

The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Thursday September 6, 2018 at Huntspill & District Cricket Club.

Those present Malcolm Fox (Chairman), Tom Packman, Amanda Counsell, Derek Hicks, Matt Counsell, Edward Martin, David Derrick, Martin King, Matt Lunn and Ray Hancock.

- 1. Apologies** were received from Toby Strang and Andy Fairbairn,
- 2. The Minutes** of the previous Management Committee Meeting (June 6 2018) were approved.
- 3. There were no matters arising.**
- 4. Correspondence.** a) An email from Wembdon CC concerning the imbalance of matches in Div. 8 was discussed. At the start of the season in Div. 8N there were 8 teams. Additional fixtures were made to increase the number of matches for all teams to 18 games. This involved 2 teams playing another team four times during the season. However, due to the withdrawal of Bridgwater Sports CC, a club with which Wembdon 4th XI was due to play 4 games, the Wembdon team only played 14 games. At the same time, the remaining teams, except for Peasedown 2nd XI all played 16 matches. Any decision will affect the promotion of different teams. However, the Committee decided that Wembdon 4th XI should receive 35 points for each cancellation made by Bridgwater Sports as per rule. (Rule 5. Matches (a) Conduct of Matches (b) Championship Points iv). As a result of this decision, Wembdon 4th XI finished in 2nd place in Division 8N. b) Correspondence was received from Steve Chaudoir of Castle Cary regarding the structure of the SCL in the future. The committee noted Steve's observations and the Hon. Sec. was asked to write to him and request that he writes a rule proposal that would be debated at the Rules Meeting on November 12. c) Correspondence was received from Hamish Hodder of Crewkerne CC regarding a different format for matches. This was aimed at the lower divisions and clubs that would wish to play fewer games in the season. The committee noted Hamish's comments and the Hon. Sec. was asked to write to him and request that he writes a rule proposal that would be debated at the Rules Meeting on November 12.
- 5. Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer reported the likelihood of a surplus for the year substantially higher than had been budgeted and announced at the 2017 AGM. The subsequent decision to cease production of the League Handbook together with a very successful 2017 Presentation Dinner and some other smaller items had combined to inflate the budgeted surplus by at least £2000. It was believed that this level of surplus would not be repeated in 2019. There were still some small items of Income and Expenditure to be resolved and the final accounts for the Year ending 30th September 2018 would be presented to the October Management Committee Meeting. The committee decided to again emphasise the availability of 50% subsidies of SCB Courses to both SCL clubs and club members where the recent uptake had been disappointingly low. In respect to the growing bank balance the committee decided that in the light of some uncertainties existing in respect to the longer-term administration of the League it would be prudent to continue to budget for an annual surplus.
- 6. Don Crouch scores.** Edward Martin reported that all teams had scored above the 80% mark, although 7 teams had failed to reach 85%. He had spoken to a number of clubs that were close to this low figure and was pleased to report that most of these clubs had improved their statistics. The Committee considered this, the final Don Crouch report of the season, and noted that Chard 3rd XI had recorded the highest score of 98.89% and Middlezoy 2nd XI was in second place with 97.29%. The award of the Don Crouch Trophy was discussed, and the Committee agreed that it could not award it to Chard 3rd XI as this team had cancelled 9 games in the season and finished with -39 points!

- 7. Report on Disciplinary Committee activities/recent hearings etc.** Edward Martin reported that there had been considerable activity with disciplinary issues, particularly in recent weeks. The Committee expressed its concern on the type of poor/bad behaviour exhibited by some players, usually when umpiring decisions had been made. He said that some investigations were ongoing, but he hoped that a resolution would be quickly achieved.
- 8. WEPL final tables.** Ray Hancock reported that the 2019 WEPL composition had been circulated earlier in the day and he distributed copies to members. It was noted that 3 teams (Taunton Deane 2nd XI; Street 1st XI and Wellington 1st XI) from the SCL had been promoted to the Somerset Division of WEPL (Tier 3). Staplegrove 1st XI and Uphill Castle 2nd XI had been relegated from tier 3 to the Premier Division of the SCL.
- 9. Confirmation of SCL final tables for 2018.** The Committee was presented with the final tables for 2018 and confirmed the details shown. A minor adjustment will take place after September 8 when all matches will have been completed.
- 10. Preliminary discussion on the SCL composition in 2019.** It agreed that few decisions could be made at this meeting and the final composition will be agreed at the next meeting. The general structure will remain with the first five divisions county wide and the remainder in a regional arrangement.
- 11. Trophy Winners 2018.** The Committee confirmed the awards of:- a) Ladbrokes Merit Trophy for the 'Club of the Year' to Trull CC. b) The Don Crouch Memorial Trophy to Middlezoy 2nd XI. c) The Sunday Independent Cup for the highest aggregate number of points (610 pts.) to Trull 1st XI.
- 12. Review of the Results Service in 2018.** David Derrick said that the play-cricket system had proved to be very successful and had given many additional facets to the results service. The audit trail had been a useful tool in dealing with late contested entries by clubs. It was unanimously agreed to minute the Committee's congratulations and thanks to David Derrick, Amanda Counsell and Website Manager John Squirrell for the diligent manner in which they administered this aspect of the service.
- 13. Items Raised by Committee Members.** –a) EM suggested that fielding circles be introduced for divisions 3 – 5. They already exist in Divs. 1 & 2. The Committee agreed to extend the arrangement for fielding circles to divisions 3, 4, 5. b) EM suggested that declarations by a side batting first should result in outstanding bowling points being awarded to the fielding side. The Committee agreed that this adjustment be made for 2019. c) EM noted that some league administrators have been subject to abusive comments and a general lack of respect from some club representatives. The Chairman agreed to address this issue in his introductions at the AGM. d) EM expressed his concern about the recruitment (or lack of) additional committee members. The Hon. Secretary agreed to write a piece for the next update. e) EM raised the details of the recent national coverage of the incident in the Minehead v Purnell match. It was felt that the SCL had dealt properly with the issue and suggested that should any future occurrence take place then contact with the media should be only through a specified league committee representative. f) EM raised the relationship between the SCL, the ECB and the SCB. It was agreed that work and cooperation between the key cricketing bodies will only benefit the game. A new initiative between the boards will have a stimulating effect on local cricket as well as in the wider scene. g) DH asked if a rule regarding a match being abandoned could be introduced. The Committee felt that the current rules should be applied. h) DH noted that a number of clubs were not marking appointed umpires after the match. This particularly applied to division 2 teams. As a result, it was agreed to review the whole points fines for a range of situations. Fines of 3 points would now be levied on failure to complete umpires' reports (Div. 1 & 2 only); imputing and verifying failures.
- 14. Possible rule changes.** The Committee decided to leave discussion of this item to the next meeting of the Committee. Clubs wishing to submit proposals for rule changes should ensure that they are received

by the Hon. Secretary no later than October 7 2018. **Note** This is now a new and later closing date than originally published in Update 1 (Sept. 30).

- 15. Standard Cricket Ball.** RH said that he had indicated to Mr. Najmi, Lords Cricket Balls, that the SCL would require a similar number of balls in 2019. It is possible that the logo on the ball will be changed to copy the newer logo of the Shrubbery Hotel
- 16. Grounds Standards.** DH reported on behalf of the Grounds Committee. He noted the issue with the second pitch in Bridgwater and told the Committee that further investigations were being carried out to help resolve the problems.
- 17. Presentation Night. October 26 2018.** RH said that the details of the Presentation Night will be published in the next update. The cost (£18) will remain the same and Richard Walsh will bring a County Cricket Club player to join him in a 'Question and Answer' session.
- 18. Fixtures 2019.** RH said that the fixtures for season 2019 will be prepared in early October after clubs have indicated any additional/withdrawal of teams.
- 19. The Committee.** The Committee nominated four members (namely Malcolm Fox, David Derrick, Tom Packman and Derek Hicks) who had served their 3-year term for re-election to the Management Committee at the AGM. However, the Committee is still very keen to involve some younger members in the administration of the SCL. If there are any cricketers who would be prepared to join the Management Committee and help with moving cricket in the Somerset Cricket League forward, then the Committee suggests that they get in touch with the Hon. Secretary Ray Hancock.
- 20. Items of any other business.** There were none.
- 21. Dates of Future Meetings.** The Management Committee will meet on Thursday October 11 at the County Ground. The Rules Meeting will take place on Monday November 12 at the Victoria Club, Street and the AGM will be held at the Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster on Monday December 10.
- 22.** The meeting closed at 10.25 pm.