



The Somerset Cricket League

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Minutes of Committee Meeting held over zoom on 19th January 2023

Present: Amanda Counsell, Martin King, Derek Hicks, Ray Hancock, John Squirrell, , David Derrick, Andy Barrett, Matt Lunn, Matt Counsell, Toby Strang, Ben Osborne

Apologies: Tom Packman, Edward Martin

There was a declaration of interest from David Derrick -over the fixtures.

Minutes of last meeting were approved and virtually signed.

Correspondence:

From Wiviliscombe Flower show Committee requesting away matches for Wiveliscombe on weekend of 19th August due to flower show, - response had been sent saying fixtures had been set and committee would need to discuss a rearrangement with club.

From Wellington CC –expressing their surprise and unhappiness to only have 16 fixtures not the 20 fixtures they were expecting.

From Gower UCS who are touring North Devon between 24-28 July and are looking for a fixture on Friday, July 28.

From a player seeking information on playing with helmet camera – the Committee felt there could be issues around safeguarding and possibly umpiring disagreements. We will seek further advice from the ECB.

From Frome CC and Ilminster CC proposing rule changes for voting on at our EGM in April

Treasurer's Report : there is one club who has still not paid their 2022/23 invoice. John reported that he had tried to contact team several times and that Edward is now going to write to them. The committee agreed this needed to be settled before the club can play in the league in 2023, it was noted that there will also be a cricket ball invoice upcoming as well.

Public Liability Insurance David Derrick will be contacting clubs shortly to request sight of their public liability insurance as this is a requirement for league entry.

Governance- Amanda is reviewing and updating the constitution in readiness for the EGM. She is also going to investigate the structure of the league.

Safeguarding Amanda shared that many clubs have had a change in CSOs and has sent out dates of required training. She has also reminded clubs of the need for DBS for players/officials in regulated roles.

Sponsorship: Our website and social media platforms have undergone name changes and updates to reflect new sponsorship – this is ongoing, the cricket balls will also reflect this change.

Cricket Balls: We have placed an order with Lords Balls. We are also going to be trialling new cricket balls in 2023, each club will get their league balls as a mixture of our current ball and the new ball, eg, if 18 balls – 16 league ones and 2 new ones. Each club will be told which weekend to play using the trial ball and will be asked to fill in a feedback form. Each club will play one home and one away game with the balls so we can get a cross section of conditions, weathers and grounds. Matt Lunn will draw up a timetable and a feedback form.

League Dinner: The 2023 dinner has been booked for Friday 20th October 2023, at the Somerset County Club at the County Ground. Andy Barrett and Derek Hicks agreed to assist with the organisation

Fixtures: Addressing Wellingtons concerns Amanda explained the 11 team division and the unprecedented list of requests of dates to avoid due to ground availability caused huge problems. She apologised that the issues had not be communicated to the clubs at the AGM but at that point we were still working on the fixtures, and they didn't fall into place until the day before they were released.

The fixtures took more than 10 weeks of working on them and many ways of making them work were explored. To get every team to play each other in division 7 Red, it was impossible to do this without starting games in Mid-April and ending mid-September - which would not have been manageable for clubs who only have pitch access May to end of August. It would have also meant quite a few fixtures on Sundays, due to ground shares and multiple club teams. As there was no practicable solution, we sought help from the Wiltshire League who regularly deal with irregular sized leagues. David Norman from their league helped us and advised us the only practical solution was to play an 18 week season with the 11 team division playing 16 fixtures.

The committee are indebted to Ray, John and David Norman who worked so hard on these fixtures.

Ray suggested that if a team in the lower division dropped out, he might be able to look at the fixtures again but he ruled out any rewrite if a team higher up the league dropped out as that would mean a complete re write which would be impracticable.

Rule Changes: Two rules changes from Frome CC have been proposed, one around a new points system and another around in game rain delays. Both will be put towards the member clubs at the AGM. There was a query as to whether the points gained in the rain delay proposal will work on play cricket or will need to be manually changed by the admin. John Squirrel will investigate.

EGM: We are looking to book the EGM for the week beginning 24th April to coincide with the ball distribution.

AOB: Amanda has arranged to meet the secretary of SACO in March to discuss how we can work more collaboratively.

Meeting closed 8.29pm