The exact details of the roles will be discussed at a later meeting. The Committee is looking to promote the League, its Sponsor and manage the social media platforms. e) MC said that the SCB Cricket Strategy for 2020-2024 planning is underway and of part of that they would be arranging meeting with the various leagues across the county for their input. f) The Committee had received some observations regarding players drinking alcohol while fielding and even umpiring. This practice is not permitted in the SCL and it will attract fines and clubs could be banned from the League in any proven cases. f) The Committee asked the Hon. Secretary to pass on its best wishes to the Chairman following his recent hospital operation.

19. The meeting closed at 9.08 pm.