



SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE

Honorary Secretary's Report 2019

Prepared by Ray Hancock
November 2019

The Somerset Cricket League found a new sponsor in 2019 when Monmouth Scientific Ltd. became the 4th sponsor of the League since its inception in 1973. The SCL is most grateful to David Pomeroy, Chairman and founder of the Bridgwater based company for his decision to support local cricket. Incidentally, David is also Chairman of Middlezoy Cricket Club, so he knows what cricket means to the clubs and players in the County.

The Somerset Cricket League again lost several teams including Kilve, Barrington, a Peasedown team and East Huntspill 1st XIs during and prior to the playing season. Barrington went out of existence at league level, while Kilve and East Huntspill decided to concentrate their resources by fielding single teams in the WSCL. At the time of writing this report it looks as though the SCL will comprise 106 teams in 2020 unless there are further withdrawals during the close season. However, on the brighter side, Leigh on Mendip CC and Kilmington & Stourton CC have entered additional teams. Three new teams have joined the SCL for the 2020 season. Stoke St. Gregory from the WSCL; Beaminster 2nd XI from the Dorset County League and TICCR Curry Rivell.

Taunton St. Andrews 2nd XI and Staplegrove 1st XI will play in Tier 3 of WEPL in 2020. The former won the J C Bail Trophy for the winners of the Premier Division of the SCL. TSA had a comfortable 28-point margin over Staplegrove. Instead of the usual promotion/relegation of two teams, the SCL received three teams from Tier 3 of WEPL (Somerset Division) due to the anomalies in the make up in the WEPL divisions after promotion and relegation had taken place. The 'knock-on' effect created a problem in the SCL as 3 teams were also relegated from Divisions 1 & 2. However, the issue was resolved at Div. 3 level as that division was already depleted.

The Brian Stockhill Trophy for the winners of Division 2 was taken by Trull 1st XI with 570 points, a Massive 107-point margin over Long Sutton 1st XI. Lympsham & Belvedere 1st XI took the Bryan Lobb Memorial Trophy by winning Division 3 with a slender points margin of 8 over second placed Weston super Mare 2nd XI. At the end of the season, Castle Cary 2nd XI was just 3 points clear of Huntspill & District 1st XI, the closest win of the season as the East Somerset team took the Terry Mockridge Memorial Trophy. Taunton Deane 3rd XI with 488 points won the Shrubbery Hotel Trophy in Division 5 with a 10-point advantage over Wedmore 1st XI.

The Division 6s were the first of the regionalised divisions and the Southern version was won with a 45-point margin by Fitzhead Crusaders with 550 points over Spaxton in second place. In the North, Butleigh 2nd XI won with 535 points and this was achieved by creating a comfortable margin of 34 points over second placed Bridgwater Pointers.

Lympsham & Belvedere 2nd XI totalled 489 points in Division 7 North where the division comprised only 9 teams. Huntspill & District 2nd XI were in second place with 452 points. South Petherton 2nd XI won Division 7 South with 494 points and had a slender 8-point margin over second placed Broadway & Horton 2nd XI.

In Division 8 South, North Perrott 3rd XI, won the division with 569 points, while Kilmington & Stourton 2nd XI finished the season 15 points behind them. In the North, Lydford Sports 2nd XI and Wells 2nd XI both finished with 458 points and Lydford Sports was adjudged the winner on account of recording more wins during the season. In both division 8s, teams played some others in their division more than twice. This was due to a limited number of teams in both divisions (8 in the South and only 6 in the North). However, teams in both divisions had full fixture lists with 18 matches.

The Sunday Independent Cup, which is awarded for the highest points' aggregate of all 11 divisions was won by Trull 1st XI for the second year running. The Ladbrokes Trophy for the 'Club of the Year' was won by Lympsham & Belvedere CC, while the Don Crouch Trophy, which is awarded for sportsmanship based on the scores recorded by their opponents, was won by Huish & Langport 2nd XI. The Committee determines the Young Player of the Year and the best All Rounder. In 2019, the young player trophy was renamed "The Monmouth Scientific Cricket League – Young Player of the Year Trophy". It awarded this new trophy to James Hawksworth of Long Sutton CC and Kevin Curtis of Temple Cloud CC took the Glastonbury Mowers All Rounders Award.

The Team of the Month prizes were won by four different clubs and were distributed on appropriate times during the season. Monmouth Scientific Ltd. took over the provision of the prizes and gave tickets for SCCC 20/20 matches amongst other goodies! Temple Cloud 1st XI (May); Broadway & Horton 2nd XI (June); Trull 1st XI (July); North Perrott 2nd XI (August) were the recipients of the 2019 season Team of the Month prizes.

The individual performances for the season have been accurately catalogued in the various statistical pages on the ECB website and those interested in this aspect of the game should consult the website (<https://somcrl.play-cricket.com/>) for this detailed information.

play-cricket.com continued to provide a huge range of cricket statistics, while also managing the registration and results systems. The SCL was fortunate in that John Squirrell continued to manage the website using his unique skills to meet the challenges offered by the ECB's play-cricket website.

The 'Rules Meeting' was again cancelled due to a lack of proposals – we must be getting something right!! The few proposals that had been submitted will be determined by ballot at the AGM.

Drawing up the fixtures list continues to be a difficult job. Matching home & aways coupled with ground unavailability on some Saturdays has made it a time-consuming task. Furthermore, the low numbers of teams in divisions 8N & 8S has required some imagination to give all 14 teams 18 fixtures! A problem in the WEPL pyramid regarding a Bristol club failing to initially meet the Clubmark conditions, held up my production of the WEPL fixtures for 2020. Fortunately, the issue was resolved before the deadline of October 31, so I could go ahead and produce tier 1 & 2 fixtures after the Management Board had agreed that Downend remain in the Premier Division. This has caused a 'knock on' delay in producing the SCL fixtures, but hopefully these will now be produced well before the AGM.

Properly qualified Club Welfare Officers has become a key issue in most sports organisations and cricket is no exception. Safeguarding and protecting children in sport has become a key responsibility for all clubs and we in cricket are very fortunate to have a team of experts based at Lords, Edgbaston and Loughborough University who are quick to respond to any concern.

Bad language, dissent aimed at the officials and opponents, misuse of social media sites, together with bad behaviour often witnessed by the spectators, have again raised concerns amongst the Committee. It met last season and held a disciplinary hearing on a rare occasion in recent years. In future, the Committee has resolved to take the strongest possible action against individuals and clubs that exhibit bad behaviour.

This year the League's Dinner and Presentation Evening was held for the first time at Wembdon Cricket Club. The Club did a magnificent job in hosting this event and we shall look forward to future years at this Bridgwater club for functions and meetings. This year the principal guest, Dom Bess was joined by Matt Counsell, SCB and Management Committee, in a 'question and answer' session before presenting the trophies to the various winning recipients.

I conclude my remarks with thanks to the members of the Management Committee for the contributions they make towards the successful and efficient running of the business of the Somerset Cricket League.

Ray Hancock Hon. Secretary SCL,
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