



THE TRAVELBAG SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP
Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time: Monday 16th October 2017 – 7.30pm

Location: Wimbledon CC

Apologies:	Old Whitgiftians CC, Ripley CC, John Bramhall (JB), Mark Babb (MB), Paul Taylor (PT), Chris Evans (CE), Roland Walton (RW)
Members Present	Peter Murphy (Chairman), Brian Driscoll (BD), Crispin Lyden-Cowan (CLC), Anthony Gamble (AG), Jeremy Beckwith (JB), Graham Jackson (GJ), Helen Ross (HR), Alex Anderson (AA), Martyn Holloway-Neville (MHN) & Harry Ellis (HE – Minutes)
Clubs not present	Bank of England CC, Byfleet CC, Chertsey CC, Cobham Avorians CC, Cranleigh CC, Farncombe CC, Guildford City CC, Hampton Hill CC, Haslemere CC, Leatherhead CC, Lingfield CC, Merstham CC, Purley CC, Sinjun Grammarians CC, Stoke D'Abernon CC,

Minute No.	Item	Action
	Apologies for Absence	
C/O 01/17	Apologies for absence noted as above.	
	Minutes of Last Meeting (17th October 2016)	
C/O 02/17	Accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.	
	Matters Arising	
C/O 03/17	No matters arising.	
	Chairmans Opening Remarks	
C/O 04/17	<p>The Chairman stated that the original thoughts of the committee were that following significant changes being proposed over the last couple of years, this year there would be less proposals and the committee will use this meeting to assess how these changes have been received by the clubs.</p> <p>The issues discussed at the meeting are ones that have been raised by clubs and players over the course of the season which the committee now feel requires discussion and guidance on.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that there will be a show of hands for and against these issues. This vote this will not officially decide anything but will provide an indication of how a club might vote at the AGM and help the Committee decide what proposals to take to the AGM in January.</p> <p>Following comments from last season's AGM, The Chairman and Committee will be assessing the voting system for the upcoming AGM and will be looking to have a more systematic format.</p>	

	Sponsorship	
C/O 05/17	CLC stated the league are currently unsure whether Travelbag, the league's current sponsors, will extend their deal for next year. CLC added that if they do not extend, the league does have at least one other interested party.	
	Finance and Future Fee Levels	
C/O 06/17	CLC believes that the league's profit this year will be around £6-8k. If this is the final profit figure at year end, then the committee will be aiming to make a proposal at the AGM to lower subscription fees for clubs, particularly for smaller and lower division clubs where finances can be a struggle. This will be dependent on sponsorship being assured for 2018.	
	Communications	
C/O 07/17	<p>HR stated that the league still currently has a fragmented web presence.</p> <p>HR noted the league is still using surreychampionship.com website for key documents and communications with clubs.</p> <p>The league is also beginning to use 'play cricket' more with ECB further developing the site. More information and communications will be going out via 'play cricket' in the future. HR advised clubs to update their play cricket pages and contacts to ensure that communications go out to the correct people.</p> <p>HR reminded clubs that the Surrey Championship App is live and gives clubs access to the playing rules and handbook via phones and tablets.</p> <p>If any clubs have any questions or feedback, please direct these to HR at Surreychamp@icloud.com</p> <p>The Chairman stressed the importance of clubs keeping their contact information up to date to ensure that the regular communications that are going out are being received by the correct people.</p>	ALL
	Start Times	
C/O 08/17	<p>The Chairman reported that the league made start time changes last year and the voting from the AGM suggested that this is what clubs wanted. However, there has been enough adverse feedback to suggest that some clubs dislike the earlier starts and the committee would like to find out more about this issue.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that there would be a separate show of hands on 1st & 2nd XI start times at the end of the discussion to see whether taking separate proposals to the AGM would be justified. The discussion was simply about reversing last year's changes not introducing fresh options not previously tried.</p> <p>The Chairman invited the attendees to voice their opinions on this matter. There were various arguments for and against, which have been summarised below.</p>	

Arguments for reverting to 1pm starts:

- 12pm starts create ground & facilities issues because of school and junior cricket that is played in the morning. Finding pitches for juniors and changing room change-overs were troublesome for these clubs.
- It was felt that junior players, teachers and parents of children playing junior cricket had difficulties being available for the 12pm starts due to junior and school cricket in the morning
- Issues were raised with regards to geographic locations of some clubs that are not in central areas. These clubs had to have very early meet times for some games resulting in players being unavailable to play.
- Clubs who argued for reverting to the 1pm start included; Old Emanuel, Trinity Mid-Whitgiftians, Addiscombe, Ashford, Reigate Priory and Horsley & Send

Arguments for staying at 12pm starts:

- Several clubs noted that they appreciated starting an hour earlier because they could finish earlier.
- It was noted that clubs found there were more teams staying for a post-game drink and feel it has improved the social aspect in the league.
- It was reported that some clubs had only heard positive feedback about the 12pm start and some clubs wondered why it was not being implemented at 3rd & 4th XI too.
- Clubs who were for staying at 12pm included; Esher, Wimbledon, Sunbury, Staines, Guildford, Hampton Wick Royal, Old Hamptonians, Churt and Malden Wanderers.

Show of Hands:

1st XI

29 votes for remaining

14 votes for reverting

2nd XI

28 for remaining

18 for reverting

The chairman reported that from this vote, it is hard to justify a reversion to the 2016 rules and take this issue to the AGM.

The Chairman did add that the league would think further about the possibility of allowing some variations of start times within divisions but that this would go against long-standing views on the need for uniformity within a particular tier of cricket.

	The Chairman invited clubs with any further thoughts on this matter to get in touch with him after the meeting.	
	Over Rates	
C/O 09/17	<p>The Chairman noted that one of the reasons we do not get the early finishes that everyone desires is because the league has relatively poor over rates, apart from in games where there are panel umpires.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the league ran a process last year to gather data on over rates and record the timings of innings but got a poor response overall from clubs. The data that was provided showed a wide range of rates. It was reported that only 42% of games achieved 16 overs an hour.</p> <p>The Chairman invited clubs to express their opinions on this issue. The Chairman suggested that if this was to be moved forward then clubs would be required to engage in the process, work together to provide accurate, reliable feedback and potentially agree on penalties for non-achievement of over rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that the speed of the overs is down to the captains and they need to really push their players to meet a reasonable over rate. The Chairman reported that the Captains were made aware of their responsibilities at a Captain's meeting last year. • From a first observation, some clubs felt that the over rates had improved this year. Wimbledon captain spoke specifically about feeling more conscious about the over rates this season. • It was noted that collecting accurate data and reliable data from clubs, that they both agree on in non-panel games would prove difficult and potentially cause controversy • Clubs believed that trying to enforce any sort of penalty for over rates in non-panel games would be close to impossible and cause arguments and animosity between clubs • It was believed that 17 overs an hour as an average is outdated. Scores over 300 are more common, time to find balls, wet outfield results in the need to dry the ball, changing field and mentoring younger players makes 17 overs an hour difficult to achieve. • CLC reported that only 2 clubs were penalised for slow over rates in panel umpired games (with some allowances) <p>The Chairman believes that there is no belief that there is an over rate policing structure that will work below panel level but does acknowledge that it is an issue that should be debated going forward and that better over rates must be encouraged even if they can't be enforced.</p>	
	3rd/4th XI Structure	
C/O 10/17	The Chairman was seeking feedback on how the current structure of 3 rd & 4 th XI cricket is working for clubs. Any proposals regarding a structure	

	<p>changes to these leagues would not be made until the 2019 season because of the notice required. A fixture list will be generated using the 2017 structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some clubs stated their support for reducing the number of teams in the 4th XI divisions and not having games in May which are difficult for some club due to players being away at university or school commitments. • There was support from clubs for the 3rd XI to remain the same as it is viewed as a stepping stone for youngsters into the 1st & 2nd XI's • The Chairman noted that with smaller divisions the 4th XI divisions will be more flexible than the current structure in terms of allowing = new teams to enter. • It was felt that there should be an additional opportunity for 3rd & 4th XI's to play T20 cricket because currently only 1st XI's get this opportunity. • It was noted that several clubs would be unhappy with less 4th XI games and overall the players from these teams want as many games as possible. • It was suggested that by reducing the number of fixtures in 4th XI cricket, this would create issues with club subs and players demanding to play different subs. • It was proposed whether there would be a possibility to run a parallel league which will allow teams that want a full season to remain in a 10-team league. <p>CLC proposed setting up a meeting with 4th XI players/ reps from clubs to discuss the structure and 4th XI cricket moving forward. The Committee will consider setting this up.</p>	COM.
Rain Rules		
C/O 11/17	<p>The Chairman recognised that where there is a lot of rain in a season these issues always arise.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that clubs have used some creative solutions, without any rules or playing conditions being broken, to get games played. However, this has raised questions from clubs to the league asking them to look at other options and regulations for rain affected days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt by clubs that in non-Duckworth Lewis games, team should not have to bowl the full 50 overs of the first innings for it be called off early in the in the second • Some clubs suggested that teams should be allowed to use their initiative to complete games and give players a better experience. • It was proposed that the league could send out a communication on Saturday mornings declaring 'a rain day' with different rules coming into play if play looks highly likely to affected. It was recognised that ensuring everybody receives this communication would prove difficult. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was felt by some on the other hand that you could not make decisions based around weather forecasts that may not be accurate <p>The Chairman decided that this issue would again be taken away for discussion by the committee but noted if anything is going to change, it will have to be down to the league to take charge and implement.</p>	
	Other Rules Changes	
C/O 12/17	<p>JB & CLC provided a clarification on changes to the constitution and a couple that were needed to be brought to the club's attention.</p> <p><u>New on-field powers for umpires on player behaviour</u> The proposal is that panel umpires will have the right to impose those sanctions, but not non-panel umpires or player umpires. There will continue to be the opportunity for any incident that occurs in non-panel umpired games to be reported to the Disciplinary Committee.</p> <p><u>Free Hit</u> In panel-umpired matches, currently free hits are only awarded for front foot no balls. To bring the league up to speed with the professional game, free hits will be awarded for all no-balls apart from overhead bouncers.</p> <p>There will still be no free-hits in non-panel umpired games.</p> <p><u>Timed matches – Abandonment</u> In timed matches, currently clubs can only abandon a match when there are only 10 overs remaining in the second innings. This results in issues when it is a one-sided game after the first innings and means that players end up waiting around all day as one team is trying to push for a result.</p> <p>It is proposed that this will now be changed to 20 overs to come in line with the limited overs game.</p> <p><u>Bonus Points</u> After discussion about a proposal to bring in bowling points at earlier stages of an innings, the Chairman said that the Committee will take this proposal away and review although there seemed a lack of clear support for this.</p>	
	20/20 Edwards Cup	
C/O 13/17	<p>Overall, it was felt that the proposals in the paper circulated to clubs involving a "super-Monday" were a good idea.</p> <p>It was suggested that the league should be looking to offer 20/20 cricket to 3rd and 4th teams as players at that level get little chance to participate in 20/20.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that there was no opposition to the league's proposals and said that the competition will be run accordingly in 2018.</p>	

	Ground & Facilities	
C/O 14/17	<p>The revised version of the Grounds & Facilities strategy has been circulated to clubs.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that meeting these regulations can be difficult for smaller clubs but the league, as an ECB Premier League, believes that clubs should be looking to improve their facilities and therefore it is part of the promotion criteria.</p> <p>The Chairman did report that if there were clubs struggling for finances that the league will be patient with them rather than be insistent that it should happen immediately.</p> <p>The Chairman encouraged clubs to provide feedback and give their views on the document.</p>	
	50th Anniversary	
C/O 15/17	RW is taking this forward and is in charge of this project. In his absence it is difficult to give a comprehensive review of the events and how clubs can be involved. This will be explained further in due course.	
	Fixtures	
C/O 16/17	<p>Any club with a fixture dispensation please email DE, even if you have done so already, as soon as possible.</p> <p>Dates for the fixtures are on the website and the league hopes to publish the fixtures and get them out to clubs by November</p>	ALL
	Year Book	
C/O 17/17	<p>All clubs to send in outstanding year book reports asap to CE, deadline is Monday. CE has currently only received 78 of 218 required.</p> <p>The chairman reports that the 2018 year book will once again be online.</p>	ALL
	Any Other Business	
C/O 18/17	<p>The Chairman noted that the league will send out clear guidelines on overseas players and guidance from the home office when it is all confirmed.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.40</p>	