



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday
October 24 2019 at the Centre of Excellence, County Ground, Taunton.

Those present Stuart Shepherd (President), Edward Martin (Acting Chairman), Matt Counsell, Amanda Counsell, Tom Packman (Treasurer), Derek Hicks, Martin King, Andy Barrett, Ray Hancock (Hon. Secretary) Apologies were received from committee members Malcolm Fox (Chairman), David Derrick, Matthew Lunn Toby Strang, Andy Fairbairn,

1. The Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting (September 24 2019) were approved.

2. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes, other than those that related to items to be discussed later in the agenda.

3. Correspondence. Items had been previously circulated to members for more immediate action.

4. The Treasurer presented written final accounts to the Management Committee for the year ending 30th September 2019. The year had started under the sponsorship of the Shrubbery Hotel before the new sponsor Monmouth Scientific Ltd. took over with a three-year agreement. The agreement was scheduled to provide the League with a balanced income for the three years.

The format of the accounts will be familiar to members and most items of Income and Expenditure are similar to previous years. In the September club invoices some teams had been wrongly charged with a fine for a cancelled match and clubs that had paid that amount would receive a credit on their next invoice. The Income and Expenditure Account showed a surplus for the year of £1668.57.

The League's Balance Sheet showed that as at 30th September 2019 the League held a balance of £21,482.90. Questions had been raised in the last year as to the League's intentions in respect to budgeting an annual surplus and the consequential build-up of assets. Some measures had already been implemented and others are being considered. The League had not passed on to clubs the last increase in the cost of the cricket balls and the £9 per ball price will be maintained for 2020. The League continues to subsidise ECB/SCB Courses and although the uptake had increased in 2019, we feel there are still greater opportunities for clubs and individual club members to benefit from this. A percentage increase in some of these subsidies is intended although at the time of writing the details of this had not been finalised. I would hope this could be announced at the AGM. Membership subscriptions for 2020 had already been paid and the current rates would be maintained for 2021. The change in the Annual Presentation Dinner from a sponsorship event to a subsidised event meant that a detailed budget for 2020 was not yet available, but an indication for the next 12 months would be given to the AGM.

5. Club Welfare Officers. Amanda Counsell noted that some Club Welfare Officers required refresher training and some new appointees needed the full safe hands course. She was in touch with clubs where appropriate and said that she would ensure that clubs were aware of the requirements and all Club Welfare Officers would be qualified by the start of the 2020 season..

6. The Committee noted that the use of play-cricket.com had been very successful again in the 2019 season.

7. The Hon. Secretary reported that the Presentation Night at Wembdon Cricket Club on Friday October 25th will be attended by approximately 115 players and guests. Dom Bess of Somerset County Cricket Club will be the principal guest and he will be joined in a question and answer session by Matt Counsell, League and Club Development Officer of the SCB and Member of the Management Committee. Dom will then present the trophies to the divisional winners. A draw for cricket equipment, which has been given by Mr Najmi, Lords Cricket Balls, and other prizes will take place during the evening. The proceeds of the draw will be given to HEADWAY (Somerset). Ed Martin agreed to make a photographic record of the evening.

8. The Two individual winners of the Young Player Cup and the Glastonbury Mowers All Rounders Trophy had accepted an invitation to attend the Presentation Evening. The AVCO trophy for the young player had been replaced by a trophy named after the new sponsor Monmouth Scientific Limited. David Pomeroy, Chairman of the company presented this new trophy to James Hawksworth of Long Sutton CC.

9. It was noted that the composition of WEPL Premier Division was still incomplete due to the failure of Downend CC to achieve Clubmark. The club had until October 31st to acquire this award, but failure to do so would mean that Downend would be relegated to Premier 2. This complication resulted in the 2020 fixtures (WEPL & feeder leagues) being withheld.

10. The Committee discussed the cricket balls used in 2019 and agreed to continue to purchase them in 2020 from Lords International and retail them to clubs at £9 per ball. The ball to be used in 2020 will be printed with the name and logo of the new sponsor.

11. Composition of Divisions for 2020. The agreed composition was circulated previously, but since that time 'Yeovil Central' had been replaced by Beaminster 2nd XI in Division 8S.

12. The Committee discussed some possible rule changes that had been proposed by clubs and the Management Committee. The number of proposed rule changes was quite small, so the Committee decided **not to hold the 'Rules Meeting'** on November 18, but it would still issue ballot sheets for clubs to complete and return them to the AGM on December 9. The club rule change proposals include:-

5. MATCHES (q) Wides – Pitch Markings by Harptree Villages CC;

30-minute tea interval for SCL by Cheddar CC;

White disk 30-yard markers should have a white mark under them to stop them from being moved by Cheddar CC;

Wide lines should be painted blue or white by Cheddar CC;

The ball by Broadway & Horton CC.

The Management Committee proposed two changes, which included:-

Cancellation fines.

The revised calculation for the award of the Don Crouch Trophy.

13. Any other business. a) It was noted that the County Grounds maintenance unit had given much support to Cranmore CC with work on the square. b) Items regarding loan players; registration of overseas players; team strengthening; Umpires coats; scorebooks; team strengthening rules. These items would be tabled for the Committee's discussion at the next meeting in February. After which an addendum sheet will be issued for the 2020 season. c) The Treasurer raised the subject of a 'meetings timetable' that would ensure all meetings (including the AGM) would be held by the end of November in subsequent years.
14. The date of the next full membership meeting was confirmed as:- The AGM on Monday December 9th at 7.30 pm. at Wembdon Cricket Club.
15. The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Appendix A

Club Proposals.

Proposed Rule Change No. 1

Harpree Villages CC.

CURRENT RULE 6 (q)

(q) Wides – Pitch Markings

Wide lines to be painted in blue or red 17 inches inside the edge of the crease lines. This is a guideline for wides and can be deemed not wide in an instance where the batsman moves enough to warrant the ball being called a legal delivery.

PROPOSAL

(q) Wides – Pitch Markings

Wide lines to be painted in blue or red 17 inches inside the edge of the crease lines. This is a guideline for wides. ~~-and can be deemed not wide in an instance where the batsman moves enough to warrant the ball being called a legal delivery-~~

Any ball passing inside the ‘wide lines’ above shall be called not wide, leg or offside, unless in the opinion of the umpire the bowler is consistently and deliberately bowling down the leg side. In such circumstances the umpire should warn the bowler first and then call ‘wide’ on future deliveries.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

The 2018 rule was open to differing interpretation.

We had two instances this season where we had fundamental disagreement with opposing umpires on this. In one case in a close match their umpire claimed that the wide lines only applied on the off side balls and in another match their umpire stated that the lines were for guidance only and that the umpire could exercise his/her total judgement on the matter. In both cases wides were called which were well within the lines and were much more generous to their team than our umpires had been to us.

We feel that the purpose of the rule is to achieve consistency on both sides in the calling of wides, and that this consistency cannot be achieved if differing umpires can use a wide interpretation of the use of the rule.

THIS RULE CHANGE NEEDS A SECONDER

Proposed Rule Change No. 2

Cheddar CC

Propose 30-minute tea interval for SCL, but this interval must be no longer than 30 minutes.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

WEPL is currently 30 minutes and SCL 20 minutes in the rule book. The tea interval of 20 minutes is unrealistic especially with the increase of buffet style teas with the home side waiting for the visiting side to serve themselves first, especially if the home side is then fielding after tea.

The Management Committee second this proposal.

Proposed Rule Change No. 3

Cheddar CC

White disk 30-yard markers should have a white mark under them to stop them from being moved.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Most sides do not do this and few umpires are aware of the rule. They are supposedly there in case the discs are moved.

The Management Committee second this proposal.

Proposed Rule Change No. 4

Cheddar CC

Wide lines should be painted blue or white –

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Currently blue or red and when they are red they can be difficult to see with wear and tear and sun glare.

The Management Committee second this proposal if ‘white’ is disregarded. ie. ONLY BLUE

Proposed Rule Change No. 5

Broadway & Horton CC

(i) The Ball.

For all divisions, home sides must provide two new balls, one to be used for each innings. All balls used must be the standard **pink** league ball, as supplied by the Somerset Cricket League, and must be shown to the umpires and opposing captain prior to the toss being made.

THIS RULE CHANGE NEEDS A SECONDER

Management Committee Proposals

Proposed Rule Change No. 6

Management Committee

5 v) When a game is cancelled for any reason other than the weather, the defaulting team shall be awarded 0 points **on the first occasion**, provided the match is cancelled by 9 pm on the preceding Friday, but will lose 8 points if the cancellation is any later. To ensure that this is recorded correctly, this must be **emailed to Registration/results secretary before the 9.00 pm deadline. Any further cancellations during the season will result in the defaulting side being awarded MINUS 5 POINTS per cancellation.**

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

The award of 0 points makes it too easy to cancel matches, there should be a penalty - albeit small to encourage sides to still play even with short sided teams. We acknowledge that sometimes the numbers are not there, so in this way there is a proposal for a 0 points on first offence.

Such cancellations need to be sent to league as results cannot be entered until day of match, so there is no way of monitoring time of cancellation.

The Huntspill & District CC second this proposal

Proposed Rule Change No. 7

Management Committee

5. MATCHES (n) Don Crouch Trophy. The average marks of ALL club teams, recorded in the team captains' reports, will determine the winner of the Don Crouch Trophy.

The Huntspill & District CC second this proposal.