

**The WDCU Forum**  
**Held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018**  
**At Shawholm**

**1. Introduction and Background**

The WDCU is committed to achieving continuous improvement in order that cricket in the West can be as good as it can be. The forum is one opportunity to help achieve that. The forum was designed to allow attendees to reflect on the season past and identify what went well or poorly. It also provided the opportunity to highlight areas for improvement and the chance for attendees to identify to WDCU potential changes to bring about those areas of improvement.

The forum was interactive in nature and gave everyone the chance to contribute in an informal and open environment. All outputs gathered from the forum will be included in this summary document and shared with all clubs and agencies.

These outputs will complement what the WDCU has received through the 'request for discussion issues' documents that clubs sent in and the recently completed captains end of year surveys. All of these will inform any potential change.

**2. Forum Format**

**Format:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Task / Activity</b>	<b>Lead / Support</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
1.00	Room preparation	IK/KY/ CMC	Lap top/ data projector/ Screen/ Flip chart/ Post its /marker pens/ memory stick
1.30	Informal welcome Club Representatives	IK/CMC	
2.00	Introduction and welcome to the day.	tbc	

2.05	<p>Rationale and Outline of the day-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Values – Open, honest, respectful and considerate</li> <li>• What we will do today</li> </ul>	IK	slides
2.10	<p>Ice breaker – Walk round room: stop and speak to someone ask who they are why they are there and share a highlight from the season. Repeat something not happy with in the season and then .</p> <p>Ask listener to tell group what their partner said.</p>	IK/ CMC	Floor space
2.15	<p>Task 1 – post it exercise – What do you think went particularly well this year;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share with partner sitting next to you</li> </ul> <p>Anyone have a matching pair!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share with another pair</li> <li>- Pick out highlights on big post its and place on flip chart and share with the whole group</li> </ul>	IK / CMC	Post its /flip chart sheets with headings – pens
2.30	<p>Task 2 ( change tables)</p> <p>– Post it exercise – What do you think went poorly last year or needs to change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual post its completed</li> <li>• Share with partner- look for common issues</li> <li>• Share with another pair – look for common issue</li> <li>• Share around table : identify common weaknesses or areas</li> </ul>	IK/CMC	Post its /flip chart sheets with headings – pens

	<p>for change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write common/ key issues on big post its put on sheet on wall</li> <li>• Add individual post its to sheets</li> </ul>		
3.00	Break : IK / CMC to identify common / big issues for solutions session	IK/CMC	Post its /flip chart sheets with headings – pens
3.10	<p>Split into 4-5 new tables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate one / two common issues per table and ask for potential changes or solutions to the problem.</li> <li>• Rotate round each group and expand the solution or provide an alternative solution</li> </ul>		Flip chart paper - pens
3.45	Each group feeds back on what solutions are in the flip chart paper they started with.	IK/Club representatives	Flip char paper / pens
3.55	Summary and end	IK	Slide
4.00	Room derig and information collation	All	

### 3. Summary

Overall the forum and the club issues documents identified a broad range of issues for consideration. These are included in some detail throughout the document but the table below highlights a few of the more prominent issues.

Area	Topic	Potential action
<b>Player registration / transfers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistency of application of transfer policy</li> <li>• League administration rule Player Eligibility (6g) not fit for purpose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review transfer policy and produce guidance note for clubs</li> <li>• Review and update Player eligibility rule (6G)</li> </ul>
<b>League Playing conditions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complexity and Inconsistency of playing conditions for each competition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess competition playing conditions and align where possible</li> </ul>
<b>Umpires and Umpiring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Umpires not allocated to games that match their ability</li> <li>• No umpires in lower league games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review umpire allocation process and ensure best umpires are allocated to premier league games and games of significance in all leagues</li> <li>• Encourage umpire appointments down to lower divisions</li> <li>• Have an umpire recruitment drive.</li> </ul>
<b>Competition Structures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Saturday league structure for 'reserve teams' - fit for purpose?</li> <li>• Current Sunday League structure – fit for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider a restructure to Saturday leagues to incorporate Premier Reserve league into one structure</li> <li>• Review Sunday cricket and propose</li> </ul>

	purpose?	alterations to league structure and potentially incorporate T20 Sunday friendly fixtures
<b>Discipline and player behaviour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hi number of player disciplinarys</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the code of conduct sanctions and consider introducing wider club sanctions</li></ul>

4. Appendix one : What went well / less well last season( numbers in brackets identify how many times mentioned.)

<b>Grounds</b>		
<b>Well</b>	<i>Good grounds (7)</i>	Good teas (1)
<b>Less well</b>	There were no negative points	

<b>Player registration / transfers</b>		
<b>Well</b>	Use of team sheets (1)	
<b>Less well</b>	<i>Inconsistency of application of transfer policy (4)</i>	Players with UK passport having to wait 90 days to be registered (1) Player Registration and other rules restricting participation (1)

<b>League Playing conditions</b>		
<b>Well</b>	There were no significant positive points	
<b>Less well</b>	Complexity and inconsistency of playing conditions (2)	Rules around calling games off for bad weather (2)

<b>Umpires and Umpiring</b>		
<b>Well</b>	Umpires at all games (1)	
<b>Less well</b>	<i>Umpires appointed to games not consistent with their ability (4)</i>	Lack of knowledge of rules and playing conditions (2)

<b>Competition Structures</b>		
<b>Well</b>	<i>Regular competitive cricket for all standards (8)</i>	
<b>Less well</b>	<i>Difference in standard between first and second teams and quality of reserve cricket (3)</i>	<i>Quality and purpose of Sunday league cricket (4)</i>

<b>Discipline and player behaviour</b>		
<b>Well</b>	There were no significant positive points	
<b>Less well</b>	<i>The amount of player disciplinaries (4)</i>	Players pressurising umpires (1)

<b>Spirit of the game</b>		
<b>Well</b>	<i>Amount of games played in good spirit (3)</i>	
<b>Less well</b>	There were no significant negative points.	

<b>Other</b>		
<b>Well</b>	<i>Junior development from all stars to juniors participating in senior teams (14)</i>	Team position in league (2)
<b>Less well</b>	Player availability (2)	Player attendance at training (1)

## 5. Appendix two : Four area improvements

This exercise allowed attendees to consider each of the questions and provide potential solutions. A solution that not everyone agreed with is marked with an asterisk \*

<b>5.1 What could be done differently to ensure that cricket is more enjoyable?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Better Competitions</li><li>• More ex players taking up umpiring</li><li>• Improved facilities</li><li>• More Sunday friendlies</li><li>• Neutral umpires at games</li><li>• Speed up games</li><li>• Improve social aspect after games</li><li>• Less administration</li></ul>
<b>5.2 What can be done to improve the competition structures?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Play T 20's on a Sunday</li><li>• Play multiple T 20's on a Sunday</li><li>• Full integration of all Saturday teams into a single league structure (or not)</li><li>• Clarity of purpose for Sunday League cricket and development of more Sunday friendlies</li><li>• No team first or Second X1 play 2 X midweek games in one week</li></ul>
<b>5.3 What can be done to improve the umpiring of games?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Measured, appropriate, simplification and standardisation of rules and playing conditions</li><li>• Improve player behaviour and play within the spirit of cricket.</li><li>• Umpires have more consistent awareness of playing conditions</li><li>• Better umpire feedback from clubs to authorities</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less tick box assessment of umpires</li> <li>• More umpires e.g. ex players on retirement</li> <li>• Player umpires must have some knowledge of playing conditions and laws</li> <li>• Umpires have a more common sense approach</li> </ul>
--	--

<p><b>5.4 What improvements could be made with player eligibility, registration and transfer?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UK passport the only requirement for registration *</li> <li>• Consistently enforce transfer rules</li> <li>• Relaxation of rules at lower levels</li> <li>• Guiding principle to be to allow people to play cricket</li> <li>• Deadline for player transfers to be continued *</li> <li>• Clear evidence required of reason for transfer</li> </ul>
---	---

## 6. Appendix 3 -Club issues - document

In the period leading up to the forum clubs were asked to put forward potential topics to be discussed at the forum. The table below contains a list of those topics.

<b>WDCU CMC winter Forum</b>						
<b>Area heading</b>						
<b>Playing within the spirit of the game</b>	The use of 12th man as a replacement if not named on the team sheet	Clubs should not be allowed to load their 2nd XI when the 1st XI match is called off. In particular,				
<b>League Playing Conditions</b>	Introduce reduced overs game if a start is rain delayed so first team doesn't bat 50 overs.	Is the draw in division 4 to stay for season 2019 ?	Bonus Points system needs to be revised. We understand that it is supposed to reward teams that get close to winning. Yet Greenock lost to West by just 1 wicket and earned 0 points.	Need to look at the wording of Player eligibility 6g - It is potentially been broken by many clubs inadvertently.	Heard some chat about reverting to coloured clothing on Saturday's. if this was to happen I think clubs would need to see some backing from WDCU and more prominent sponsorship. In addition pink balls are not popular and we'd prefer a move to white balls in the premier league maybe reverting to pink in other divisions- again if this was to happen the cost would be relatively high so we feel WDCU would need to support the	
<b>Competition structures</b>	Abolition of Premier Reserve League with teams to join the main structure of the WDCU Pyramid. Change current Sunday league Div 2 to be a developmental league	Integrate premier reserve league into main stream league system	2018 system better for all keep as is	GO BACK TO RECIPROCIY OF 2ND XI FOR PREMIER & FIRST DIVISION TEAMS	We as a club feel the integration of 2nd 11s was a big success and feel there should be full integration. Could Rowan cup/Western Cup be played on different weeks to McCulloch cup/Greenwood Trophy ties.	McCulloch Cup: An excellent competition which should afford us good quality 20 over cricket and provide a platform for those who wish to use for developing players. That said the current format is stayed and organising teams for a Wednesday evening and trying to retain the value of the competition when guys have work commitments is proving difficult and in our opinion devaluing the competition. We would like to see this move to 3 team groups on Sunday's with the final played on a Sunday, giving clubs the opportunity to capitalise should they succeed in the competition.
<b>Player transfers and registrations</b>	Proposal for a Player loan system . We believe that some form of 'Loan' system may have multiple benefits for players, clubs and the standard of cricket in the West as a whole. This would be a mechanism whereby a club finding themselves short of one or two players for Saturday League Cricket can approach a neighboring club to see if there is anyone keen to play on a Saturday but missing out on selection	More rigorous checking off team sheets by administrator	Player Eligibility - para (g) of the rules covers ineligibility of a player if played in any other league that year unless sanctioned by the Committee. We had an application refused. Not a problem. But we understand that another Premier Club may have had more luck. Can the Committee please give examples of circumstances where the request may be successful?	Player eligibility – anyone with a UK passport should be allowed to play and not need to wait 90 days Reference Player Eligibility 6 H	If someone moves job/house etc. We should be encouraging them to play this be a little more supportive and less demanding on rules re this.	I think it has a place but when you have a late call off/injury we've encountered a lack of common sense re team sheets on occasion. In the premier league the vast majority of players are well known faces so to simplify (as they do in the County Championship etc) why not move to a team line type set up? Players still should be registered but we would simply complete a team line in an official sheet and submit at the toss- no more scrambling about for a printer at the last minute...
<b>Discipline and player behaviour</b>	We feel law 6.g should be re-worded to penalise offending players more strongly than clubs especially in instances where clubs have little or no knowledge.					
<b>Umpires and umpiring</b>	Have official pitch inspections where rain is a factor and teams have more than an hour travel time	Very good service from WOSACO	The allocation of umpires does not always make sense. In particular, we believe that the best umpires should be umpiring the Premier Division.	We would like to see a far better spread of umpires down through the leagues. We think it would be better having 1 umpire at more games rather than 2 at some and none at others	Umpiring appointments: as always appreciative of the umpires but some of the appointments are poor. Best umpires should be in the Premier Division almost without exception.	
<b>Ground conditions and availability</b>	greater sympathy for pitch preparation in times of poor weather.					
<b>Other</b>	Potential use Of Hi Viz balls and coloured clothing for Saturday league matches - P Coffey					

## 7. Attendance List

The following people attended the forum (24)

<b>Club / Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Clydesdale</b>	Ian Anderson	Paddy Barbour
<b>Drumpellier</b>	Billy McPate	
<b>Dumfries</b>	Andrew Reed	
<b>East Kilbride</b>	Brian Kampman	
<b>Ferguslie</b>	Shoaib Khan	Haroon Tahir
<b>Galloway</b>	Robert Davidson	
<b>Greenock</b>	Rod Mountford	Greg McDougall
<b>Hillhead</b>	John Ferguson	Bernie Mitchell
<b>Irvine</b>	Ronnie Gilliland	
<b>Kilmarnock</b>	Alistair Smith	Mark Colman
<b>Poloc</b>	Ali Maddock	Keith Young
<b>Prestwick</b>	Tom Halpin	
<b>Stenhousemuir</b>	Steven McLaren	
<b>West of Scotland</b>	Ian Young	Mike Ashworth
<b>West of Scotland</b>	Craig Brown	
<b>WOSACO</b>	Jim McClymont	
<b>Cricket Scotland</b>	Tim Hart	