



# **The Somerset Cricket League**

## **Supporting Cricket In Somerset**

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Huntspill and District Cricket Club on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Present: Andy Barrett, Amanda Counsell, John Squirrell, Matt Lunn, Derek Hicks, Ben Pomeroy and Ben Osborne

Apologies: Ed Martin, Stuart Shepherd, Toby Strang Gary Warren and Matt Counsell

### **Matters Arising:**

The Pre-season meeting was attended by about 60% of clubs and all PowerPoints and information was sent out to all named captains.

Website has been updated with policies and procedures

### **Correspondence:**

- Many emails requesting clarity on rules, general play cricket help etc
- Withdrawal of Castle Cary 2 for this season, and who plan to rejoin at a lower level next season as we could not accommodate a move in 2026.
- Email from North Newton withdrawing their first team due to a large number of players leaving. – this was following lots of discussion with the league at the best way to support the club to ensure its long-term future.
- Emails from 2 clubs expressing concern that league had allowed North Newton to withdraw its 1<sup>st</sup> and not 2<sup>nds</sup> – these clubs were contacted and reasons explained by the league Chair. the two clubs felt the league was wrong in allowing North Newton to keep their second team as their only team and wanted them to be made to rearrange the first 2 games they conceded when they were trying to keep both sides going. This was felt as impractical, also there was no way of knowing whether they would have been conceded anyway. It was noted that other games in this division had been conceded (as in other divisions). It was also raised that they were team strengthening, however as the club only has one team with a mixture of remaining players team strengthening does not apply in this case.

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- An anonymous email from someone reporting a banned player who had played in another league for another club – this was flagged to the league that the player played in but they do not use ECB conduct regulations so they could not enforce.
- Email from Bishops Hull 2s and Yeovil Royal Blasters 2 and Castle Cary 2 seeking to enter in 2026 – we currently have gaps so they have been accepted for division 7.
- From Lords balls re 2026 cricket balls
- Email from a club Chair challenging our overseas rules as possibly anti discriminatory. – Amanda and Andy had a meeting with Jane Law the South West EDI and Anti-Discrimination executive regarding this, it was felt that the league rules are inclusive as we allow many players to play who are here on a wide range of visas to play. The league will review this during the off season and look at other models from other leagues to see if there is an even greater inclusive system.
- Email from club seeking clarification on WEPL promotion, this would wholly depend on where Somerset clubs in WEPL ended up.
- Email from Dorset Cricket League – upholding a ban issued by SCL
- Survey from ECB regarding discipline
- Email from an umpire regarding not being allowed to umpire whole game – if a club bring an umpire they can umpire whole match
- Emails regarding drinking during the match

### **Treasurer's Report:**

All invoices for cricket balls have been paid in full and Lord's invoice for £22,000 was settled. This leaves the league with balls in stock, so on the assumption that the League remains a similar size an order for 2,000 balls for 2026 should be sufficient and further reduce the stock to a more reasonable level.

Course subsidies and with completion verified, a total of £465 has been paid.

With the increase in the annual subscription now fully received the League now has £21,464.27 in the bank account. Despite having no sponsor, all the costs of incorporation and paying all the outstanding taxes and the increased costs of employing the services of a professional accountant the funds are back to the healthy level of 2022.

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### **Sponsorship:**

The treasurer reported the league are actively seeking a new sponsor. A few companies have been approached but nothing positive has come of it. The committee will continue to put feelers out and appeal to clubs if they know of any company who might be interested.

### **Safeguarding:**

With the ECB Safety Guidance 2025 allowing players to play as soon as they are 12, we have had 12 registered that the league has seen the parental and CSO consent forms. No one has been allowed to play until 7 days after forms have been received.

Captains who do not have a current DBS have been reminded, however there are still clubs who have failed to ensure the captain and/or vice captain holds one.

All guidance has been housed on the website, along with other helpful ECB guidance and regulations, such as thunder and lightning, concussion protocols and extreme heat guidance.

### **Discipline:**

There has been a massive increase in poor discipline across the league. This has resulted in two disciplinary hearings, with one still pending, so far. There have been 9 players banned either by the league or by their clubs themselves – which as a league we applaud them for acting although in some cases the league has upped the ban. There are currently 34 players registered with the league with suspended bans. The League Chair has written to the all clubs twice regarding this.

### **Fair Play Reports and Players Player:**

Concern was raised that increasingly the fair play reports were not a true reflection of what the games are like. It was noted that some clubs score 100 regardless, some others score quite harshly with little justification, and some are using it for a tit for tat basis. It was agreed to review this over the winter, as the current system does not seem to be fit for purpose anymore.

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### Player's Player:

this is part of the fair player report, sadly currently only about 50% of games have named a player- on some it just says bloke who hit 50 or captain, which is impossible to track with out a great deal of work. These nominations are used for our awards presentation – clubs will be reminded to completed and enter actual name. We will canvas the clubs before next season if they wish for us to continue to present these awards.

### Grounds:

There has been a large increase in ground reports – this is mainly due to the very hot dry spell of weather. Clubs were all sent guidance of ground pre in hot weather by email and in a newsletter.

Two clubs who have had their grounds referred to the Somerset Cricket Foundation Grounds Committee, who have offered them support. It is understood the clubs have engaged with them.

An increasingly common report is that of dog/fox excrement – if a report of that nature comes in, clubs have been told and asked to ensure they do a ground check and risk assessment beforehand and remove as this is neither pleasant to stand or dive in and it is a health and safety concern.

### Scorebooks:

It has been raised numerous times that 2 scorebooks/ipads are not being completed at matches. **This is a league rule.** There have been many incidences of only an ipad being used and then either overheating or running out of battery and there is no book back up so then clubs have struggled to input results and scorecards. There have also been several reports of the batting team refusing to do a 2<sup>nd</sup> book when left with them by the fielding side. Whilst the league and the ECB encourage live/online scoring, there does need to be 2 people always recording the game, clubs need to work together to do this.

### Umpires:

Ben Osborne from the SCF explained that there is an areawide shortage of umpires, with many games in our premier receiving none. He is meeting with local leagues to discuss initiatives and to look at how we can upskill club members to feel more confident who might not want to do a full umpiring course.

It was felt that players who stop playing and traditionally took up umpiring are playing longer and have more opportunities in senior cricket.

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It was agreed that the league will support and publicise any courses and initiatives.

### League Presentation:

The County Ground on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025, details to be send to clubs shortly.  
Cost will be £30 per ticket (subsidised). We are currently seeking a guest speaker – but this will be dependent on player availability from the county.

### AOB:

There is a joint leagues meeting tomorrow with the county boards, Andy and Amanda will be attending, the main agenda item is umpires (lack of)

Meeting closed 8.30pm

Next meeting Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

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