



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday
September 24, 2019 at Huntspill & District Cricket Club.

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

1. **Apologies** were received from Stuart Shepherd, Matt Lunn, Toby Strang and Andy Fairbairn,
2. **The Minutes** of the previous Management Committee Meeting (July 10 2019) were approved.
3. **There were no matters arising.**
4. **Correspondence.** Correspondence received had been previously circulated for early action.
5. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer reported that the final accounts for the year ending 30th September 2019 would be presented to the October Management Committee meeting. Current figures suggested that the accounts would show a surplus for the year in the region of £1500. It had been brought to the attention of the Management Committee that League Rule 5b (v) that was changed at the 2018 AGM no longer included the minimum £20 fine levied for the non-weather-related match cancellations. Consequently 21 clubs (22 teams) had been incorrectly charged in the recent invoices they had received. The majority of those clubs had already paid those amounts and therefore they would be credited the relevant amount against their next invoice due in March/April 2020. It is the view of the Management Committee that the omission of the fine element from that rule had been an oversight and that it is likely its reinstatement would be proposed at the next AGM.
6. **Don Crouch scores.** Edward Martin reported that all teams were above the expected standard and he noted that Huish & Langport 2nd XI had recorded the highest score of 98.40% and Uphill Castle 3rd XI was in second place with 98.00%. The award of the Don Crouch Trophy was made in favour of Huish & Langport 2nd XI in 2019. The Committee agreed different criteria for the award of this trophy in the future. The Don Crouch trophy will be awarded to the club with the best average score through the season not an individual team. Good behaviour/sportsmanship should be a club ethos not just one side in the club.
7. **Report on Disciplinary Committee activities/recent hearings etc.** Edward Martin, the League's Disciplinary Secretary reported that it has been a very busy season. In all cases where the marks from the weekly match reports required further comments, these have been read and where appropriate further action had been taken. Umpire reports had been filed and again action, taken where appropriate, had been taken.

For the first time in several years the Disciplinary Committee had held a Disciplinary Hearing. The Committee comprised Tom Packman (Chair), Amanda Counsell and Martin King. An extremely fair verdict was achieved. The Disciplinary Secretary recorded the meeting and expressed his thanks to the committee members for a successful outcome.

Team Strengthening

The Disciplinary Secretary expressed his thanks to Andy Barrett who had taken on the difficult aspect of team strengthening complaints. He noted that the 2019 season had been the busiest one that he could recall. The Team Strengthening rules are currently displayed on the play-cricket website in the section 'Rules & Tariffs'. It was agreed that this rule should be moved to the 'Rules for Season 2020' following a re-writing of the rule and discussion at the AGM.

Result entry fines for non-compliance. Edward Martin noted that all fines and points deductions stood, and no further appeals allowed. He said that this decision was 'a black and white issue.' Fines and points deducted were issued when teams failed to file the results within the specified time frame and had not reported any technical issues which prevented them from doing so in the specified time frame.

8. **WEPL final tables.** Ray Hancock reported that there was one outstanding issue to be resolved by WEPL regarding the acquisition of Club Mark by a Premier 1 team. As soon as this issue had been resolved the 2020 WEPL composition would be finalized. It was noted that 2 teams (Taunton St. Andrews 2nd XI and Staplegrave 1st XI) from the SCL had been promoted to the Somerset Division of WEPL (Tier 3). Yeovil 1st XI, North Petherton 1st XI and Taunton Deane 2nd XI had been relegated from tier 3 to the Premier Division of the SCL. It was noted that these promotions and relegations will cause 3 teams to be relegated from some divisions in the SCL. Middlezoy, Minehead and Temple Cloud will be relegated from Division. 1 to Division 2 and Purnell , Burnham on Sea and Cheddar will be relegated from Division 2 to Division 3.
9. **Confirmation of SCL final tables for 2019.** The Committee noted the final tables, as shown on the play-cricket website, and confirmed the details shown.
10. **Preliminary discussion on the SCL composition in 2020.** It was noted that there had been no withdrawals to date, and on the contrary, there had been enquiries from 8 clubs about joining the SCL in 2020. It was agreed that further decisions regarding the compositions would be made by a sub-group of the Committee when the exact details of the potential teams were known. MC; AB and TP would meet with the RH to determine next season's structure. The general structure will remain with the first five divisions county-wide and the remainder in a regional arrangement.
11. **Trophy Winners 2019.** The Committee confirmed the awards of:- a) Ladbrokes Merit Trophy for the 'Club of the Year' to Lympsham and Belvedere CC. b) The Don Crouch Memorial Trophy to Huish & Langport 2nd XI. c) The Sunday Independent Cup for the highest aggregate number of points (570 pts.) to Trull 1st XI. The Committee determined the winner of the 'Young Player of the Year' Trophy should be James Hawksworth of Long Sutton CC and The Glastonbury Mowers All Rounder's Trophy was awarded to Kevin Curtis of Temple Cloud CC.
12. **Review of the Website Registration System of players in 2019.** It was noted that there were some anomalies with registrations and transfers. In future, full addresses may be required for player registration as club addresses will no longer be sufficient. This could require clubs to update their registrations over the winter period. It was noted that the online play cricket transfer system worked well
13. **Items Raised by Committee Members.** -a) DD raised the issue of Club Mark accreditation. The SCL needs to promote obtaining Club Mark accreditation amongst its Premier Division

teams. Recent WEPL communications in this respect show that any membership of their structure is dependent on having such in place per a range of differing timescales. Clubs need to work with SCB and not the SCL to achieve this matter, but the SCL will assist and support where and whenever it can to see that the members of its Premier Division are equipped to be promoted to WEPL's Somerset Division in good time when such opportunities arise. The issue of club facilities would also feature in this update. b) The issue of loan players was raised and it was agreed that the system offered many benefits, but it had also been abused. It was agreed to continue with the system, but the problem areas needed to be addressed before next season so the scheme would be reviewed and updated.

14. Possible rule changes. The Committee decided to finalise discussion of this item at its next meeting. Meanwhile, a) EM suggested that Premier Division clubs should play matches consisting of 50 overs per side with a 12 noon or 12:30 start. This was from a request from several players who have played in 50 over cricket in the past. The reasoning was that it would help teams to be ready for the next step if they were promoted to the WEPL. b) DH pointed out that Umpires Reports were not being submitted by some clubs. He noted that failure to submit the report was covered in the SCL rules (Rule 5. Matches, 1) Performance Report on Umpires). It had been difficult to implement this rule this season due to lack of information. In future, failure to submit the report will attract a 3 points deduction for any team in Premier 1 and Division 2. c) It was decided to revise the Overseas Player conditions and form (OP2) for use in season 2020.

Clubs wishing to submit proposals for rule changes should ensure that they are received by the Hon. Secretary no later than October 19 2019.

15. Grounds Standards. MC noted that the new weekly ground reports have worked really well. Apart from the need to chase up a few reports in the early part of the season, they were completed without fail. All teams, with the exception of three, achieved the minimum standard of 3 out of 5 with two of these teams from the same club. The clubs have had support from the Somerset Groundsman Association to make improvements and the scores improved from the visit. One club is carrying out autumn renovations and has appointed a qualified Groundsman for the 2020 season and beyond. Another club is moving to a new pitch for 2020 which they will have more control over. In all there were 23 reports on pitches being poor or very poor and 17 reports on outfielders being poor. The majority of the outfield reports were early season when they were rough from winter sports. For 2020 there will be a few minor tweaks to the report form to gain greater understanding of the conditions relating to the weather on the day and if the pitch was non-turf.

16. Presentation Night. October 25 2019. RH said that the details of the Presentation Night, which will be held at Wembdon Cricket Club this year, were published at the end of the season and some clubs have already ordered tickets. The cost (£18) will remain the same and Richard Walsh will arrange for a County Cricket Club player to join Matt Counsell in a 'Question and Answer' session.

17. Fixtures 2020. RH said that the fixtures for season 2020 will be prepared in early October after clubs have indicated any additional/withdrawal of teams and the WEPL composition has been finalised.

18. The Committee. The Committee nominated two members (namely Ray Hancock and Edward Martin) 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.

19. Items of any other business. a) Edward Martin noted that the Sponsor, Monmouth Scientific Ltd. had presented two winners of the Team of the Month prizes with tickets for SCCC matches in the Twenty/20 competition and two further winners received £100 vouchers for Somerset County Sports. b) The Committee decided to re-name the 'Young Player of the Year' trophy to reflect the name of the new sponsor.

20. Dates of Future Meetings. The Management Committee will meet on Thursday October 24. The Rules Meeting will take place on Monday November 18 (if required) and the AGM will be held at Wembdon Cricket Club on Monday December 9.

21. The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.