

Minutes of Somerset Cricket League Committee meeting 26th October 2026 via zoom

Present: Andy Barrett, Amanda Counsell, John Squirrell, Toby Strang, Derek Hicks and Lisa Burton

Apologies (mainly due to meeting being rescheduled) Gary Warren, Stuart Shepherd, Matt Counsell, Matt Lunn and Ben Pomeroy.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Matters Arsing:

The outstanding discipline issue has been concluded with two players receiving a match ban, league admin is wating on one letter of apology.

AC met on zoom with Micheal Grossett of ECB Officials, looking at umpire stats, it was noted that around 60% of matches had an umpire – most umpires officiated across WEPL and SCL and a few solely umpired SCL

AC has sent a list of additional sanctions to Cricket Regulator to see it the league can add them to the RCR sanctions and use if felt they were required, these include captains sanctions and team point deductions.

Correspondence:

From Edward Martin standing down from the SCL committee, the Chair thanked him for all his hard work and guidance over the years to the SCL.

An email of apology following the outstanding discipline issue.

B and D regarding joint registrations for same club in their league and SCL

Email regarding use of coloured kit – this was discussed and it was agreed that the SCL is a red ball league and therefore white kit. Issues were raised regarding use of coloured kit and different coloured balls etc

Email from cricket ball companies – the SCL are currently in the middle of a 3-year ball contract with Lords Balls

Email from Chard CC proposing some rule changes.

From Bridgwater CC showing work that has been completed on nursery ground following this summer encampment of travellers.

From North Perrott regarding umpire costs being split – this has been the case for the last 2 seasons.

From SCCC – feedback and thanking us for using them for our Presentation.

From Wellington CC regarding a 4th team which will be a merged Sampfrod Arundel and Wellington CC team which will be administered by Wellington– AC has worked with club and with play cricket to work out a way of how this would work and how it can show on fixtures and tables etc.

From WEPL sharing their draft tier 3 facilities criteria – this appears to be the same as we shared with premier clubs mid-season.

Treasurer's Report: John reported that he is waiting the final costs from the dinner and is preparing the annual financial statement from Companies House.

Sponsorship: LB reported that she is in dialogue with a potential sponsorship partner, talks are currently on going. AB reported he has been approached by another sponsorship partner who wishes to support the league – it was discussed what this could look like and it was suggested that possibly the sponsorship of the weekly honours boards would be an option. AB will follow this up.

Composition of the League: The divisional composition was shared with the meeting, each regionalised division was mapped and drawn up. Some clubs will be in different regionalisation teams due to the teams that were relegated or promoted being a better fit. Divisions will be populated on website in coming few weeks

All the division 6 s are back to being 10 team divisions with the addition of East Huntspill 2, Wrington 2 and Over Stowey. Division 7 S will have 10 teams due to the entry of the Wellington & Sampford Arundel team.

It was agreed that due to their location in the county that both Wellington 3 and their new team will be in the same division this season. Although the league has a rule to permit this we do prefer to keep 2 teams at same level separate, however in this case it was agreed that there was no other viable option in 2027. The club has been advised to keep squads as separate as possible. There will also play each other early in the season to mitigate any possible conflict of interest .

Clubs have been asked advise AC of any date they cannot play on their ground as soon as possible. It was noted that there are 18 weekends and 18 games so each week someone will be at home if a club has 2 teams – clubs need to advise which team they prefer to try and rearrange.

Possible Rule Changes: Chard CC and seconded by Broadway & Horton have proposed:

Rule Amendment 1: Start times for all Somerset Cricket League games to begin at 12 - This moves the start for all divisions in line with the current WEPL start time.

Rule Amendment 2: Innings at all levels should have Cut Offs, to promote a faster pace of play and help ensure games do not run for an extended period of time, with fielding restriction penalties in place for those who overrun.

Rule Amendment 3: Introduce fielding restrictions and powerplays at all levels, currently these are only played down to division 5, our proposal would make this a requirement down to division 7.

The committee will contact them to discuss further as currently there are no powerplays in any division other than Premier who play WEPL rules, this will need separating as a rule and are unclear on how the 2nd amendment will work/be managed by clubs.

Generally, the feeling of the committee was that 12 starts would not work with work commitments and distances some club must travel especially if it is club on edge of county.

They are considering a proposal of 12.30 for Premier (maybe div 1) and 1pm for other divisions.

League Dinner: LB reported positive feedback from all who attended the dinner as well as SCCC. The evening was a great success, and Arul Suppiah was an interesting guest in conversation with Matt Counsell. The raffle raised £1015 for Mind-Somerset and will be presented at their offices in Taunton. The committee thanked Jacob Lunn for his photography and Lisa for all her hard work in pulling the evening together.

Issues raised by committee members:

It was raised whether the face to face AGM was the right way to go, but it was agreed we would try as this is what member clubs wanted. AGM is booked for Thursday 4th February at Bridgwater Rugby Club. (time to be confirmed).

Concerns were raised about 'player payment', the league committee agreed that it was difficult to police and little they can do and is something that has probably always happened. AC expressed her concerns that sadly the days of player loyalty

are disappearing as players are enticed to clubs who will pay them considerable amounts to play in what is essentially an amateur feeder league.

It was agreed to send out the Don Crouch scores.

Diary dates:

AGM – 4th February 2027

Presentation Dinner: Friday 8th October 2027

Next SCL meeting 4th January – any rule proposals are needed by 31st December 2026

Meeting ended 8.40pm