



The Somerset Cricket League
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Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 16th August 2023 At 7.30pm held by zoom

Present: Amanda Counsell, John Squirrell, Andy Barrett, Toby Strang, Darren Taylor, Derek Hicks, Stuart Shepherd, and Ray Hancock

Apologies: Tom Packman, Martin King, David Derrick, Matt Counsell, Matt Lunn

Minutes of last meeting were approved and virtually signed by Andy Barrett the Acting Chair.

Andy and the committee, on behalf of clubs, would like to put on record our thanks to Edward Martin who was chair of the league for several years and who has recently stepped down from the committee.

Matters Arising:

Amanda is going to discuss the loan scheme option with the B and D league.
Amanda and Nicola Clarke are working on new overseas players rules within Home Office requirements and will share at next meeting

Governance -_Still moving through the process – currently working on the rules.

Correspondence:

From various clubs who have appealed points fines – all have been dealt with or being dealt with by disciplinary. Also, from clubs regarding appeals and charges under RCR.

From Shaftesbury Road CC who are looking for a new ground – it was agreed that we would put no time scale on them to do this providing they had a home pitch by beginning of 2024 season.

From several clubs seeking membership to SCL in 2024 and exploring possibility of entering in 2024. It was agreed that we would make new division if necessary to accommodate new entrants.

Treasurer's Report: J Squirrell reported is waiting for the cricket ball stock numbers from World Class Willow. Amanda will contact them. He reported that we have renewed our zoom account at the cost of £143.88.

Committee: The SCL committee want to be more proactive rather than reactive to clubs and proposed some slight changes to the structure to help enhance this.

To help with engagement of clubs we are looking to form an Advisory Panel, who would meet with the Chairman once/twice a year. We see them as a sounding board of player/officials who would provide general feedback including current issues and matters across all leagues including making proposals. We hope this will be 5/6 people from across the divisions (large and small clubs) and a mixture of experienced players/officials and include a couple of younger players.

The main issue the league has been trying to manage currently is discipline. The ECB Recreational Conduct Regulations which we must use have timeframes and structures we must follow and managing it with only a few committee members has been hard. The meeting agreed that Darren Taylor would take on the role of Disciplinary Secretary, this role would entail looking at the reports and using RCR to decide whether charges are needed. Along with Darren, there will then 3 or 4 others who then decide sanctions, hold appeals etc. This panel will be formed over the winter, we already have one person in place who is not involved in any cricket club but comes with a wealth of experience from football. Nicola Clarke will train the disciplinary committee over the winter ready for 2024.

The meeting also discussed the need for someone to work alongside the committee to manage the social media to give us more visibility and would welcome anyone interested to get in touch with either Amanda or Andy.

EDI: Andy and Amanda are going to meet with John Peplow of the B and D is discuss EDI with them and to understand how they manage it within their league.

Cricket Balls: The cricket ball reporting has caused confusion as many clubs have reported they have used the WCW balls multiple times. We think this has come about as the Lords balls have the WCW sponsorship logo on one side. The responses have been downloaded and need to be analysed but Amanda reported that we may have to email all clubs asking for a short appraisal of each ball.

Disciplinary: Despite several reminders' behaviour on and off the field behaviour has not improved. The committee is disappointed by this. So far this season, there has been 5 player bans and a team points deduction. All of which are very time consuming for the committee to deal with. In addition to the serious bans, there is a considerable amount of lower-level poor behaviour across all divisions all of which needs to be stopped by the Club captains and committee before it escalates into something more serious.

WEPL: Following a recent meeting with WEPL and the feeder leagues, relegation and promotion was discussed. As it stands, we are expecting 3 teams back Somerset and only 2 will be promoted to WEPL Somerset. There is still a possibility of 4 back. All clubs were informed of this a few weeks ago along with a table to explain how the pyramid works. The extra relegation will have an impact on all our divisions with extra teams being relegated.

League Dinner: The 2023 dinner has been booked for Friday 20th October 2023, at the Somerset County Club at the County Ground. This will be a two course meal. Currently we are trying to final a speaker, more details to follow. We will again be presenting Divisional Player's Player awards along with the All-rounder and Young Player of the Year at the dinner. Links to voting forms will be sent and need to be returned by 10th September. All trophies awarded in 2023, need to be returned to a committee member or to the SCF office by end of season.

AOB:

- A suggestion that we look at mirroring WEPL rules for the Premier Division - further discussion will be held and possibly put in AGM.
- It was agreed to award 2 teams their average points due to an outstanding fixture.
- It was agreed if we can find a venue that the 2023 AGM will be face to face rather than online.

Meeting closed 8.50 pm