

# The Shrubbery Hotel - Somerset Cricket League

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday  
July 12, 2017 at Burnham Football Club.

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

- 1. Apologies** were received from Derek Hicks, Toby Strang, Ian Latchem, Andy Fairbairn, Martin King and Matt Lunn.
- 2. The Minutes** of the previous Management Committee Meeting (February 15 2017) were approved.
- 3. There were no matters arising.**
- 4. Correspondence.** A report regarding pitch quality and safeness had been received. The Committee decided to seek a pitch inspection and the Hon. Secretary was asked to contact Dave Counsell. Other items which had been received would be dealt with during the appropriate place in the agenda.
- 5. Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer reported that there were no outstanding monies owing to the League. He itemised the various expenditure items since the previous meeting. These included Insurance, Cricket Balls and Handbook. He had experienced a greater reluctance this year on the part of Handbook advertisers. He noted that a £50 donation had been paid to charity in memory of the late Graham Skidmore a regular umpire for the SCL mainly in the 1980's and 1990's. The current figures suggested that the League's Income & Expenditure Account would show either a break-even situation or a small surplus for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The League currently held a stock of cricket balls valued in excess of £800.
- 6. Disciplinary Issues.** Edward Martin, the Disciplinary Secretary reported that there had been no disciplinary issues so far that required investigation or meetings. However, he had been very active with overseas players, team strengthening and cancellation problems that were dealt with as technical offences.
- 7. New cancellation procedures using the SCL website in addition to the current method.** Edward Martin proposed a system that could use the SCL website to help identify and resolve problems of travelling and cancellations due to weather and pitch conditions. It would be in addition to the existing procedure and incorporate a 'traffic lights' system of RED, AMBER & GREEN! The committee felt that there was considerable merit in the system which would be further investigated.
- 8. Team Selection – team strengthening.** The Committee considered the problems regarding team strengthening. The number of referrals both to ascertain players' availability when demoted and/or to complain about higher level players in lower level teams had reached an 'all time' high this season. Members were also concerned about players who had returned to the area of the SCL having been involved with cricket in other areas and at higher levels. The monitoring of this aspect was very difficult and time consuming. The Committee agreed that the rules on strengthening as detailed in the pre-season circular must be upheld. The committee would also explore the use of the technical sections of the ECB Play-Cricket website to check on player status.
- 9. Umpiring and SACO.** David Derrick noted that all clubs in the Premier Division and Division 1, with one exception, had been preparing and submitting weekly reports on the umpires provided by SACO. (Rule 5 Matches (k) Performance Report on Umpires). The defaulting club has subsequently been

warned that failure to submit the report by the Wednesday following the match will attract a 15 point fine. It was also noted that some promoted teams from division 3 may be unaware of the cost of the appointed umpire. These minutes, and the next update, will advise clubs of this charge so as it does not come as a financial surprise in the future. Currently, each umpire costs £35 per game.

- 10. Website.** It was noted that there was an increasing need to use a number of the statistical aspects of play-cricket. The ECB had invested heavily in play-cricket and was offering 'no costs' installations for some aspects. It was suggested that some 'technically minded' committee members carry out further investigations. It was conceivable that some form of an integrated package could be the solution.
- 11. Transfers and loans.** David Derrick noted that there had been a number of loans and transfers. One problem transfer had now been resolved. Discussion took place regarding the promotion of the loan scheme to assist clubs to fulfil fixtures. Discussion on a data base of players who were available to play was also to be encouraged. Social media could also be used to advertise availability. The committee encouraged clubs to use the loan form system to raise teams when their own resources were low.
- 12. Withdrawals.** The Committee expressed its concern over the withdrawals of two teams from Divisions 2 & 4. Ultimately, this could affect the number of SCL divisions and result in Division 5 being regionalised!
- 13. Flexi League.** The four clubs involved had made every effort to carry out the programme but a number of cancellations had decimated the competition. Examples of other league's initiatives were discussed and it was resolved to look carefully at the B & D format.
- 14. Issues with social media and any impact on the SCL.** The Committee expressed its concern over reports that abusive and inflammatory messages were seen on social media sites. Amanda Counsell agreed to monitor the various sites. Disciplinary action would be taken if necessary.
- 15. WEPL and the Feeder Leagues.** The chairman and secretary reported on a meeting that they had attended earlier in the week. It had been a very useful meeting in terms of looking at the future structure of WEPL both at the end of this season and in the future. Issues of meeting the criteria for playing in WEPL (all three tiers) and the problem of unbalanced numbers being promoted and relegated at the end of the season were causes for concern. Those attending the meeting felt that it had been a very useful 'mid-term' assessment of the future relationship between WEPL officers and the feeder leagues.
- 16. Under age players in adult cricket.** Amanda Counsell raised her concern about under age children playing in the SCL. There had recently been instances of children younger than 12 at August 31 2016 (ie Year 7) playing in matches in the SCL contrary to the league rules. She had advised clubs where this failure had occurred. The committee determined that where instances occurred in the future, teams will be fined 15 points and advised that their insurance could be invalid if an accident took place. This invalidity action would be because a club was not following the rules as set out in SCL Rules No. 7 Players. (e) Minimum age of players. Amanda agreed to write a note for circulation in the next league update. It was also noted that this ECB directive applied to ALL cricket not solely the SCL. Matt Counsell agreed to raise the issue with the SCB.
- 17. Don Crouch scores.** Edward Martin reported that there were currently some low scores recorded by clubs. He expressed his concern that some teams seemed to be taking 'an average score' policy. He questioned whether the Don Crouch marking system needed revising.
- 18. Club welfare officers, SPC, Safe Hands courses and DBS certificates.** Amanda Counsell, League Welfare Officer noted that SCL clubs had attained the necessary standards. It was also noted that the DBS system of verification was changing and certification was now possible online.

- 19. Team of the Month** – The Team of the Month prize for May was won by Lympsham & Belvedere 2<sup>nd</sup> XI with a score of 140 points from 4 games at an average of 35.00 points per game. In second place, Uphill Castle 1<sup>st</sup> XI had statistics of 139 pts from 4 games at 34.75pg and third place was taken by Yeovil 3<sup>rd</sup> XI with 103 pts from 3 games at 34.33 pg.  
Team of the Month prize for June was won by Yeovil 2<sup>nd</sup> XI with a score of 140 points from 4 games at an average of 35.00 points per game. In second place, jointly were Weston super Mare 2<sup>nd</sup> XI with statistics of 104 pts from 3 games at 34.67 pg. and Trull 1<sup>st</sup> XI with 104 pts from 3 games at 34.67 pg.
- 20. Possible rule changes.** Result/score card input. The Committee will propose that the result must be inputted by noon on the day following the match rather than midnight. It was felt that with the increase in technology more clubs could report earlier. This would be in line with other adjacent leagues.
- 21. Presentation Night.20<sup>th</sup> October 2017.** The Hon. Secretary said that the Presentation Night will be held at the Shrubbery Hotel on October 20<sup>th</sup>. He would speak to Richard Walsh to enlist his help in identifying a principal guest. However, it was noted that WEPL had moved its Presentation Night from its usual November date to October 20 and it now clashed with the SCL one. It was agreed that the Hon. Secretary would discuss the possibility of a change of date with the Shrubbery Hotel.
- 22. Issues raised by clubs.** There were none.
- 23. Items of any other business.** There were none.
- 24.** The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.