



## **SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE**

**Wednesday March 3 2021, at 7.30pm. Using Zoom**

Present – Edward Martin, Ray Hancock, Nicky Clarke, Stuart Shepherd, Martin King, David Derrick, Toby Strang, Andy Barratt, Amanda Counsell, Matt Counsell, Matt Lunn, Simon Glover, Derek Hicks, John Squirrell

1. **Apologies** – Andy Fairbairn
2. **Declaration of interests** - None
3. **Minutes of previous meeting January 29** - accepted
4. **Matters arising** – RH mentioned promotion and relegation in the regional divisions, but it was agreed to carry this forward as we have a packed agenda.
5. **Correspondence** - None
6. **Street CC and the SCL website** – EM explained that the Street letter had been received, circulated and displayed on the MSL website as standard practice, unfortunately local press picked up the statement and ran a story detrimental to Street’s plans which upset Mike Storey. MC removed the story from the website.
7. **play-cricket.com website and SCL Website** - EM reminded the committee that the website needs to be maintained by JS. The original SCL website is still active.
8. **Subgroup meetings (February 4 & 18) – SCL Rules** – AC explained that most changes have been for clarity, and to change dates. Draft version is colour coded for ease as rule changes may need to be added/removed after the EGM. We are just waiting for AB to finalise the wording of the strengthening rule which will also be added. The pre-season circular has been adapted into stand alone help guides which will be added to the website within the next week.
9. **Application for grants** – SG reported that there are a number of grants available, of particular interest is the ECB League Emergency Grant, deadline 15<sup>th</sup> March, and up to £3k available. He is investigating other options and will apply for any which are suitable.
10. **Secretary’s telephone and broadband** - Discussion took place on the BT telephone/broadband contract and it was agreed to seek further details on it and report back to a subsequent meeting
11. **System Manager’s report** - DD has updated a number of documents on play-cricket, and is currently working on the mission statement, roles for committee members, refining the contact database and recording committee members declarations of interest.
12. **SCB Report** – MC confirmed that about 50% of the contact questionnaires have been returned to the SCB, and that a lot of clubs had pushed back their AGMs due to the pandemic. A reminder will be sent to clubs on 4<sup>th</sup> March.  
ECB are still determining what the return to sport guidelines mean for cricket, but should be releasing information within the next week.

DD praised the webinars which SCB had recently hosted, and MC advised there were two more coming up, the details of which would be circulated to clubs. 17<sup>th</sup> March – Safeguarding, 29<sup>th</sup> March – Play-Cricket (focusing on player registrations, results input etc)

13. **Clothing for Committee members** – NC has contacted a local company called Metro Printing to provide MSL branded polo-shirts, hoodies/sweatshirts to committee members. Cost seems reasonable, and includes two embroidery items. Additional cost is applicable to create an embroidery template, but this will then remain in the ownership of the MSL. NC to circulate committee members for their orders.
14. **Sponsorship update** – EM stated that David Pomeroy, Monmouth Scientific and MSL are happy with the arrangement. MS has recently been sold, but it is not anticipated that this will impact the sponsorship deal, and they are keen to continue once the current agreement ends in 2 years.
15. **Cricket balls and arrangements for ‘balls distribution’** – It was agreed that 4 collection points will be arranged, and details will be advised at the EGM. BACS payments need to be received prior to balls being collected.
16. **Player registrations** – AC will be circulating all clubs to remind them to remove redundant registrations, to transfer any players back as necessary, and complete the registration process properly.
17. **EGM Monday April 12 at 7.30 pm** – MC to arrange using SCB zoom
18. **Loan scheme needs defining** – AC explained that the loan scheme is in place to help fulfil a fixture of the lowest team, and therefore strengthening rules must be followed. The loan form must be emailed to AC and it has been update to ensure that the parent club is made aware as this wasn’t always happening.
19. **Results Monitoring Arrangements for 2021** – AC will continue as previously, play-cricket has date stamps so clubs must adhere to the deadlines in place. Clubs with appointed umpires must also complete the umpires feedback by midday Wednesday following the game, otherwise penalties will be applied.  
Appeals to be made to the Disciplinary Secretary.
20. **Umpiring arrangements in 2021 (DH) and report of WEPL meeting – 25/2/21** – DH advised that Terry Sterland is working on the appointments for WEPL B/S division, MSL Premier Div and Div 2. It’s likely that some Div 2 games will not have 2 neutral umpires, but appointments should be out by the end of March.  
NC updated on the WEPL Umpires Initiative which will be going live in 2022. Nationally the ACOs are seeing a 20% reduction in standing umpires every year, if there is no recruitment drive within 5 years the WEPL Premier Division may be the only division regularly seeing two neutral umpires. Clubs will be incentivised to get umpires trained; up to 18 points per season, it’s not ideal but currently the only viable solution. These umpires will initially stand in the feeder leagues before hopefully progressing up the pyramid.  
Further discussions are needed as many clubs in the feeder leagues do not have WEPL clubs so will not directly benefit, there will also be challenges to overcome for clubs who don’t usually

see neutral umpires, e.g payment and using who's the umpire. Once the rules and messaging is clear there will be a unified social media campaign with backing from WEPL, ACOs, Feeder Leagues and County Boards.

21. **Law changes** – None, but Covid rules will still be in place, at least for the first half of the season.
22. **Club Welfare Officers** – AC has chased all clubs, only concern is Peasedown St John who are not responding to emails. DBS checks are recommended for all captains and vice-captains, and are being carried out on Zoom.
23. **Public Liability insurance certificates** – RH has only received two, but it's important that the league receive a copy for their records. DD to create a rolling register based on renewal dates. Rules to be amended to include that a copy must be submitted to the league as well as being displayed in the clubhouse.
24. **Rule changes/additions** – Frome have made a proposal about start times. Huntspill, Ilton and Wembdon have proposed that all divisions play 40 overs, Huntspill have countered this with a second proposal that only Divisions 1 & 2 still play 45 overs.
25. **Presentation Night Autumn 2021** – Two dates have been reserved with Somerset CCC, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct and 29<sup>th</sup> Oct. It was agreed to go with 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021 to prevent any clash with WEPL. SS keen to negotiate hard to make savings, and less free tickets will be forthcoming as the ticket cost will be higher than when the dinner was held at the Shrubbery Hotel.
26. **Future Committee & League Dates** – EGM 12<sup>th</sup> April  
18th March – Pre-EGM meeting  
21<sup>st</sup> April – Post EGM meeting
27. **Pre-season Circular. Delete ??** – see item 8
28. **AOB – EM extended his thanks to all committee members for all that has already been achieved in 2021.**