



The Somerset Cricket League

Supporting Cricket

In Somerset

Minutes of Management Committee 20th October 2025 7 pm held via zoom

Present: Andy Barrett, Amanda Counsell, John Squirrell, Matt Lunn, Toby Strang, Ben Pomeroy, and Ben Osborne.

Apologies: Edward Martin, Gary Warren, Stuart Shepherd, Derek Hicks Matt Counsell

Minutes of any previous meeting were approved by the meeting

Matters arising none that would not be covered by other agenda items

The meeting touched on the passing of Malcolm Fox and Martin King in September; this had been shared with the membership and the committee. Committee members attended their funerals both as friends and to represent the league. A donation in memory of both will be sent to funeral directors. The committee also approved plans to create two new trophies for 2026 in memory of Malcolm and Martin, with one to be designated for batsmen and one for bowlers, though specific criteria for these awards will be determined later.

Correspondence:

Emails have been received regarding:

Clubs wishing to enter the league in 2026

Ground availability for 2026

End of season presentation

Email from a club member concerned about the strength of some teams and the condition of some of the grounds especially second grounds used by clubs. – The committee noted that most reports that came in were related to the very hot weather conditions and we acknowledge it had not been the easiest for ground staff. Other than this we had very few reports and these were dealt with; clubs were contacted and in a couple of cases the Somerset Cricket Grounds Committee supported.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer reported he had submitted the End of Year accounts to the accountant ready for HMRC. The league dinner ran at a loss, this was the same as previous years which was due to cost of speaker and subsidised tickets, despite this he noted the league is financially capable of covering dinner expenses.

It was agreed that the league would delay sending the club subscription invoices until February next year.

The league noted the need for additional cricket balls and will order 200-250 more balls to accommodate the league's expanded divisions.

There was no update on sponsorship and the league is still seeking a sponsor.

League Division Structure 2026:

The league had 11 requests to join the league in 2026. We had 5 spaces within the league but were very keen to both grow and accommodate those clubs who wished to join. All member clubs were contacted and asked if they were planning to drop and team. No clubs have expressed a desire to leave. Out of the 11 clubs, 9 decided they wished to join in 2026. Therefore, it was decided that with the numbers we had we could add a division – a new regionalised division 6 to accommodate 124 clubs. The structure was developed after extensive work to ensure we could maintain regional balance, create space for potential growth, and competitive balance. Some clubs will find themselves promoted unexpectedly and others saved from relegation.

This means that there are only 9 teams in each of lowest 6 divisions (3 Division 6s and 3 Division 7s), similar to that of previous years. Although this is not ideal for all clubs, we had also had feedback from some clubs who appreciated a free weekend during the season, but with 6 teams free each weekend this also adds scope for friendlies to be arranged should clubs want them.

It was also noted that due to the nature of regionalised lower divisions some clubs have moved across to the sister division for geographical distribution.

League Fixture:

Fixtures will be completed over the next 6 weeks and in line with all the other local leagues released mid-December.

Discipline:

It was reported that the final discipline matter that was pending at the last meeting had been concluded.

Don Crouch Trophy for Fair Play:

It was reported that Churchill CC were the winners of this award. All scores from 2025 will be housed on website.

Umpires:

Concerns regarding umpire shortages in SCL Premier division. Research has been carried out by the WEPL and it has found that over 60% of umpires are over 60 years old with 50% of those

over 70. Ben Osborne of SCF mentioned ongoing efforts with his counterparts in Gloucester Foundation to recruit new umpires, though they hadn't found a complete solution yet.

He discussed the challenges of recruiting new umpires and the potential reintroduction of a WEPL scheme to incentivise participation. He noted that WEPLs previous scheme brought in 19 new umpires who covered nearly 300 appointments, suggesting that a similar approach could be effective. The meeting considered options for implementing a new scheme, including requiring clubs to provide their own umpires for home games, but expressed concerns about whether this would actually attract new umpires. They agreed to continue developing ideas for a new scheme, with a focus on Premier Division teams.

We also plan to hold some short introduction to umpiring sessions.

League Dinner:

The Chair thanked Amanda for organising the dinner with the help of Lisa Burton, it was a very well attended evening with 201 attending. Josh Thomas from SCCC presented the awards and took part in a Q and A with Harry Everett. The raffle took £1030 which was donated to Dementia UK.

There were a couple of incidents with table centre pieces being taken which marred the evening, but these have since been returned.

It was agreed to book similar date for 2026.

AOB:

The committee discussed the merits of a mid-season break and adding this week to the end of the season in early September. This was proposed that it would be on 18th July due to the T20 Blast finals being in the season, though concerns were raised about fixture scheduling conflicts with other leagues and club ground availability in September. It was agreed to create a poll to gauge clubs' opinions on the idea.

We are waiting to hear from a venue regarding availability for a face-to-face AGM which will be early February.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm