



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

**Friday 29th January, 2021
Using Zoom and starting at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Edward Martin, Ray Hancock, Amanda Counsell, Stuart Shepherd, John Squirrell, David Derek, Matt Lunn, Andy Barrett, Derek Hicks, Toby Strang

1. Apologies – Matt Counsell, Tom Packman
2. Declaration of interests – EM reminded all members of the committee that details of the meetings should not be shared publicly until agreed.
3. Minutes of previous meeting – Thursday January 21 2021 (NC) – These had been circulated with all committee members and would be shared with the clubs once the minutes of this meeting were ready to be shared.
4. Matters arising – Fixtures for Div 7 needed minor adjustments following the Div 7 & 8 meeting, so that clubs with two teams in the same division would play each other weeks 1 & 10.
AC commented that she thought it was a positive meeting, and the presentation given by Matt Counsell illustrated the issues faced by the clubs in the lower divisions which may have helped the proposal to be passed.
Discussion was had about the concerns raised about the number of promotion places, to increase to two per div 7 would mean 4 teams being relegated from each of div 6, creating too much instability at div 6, but AB outlined a play-off scenario of the 2nd placed teams in div 7 for two additional promotion places. This would have to be discussed with div 6. AC felt this should be held over until the end of the season as we don't know the full impact on the 2021 season, but it should be shared with clubs that MSL are considering all options. AC also felt it was likely that clubs would submit their own proposals during 2021, as there was a strong feeling amongst the div 7 clubs that extra competition would be welcome.
5. Proposed press release. (EM) – Agreed this would be circulated on the website, social media and to local press.

The MSL (Somerset Cricket League) announce major changes to Divisions 7 & 8

Acting on feedback from its member clubs, the MSL management committee investigated a possible restructure of its lower divisions. Up to and including 2020 Divisions 7 and 8 have always been regionalised in attempt to facilitate shorter travelling times but regrettably the reality was travelling times were still too long and with increasingly scattered teams around the county, the regionalised divisions as they are now do not fit their brief. With the support of the Somerset Cricket Board, the MSL came up with a proposal to amalgamate Divisions 7 and 8 into four Division 7s, each comprising of 9 teams based on their locality.- with the Champions of each Division being promoted to Division 6. The result of this re-organisation reduces average travelling times down to approximately 30 minutes or less.

At a Zoom meeting on Thursday 21st January, Clubs in Divisions 7 and 8 overwhelmingly voted in favour of the new structure and associated rule changes.

MSL Chairman, Edward Martin said *“There was overwhelming support for the proposed changes that will significantly reduce travel and allow a better match day experience both on and off the field of play to be implemented.*

We hope that it will also redress some of the points that Somerset Cricket Board's analysis of the last two regular seasons (2018 and 2019) yielded and so make this area of the League which is an entry point into the senior game the best place for young players to step into adult cricket.”

The MSL would like to thank the SCB for their help and assistance, and also the clubs who positively engaged in the discussions which took place.

Edward Martin.

6. Fixtures for Season 2021 (RH) – fixtures were done and ready to be published to play-cricket, JS to action upload.
7. Rule Change proposals to date.
 - a) All divisions 40 overs – Huntspill had proposed this rule change, with Ilton and Wembdon supporting, so will be taken to the EGM. It was felt that perhaps the Premier and Division 2 should be playing 45 overs, as there is an expectation they will want to challenge for promotion to WEPL and 40 to 50 overs is a big jump. AC said she would speak to Huntspill, Ilton and Wembdon to see if they would be willing to support a counter-proposal.
At this point 10c) was discussed, segmented overs (Prem & Div 2 – 50 overs, Divs 3/4/5 – 45 overs, Div 6 & 7 – 40 overs), but it was felt that the committee recommendation would be a 45/40 overs split.
 - b) Starting time to be 12.30 and 12.noon in last 3 games – Frome and Kilmington proposed this change, it would go to the EGM, but the committee felt that this was too early, and starting at 1pm all season would be suitable, and clubs can still start earlier by agreement.
 - c) No traditional teas – no club proposal had been received as yet, and AC advised it's unlikely that teas will be allowed in 2021 due to ongoing Covid restrictions. Wording of the rule would need to be reviewed in case it says mandatory.
8. Rules Update. (RH) will produce a set of revised rules (and try to distribute before meeting) for initial discussion on changes required. – A small working party of AC, RH, DH and NC agreed to review the rules, much of the current rules is no longer relevant or covered in the constitution, and they generally need a refresh for 2021.
Meeting to be held Thursday 4th March, 7pm
9. EGM.
 - a) Date of meeting – Monday 12th April, 7.30pm, likely on zoom
 - b) voting on proposals – AC believes there is a way closed voting can be done, and MC can advise
 - c) collection of cricket balls – will be agreed once we know when cricket can start, but likely they will be left with members of the committee for clubs to collect.
10. Observations Ref. EM & DD
 - a. Advise Man Comm of a new role that DD will be taking up called ‘Systems Officer’ and the Nature of this Role – David Derek will be putting together work instructions and diarise significant date for the committee and clubs, to ensure smoother running if volunteers leave unexpectedly.
 - b. MSL Mission Statement for 2021 – this will be circulated to the committee members to comment on.

- c. Potential to offer Segmental Overs per Innings through the MSL Structure (perhaps 50 per side Premier/Two, 45 per side Three/Four/Five, 40 per side Sixes and Sevens) – covered earlier in the meeting
- d. The Future of Tea Provision within the MSL –advise clubs during the course of the season that this is being considered.
- e. Grant Aid from ECB – Is such available to a non-Premier League? – EM acknowledged that without funds in the bank 2020 could have been a difficult season financially for the league, and it's the league's responsibility to look at what help may be available. Simon Glover to be asked to investigate, and seek advice from Andy Fairbairn.
- f. Use of Play-Cricket Statistical Packages to give a quantitative report of MSL playing action per month – Matt Counsell used this information in support of the Div 7 & 8 amalgamation, and it was felt it would be useful going forward to have this information available monthly during the season.

11. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 3rd March, 7.30pm on zoom

12. Any other business

AB highlighted the concerning stats provided by MC, and said that the league need to look at what measures can be taken to reduce cancellations due to lack of players, reduce short sided teams being fielded, and to encourage more youth into the MSL.