SOMERSET Cricket League

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 13th July via zoom

Present: Andy Barrett, Amanda Counsell, Matt Lunn, Toby Strang, John Squirrell, Lisa Burton and Matt Counsell

Apologies from Stuart Shepherd, Edward Martin, Ben Pomeroy, Gary Warren, Derek Hicks, and Ben Osborne

Matters Arising

The committee was provided updates on several matters including WEPL criteria distribution to clubs, successful Umpire CPD sessions at Wyvern and Winscombe

The website rebranding with Lisa's new logo has been very popular and we have gained traction with cricket clubs and the public through social media posts highlighting weekly honours boards and achievements

Correspondence

Various email correspondence were discussed including :

Transfer requests becoming problematic with clubs making late requests on Friday nights, leading to a suggestion that transfer requests might need to be restricted to be completed by Thursday evenings in future rules.

Registration frustrations and unregistered players

Recent disciplinaries were shared with the committee and it was noted that there was a hearing pending.

A request for special dispensation for a 15-year-old to umpire in the Somerset Cricket League as a panel member had been received. After consulting with SACO and the ECB, it was determined that the young umpire could work with proper safeguards including parental supervision and experienced co-umpires, with SACO taking responsibility for safeguarding issues.

Emails regarding disciplinary matters and the lack of ownership from some clubs regarding cricket etiquette.

Treasurer Report

John presented the treasurer's report showing current finances in a healthy state.

Sponsorship Partnership

The group discussed sponsorship strategies, including partnerships rather than one single sponsor. Lisa agreed to compile documentation on sponsorship opportunities, including social media visibility.

Disciplinary Panel Proposals

It was reported that over 100 disciplinary reports have been received, with 5 cases proceeding to hearings and 3 players receiving 2-week bans. Another hearing is pending. It was felt that this was too many but felt clubs are now providing more honest assessments without the previous requirement to write detailed comments. This means patterns of behaviour and clubs are more easily tracked. Clubs that have reoccurring reports/comments have been contacted and reminded of behaviour expectations.

The challenges in finding neutral panels were discussed and it was proposed creating a "panel of peers" by contacting clubs to nominate potential disciplinary panel members, which would include both peer judges and neutral individuals to make future hearings more efficient.

Concerns were raised about the increasing administrative burden of discipline, highlighting extensive paperwork requirements and time consumption. The league has highlighted this concern to the Somerset Cricket Foundation CEO. The league is very grateful to the support they have received from Jane Law and Ben Osborne.

The group agreed to proceed with trying to get additional support for disciplinary matters from a panel of peers, recognising they have "nothing to lose" and "plenty to gain if it works."

The meeting also briefly touched on plans for an end-of-season dinner on October 9th and the introduction of new cups to be named in memory of Martin King (bowler) and Malcolm (batsman), though criteria for these awards were not fully discussed due to technical difficulties with screen sharing.

End-of-Season Dinner Planning Meeting

End-of-season dinner on October 9th at the County Ground .

It was agreed to the introduction of new cups to be named in memory of Martin King (bowler) and Malcolm Fox(batsman), with the criteria for new awards: 9 games minimum for batting with 400+ runs and highest average, and 75 overs bowled with 20 wickets for bowling with best average.

It was agreed to announce the top 5 candidates for these awards every two weeks until the end of season to generate interest.

Family members of Malcolm and Martin will be invited to the dinner.

It was agreed that the price will need to be increased in line with dinner/hire costs with the aim of breaking even on costs rather than make a profit.

Lisa will organise dinner, and set up order form and it was agreed to maintain the same payment process as last year where attendees pay via bank transfer and complete a payment sheet, with John handling invoicing.

Jacob is happy to be photographer.

AOB

There are concerns about clubs not maintaining proper scorebooks and relying solely on iPads which have then overheated or frozen which has led to missing records and game documentation issues. Clubs to be reminded that 2 books or 1 device/1 book should be completed.

Meeting closed 8.25pm