



# **SOMERSET CRICKET LEAGUE**

## **Honorary Secretary's Report 2020**

**Prepared by Ray Hancock**  
**November 2020**

The Somerset Cricket League, like so many other clubs and organisations across the country, was unable to function in 2020 due to the covid restrictions. However, the situation eased slightly and cricket was permitted in the latter weeks of the season.

The Management Committee, like most other leagues, devised a restricted, but nevertheless competitive set of matches throughout July, August and September. Clearly any form of the usual format of league cricket was not possible, but the SCL like many others adopted a group approach where 'bubbles' were formed to create a competitive atmosphere.

The Somerset bubbles were created by Matt Counsell and they each comprised 8 teams with a match programme of 7 games. I was able to make a viable fixture list that comprised 3 home games and 4 aways or vice-versa. Most games were played, although the British weather tried its utmost to wreck a few matches.

The bubbles were made up of teams with a similar strength – where possible – and balanced by a geographical element. Scores were recorded on play-cricket, so a competitive element prevailed.

The Committee determined, at the time of the 'lock down', that promotion and relegation would not take place in 2020 and the league composition would be held over to 2021 when, hopefully a full season can take place. We hope that the fixtures designed for 2020 will still be relevant for next year and I shall be trying to ascertain at an early date, which teams will be wanting to play in 2021. Hopefully, all teams that signed up for 2020 will be in the mix next year. At this point in time, only one 2<sup>nd</sup> XI team has withdrawn, but we are encouraged to note that two more teams have joined the league this year to augment the three that joined for 2020 but didn't start a game-like the rest of us.

The Management Committee continued to meet on a regular basis and apart for two meetings in January/March the remainder were held with the use of zoom. A sub-group looked at the League's constitution and determined that it needed updating. A revised constitution was prepared and will be put before the membership at the AGM.

Obviously, with no 'real' cricket being played, the EGM, balls collection evening and presentations did not take place, but it is hoped that some form of social evening could take place next year. Of course, all Government conditions would have to be met and such a gathering would have to be ultra-safe. The President, Stuart Shepherd agreed to investigate this concept further.

A survey of all clubs to determine the number of teams that they are likely to field next year will be made well before the AGM. This will enable the Committee to see a fairly accurate assessment of next year's composition. Similarly, an assessment of the cricket ball needs will have to be made so that an order can be placed with the supplier. The League is already holding a fair supply of balls, but with only a limited amount of cricket played in 2020 and the clubs' stock of balls, it is necessary to determine an accurate picture as soon as possible of requirements for a full season in 2021.

I have already noted that the fixtures for next year will be a replica of those designed for 2020. These fixtures took on board all observations about ground unavailability issues etc. that were known at that time. No doubt some of these restrictions will have changed for next year. Any team that has a ground problem should advise me at the earliest opportunity so I can review the fixtures if necessary.

This year, I shall be producing a reply form that will give an accurate list of club officers and other requirements. I hope that all clubs will return the form in good time so to give an accurate picture of the personnel of the SCL clubs.

I conclude my remarks with thanks to the members of the Management Committee for the help I have received with the running of the Monmouth Scientific – Somerset Cricket League. in this very troubled season

Ray Hancock Hon. Secretary MSL,  
November 2020