

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd March 2016
at 7.30pm at The George Inn, Middlezoy.

Those present Malcolm Fox, Toby Strang, Tom Packman, Edward Martin, Derek Hicks, Matthew Lunn,
Matthew Counsell, David Derrick, Andy Fairbairn and Ray Hancock.

Preliminaries. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from Ian Latchem, Martin King and Amanda Counsell
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting, (January 26 2016) were approved.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. Correspondence. a) The Committee had received a note from Dan Bingham, Secretary of the (Bristol & Somerset Committee) WEPL to confirm that the SCL representatives on the Committee would be Chairman – Malcolm Fox and Results Secretary – David Derrick. b) The Hon. Secretary said that he had been in discussion with Beaminster CC (Dorset) about membership of the SCL for one or two teams. He said that no decisions had been taken to date and he would keep the Committee informed of any further developments. c) The Hon. Secretary reported that East Coker had withdrawn from the SCL and Division 3 would have only 9 teams in the competition this season.
5. Sponsorship. The Hon. Secretary said that he had met the representatives of the new owners of the Shrubbery Hotel. He was pleased to report that the sponsorship of the SCL by Best Western - The Shrubbery Hotel would continue for the foreseeable future.
6. Matt Counsell had recently taken on a new role at the SCB and it was now inappropriate that he should continue as SCL Disciplinary Secretary. Edward Martin volunteered to take on the job and the Committee accepted his offer.
7. The Committee had received correspondence from a club regarding outstanding debts by past players. It determined that it would continue not to get involved in these financial arrangements within a club. If club officials have to deal with a transfer request within the season and money is owed, then they should simply refuse to sign the transfer form.
8. Results Monitoring in 2016. Weekly monitoring for compliance purposes will be the responsibility of Amanda Counsell (top six divisions) and Toby Strang (bottom six divisions) with David Derrick acting as the arbiter in the case of disputes. David will work with Ian Latchem on a weekly basis to review all results that are posted online. David will send them to Ian in a hard copy format followed by a phone call that will correct any incorrect online entries. Ian has said that he is happy to check for errors. Past experience has shown that input errors do still take place from time to time.
9. Club Welfare Officers – the situation to date indicates that many club CWO forms have still to be received by the SCL's Welfare Officer. Clubs are urged to return the form to Amanda as soon as possible. If club welfare officers still require any of i) Safe Hands; ii) Safe Hands Refresher iii) Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses, then these are still available. (See appendix A). Meanwhile, CWOs who need advice before the season starts should contact the League Welfare Officer, Amanda Counsell (amandacounsell@yahoo.co.uk or 01278 785324).
10. The player loan scheme will operate again in 2016. Loan forms, which can be downloaded, will be lodged on the website. Hopefully this year, a further attempt to have a pool of players, who are looking for a game will be posted on the website.

11. Umpiring Arrangements with SACO. The arrangement with SACO to provide umpiring coverage for the SCL's top two divisions in 2016 is in place and requested data has been supplied ref WTU set up (Whose The Umpire). A follow up meeting has been set for Tuesday 12th April and the SCL will be represented by Derek Hicks and David Derrick. Insurance arrangements for officials, the allocation of umpires to the ten games that this arrangement covers and other umpiring issues will be discussed. Umpires and clubs will be required to complete an assessment form after each match. The SCL wishes to use the full reporting suite that WTU offers and, to this end, Ed Martin, as the League's new Disciplinary Secretary, will have sight of the reports that umpires submit in respect of any disciplinary matters that arise. The League's Grounds Committee needs to be aware of reports of deficient facilities raised through the reports that umpires submit. Similarly, the League also needs to be aware of poorly performing officials. It was noted that an umpire's cost will be £35 per match and an umpire standing on his own will receive £50. Costs after subsidy for SCL clubs (Premier and Division 2) will be £30 & £45 respectively.
12. Team of the Month Award – Best Western Hotels. The issues caused by incorrect calculation of 2015's winners in some cases has been addressed insofar that it is hoped to be able to manage this matter via the League's website and a request to this end has been made. The Hon. Secretary will review the venue allocation of hotels and see if any swaps can be made so as to make for destinations closer to the League's geographical area. Awards will be made for only the months of May, June, July and August. These will be handed out immediately after each month finishes.
13. The Hon. Secretary said that he had asked Ian Stolworthy to make the usual arrangements for the printing of the 2016 Handbook. This year, there were more changes to make. The format of the book required an update as the house style of the sponsor was new. The Hon. Secretary had also double checked club details by asking each club to proof read its details. Hopefully this will ensure more accuracy with officials' names and contact numbers. In addition to the clubs/committee, handbooks will be distributed to the sponsor, other league secretaries, the press & media and umpires
14. Cricket balls as ordered by clubs will be delivered directly to the Shrubbery Hotel for the EGM..
15. A number of copies of Public Liability insurance certificates has been received by the Hon. Secretary. All clubs are reminded that they MUST have public liability insurance (Rule 3(e) applies and a copy of the certificate MUST be sent to the Hon. Secretary before the season starts.
16. The Ground Facilities Sub Committee reported that a number of clubs had been contacted regarding the provision of adequate facilities. The members were satisfied that facilities were in place, however they recommended that visiting teams report deficiencies to the Committee. Ground report forms are available on the website for this purpose.
17. The Committee confirmed the arrangements for the EGM on Monday April 11th at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster. At the end of the meeting, the committee members will hand out a club package bag with handbooks, balls and pre-season circulars. Posters and agendas will be circulated to all SCL clubs by March 27th. Proposals for rule changes will take effect immediately if passed at the EGM.
18. The Committee determined that in future, voting on proposals for rule change will be by secret ballot. Furthermore, the proposals will be circulated prior to the meeting with the official documentation (minimum of 21 days before AGM & 7 days before EGM). The proposals will be set out on individual voting slips with 3 boxes to be used for "For" or "Against" or "Abstain". The form will bear the name of the club and it will be a requirement that the Club Chairman and League Representative sign the slip. The voting slips will need to be brought to the meeting (EGM or AGM) and deposited in the SCL Ballot Box. The ballot box will be removed at the start of the meeting when two Committee members and two volunteers from the 'floor' will then count the votes. The Committee believes that this process will give a truer picture of the clubs' wishes having been debated in club committees beforehand. The EGM on April 11 will use this system of voting.
19. Three rule changes have been proposed by clubs/Management Committee and these will be outlined on the agenda paper for the EGM. They concern a) a simple majority on all voting at AGM & EGMs. b) Playing 40 overs in the 6 regional divisions. c) 20% of overs per bowler in all divisions.

20. The Committee reviewed the details of the pre-season circular and agreed the changes proposed by the Hon. Secretary. The circular will be regarded on a similar basis to the rules in the case of transgressions and other relevant issues. Copies of the circular will be widely distributed by email, on the website and one 'hard' copy per team in the EGM package.
21. Items raised by committee members. a) Edward Martin expressed concern over the availability of grounds for some clubs in September. A number of clubs are unable to play at home in September due to rules laid down by a third party. Conflict with other sports, local council rules and 3rd party intervention were all cited. The Committee decided that all similar situations should be treated equally and agreed to make a statement of intent in the Pre-season Circular 2016.
22. The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

APPENDIX A

A reminder that all clubs **MUST** have a qualified **CLUB WELFARE OFFICER** in post before the season starts. The CWO must have attended:- 1.) an ECB Safe Hands Course or ECB Safe Hands Refresher course within the last three years. 2.) attended a Safeguarding and Protecting Children course within the last three years. 3.) Hold a DBS certificate which has been issued during the last three years.

Any club that is having difficulty in meeting these standards or requires further information should contact **The Somerset Cricket League's Welfare Officer, Amanda Counsell**, 01278 785324 or email amandacounsell@yahoo.co.uk.

Places are still available on Safe Hands and Safe Hands Refresher by booking online at www.somersetcricketboard.co.uk Follow the links to Courses; Educational courses; Welfare Officers. If you have any problems with online booking then contact Brian Hoyle on 01823 352266.

Details of Safe Hands courses.

Safe Hands Course April 25 at Tiverton Cricket Club, Devon at 6.30 pm

Safe Hands Refresher Course. April 12 at Centre of Excellence, County Ground Taunton at 7.00 pm.

Details of Safeguarding and Protecting Children courses

Courses @ SASP www.sasp.co.uk/events/tags/SPC where you will find a local course namely:-

Wednesday April 27 at North Petherton

Courses @ WESPORT www.wesport.org.uk

Bath University on - April 19
University of the West of England on April 7; May 5.

DBS forms can be obtained by application to:-
ECB DBS Vetting check forms from the GB group at:
ecb@tmgrb.co.uk or on 0845 251 3000