

## **Bristol & District Cricket League's criteria for the assimilation of WEPL teams 2016**

### **Preamble**

This paper states the criteria which will be followed by the B&D for the assimilation of WEPL teams into the B&D League for the 2016 season. The placing of teams will be determined by their league positions at the end of the 2015 season.

### **Health Warning**

***The B&D Management Committee will follow these criteria to the best of its ability and in good faith. However, the complexities of streaming, promotion and relegation are such that too many permutations exist for the B&D to be able to guarantee placements for 2016 until all issues from the 2015 season have been finalised.***

***Furthermore, it is probable that between 5 and 8 teams will be joining the B&D League below Division 6 ie below the level at which the WEPL teams will be assimilated.***

***The B&D trusts that all involved will respect and appreciate this position.***

### **Background**

- The B&D is totally supportive of the vote at the WEPL AGM for the re-structuring of the league and has been consulting widely since then to devise the most appropriate criteria for assimilating the WEPL teams into the B&D's existing structure.
- In 2015 the B&D will have 12 divisions; it is likely that a further 30 teams will be added for 2016 which will make it a league of c.150/160 teams and therefore 15 -16 divisions. This will present the opportunity for the B&D to revise its structures and practices as it will be offering different forms of cricket to different types of teams.
- The WEPL teams will enter (or re-enter in many cases) at the higher level. Every effort will be made to balance any understandable concerns that former WEPL and existing B&D teams and clubs might have but it is crucial that all involved make the 'bigger picture' of local league cricket their priority.
- A review of playing conditions and facilities criteria will take place as part of this process to help achieve greater participation and to respond to the views of the players.
- Bristol is the major conurbation in the region and it is inevitable that some clubs have been drawn to it in order to reduce travel. However, the B&D will need to monitor this to ensure that it does not create a new travel problem.
- Clubs will need to operate in the right spirit and it is to be hoped (although it is probably wishful thinking!) that they will not actively seek new recruits for 2<sup>nd</sup> X1s from surrounding clubs' 1<sup>st</sup> X1s.
- Facility criteria will be vital for a successful outcome of the assimilation process; the importance of this must not be underestimated.
- It is accepted that the divisions for 2016 will not be 'perfect' and that it may take a season or two for everything to settle.

## Consultation

The B&D has used January and February to consult with:-

- B&D Management Committee
- B&D Working group
- Integration Group (WEPL + B&D)
- County Boards

The criteria detailed below are the result of this process and a common approach was agreed with the other 3 Feeder Leagues on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. All clubs playing in WEPL and the Feeder Leagues will receive this information this month and will therefore know 'what they are playing for' in the 2015 season.

## Geography/Streams

- 3 B&D clubs are playing outside their stream in 2015 but will be treated as B&D teams:-
  - a) Frenchay 1 – Glos/Wilts Tier 3
  - b) Chipping Sodbury 1 - Glos T4
  - c) Chipping Sodbury 2 - Glos/Wilts T3
  - d) Frenchay 2 - Glos T4
  - e) Stapleton - Glos T4

NB T= Tier

## WEPL clubs opting for B&D Stream (25)

Bath	Bedminster	Bishopston	Brislington
Bristol	Bristol YMCA	BWI&P	Chew Magna
Chipping Sodbury	Claverham	Clevedon	Congresbury
Downend	Frenchay	Keynsham	Knowle
Lansdown	Midsomer Norton	OBs/Westbury	Portishead
Shirehampton	Stapleton	Thornbury	Twyford House
Winterbourne			

## WEPL Criteria

*These have been determined by WEPL through an agreed consultation process and the B&D is totally supportive of the outcome as itemised below:-*

- 1 Promotion and relegation will take place in all divisions
- 2 The top 4 placed Premier 1 2<sup>nd</sup> X1s will play in 'new' WEPL Tier 3 in 2016 – rest of 2<sup>nd</sup> X1s will join their Feeder League
- 3 10<sup>th</sup> placed team in 2015 Premier 2 1<sup>st</sup> X1 will be relegated to the new WEPL Tier 3 for 2016
- 4 After this, new WEPL Tier 2 in 2016 will comprise the highest placed 11 teams (1<sup>st</sup> X1s) in addition to the 9 teams already in Premier 2 at the end of the 2015 season
- 5 Each Tier 2 division in the new WEPL will comprise 10 teams. NB If there are 5 Bristol/Somerset teams among the 'old' Premier 2 then another 5 will be added from the old Tier 3 Bristol/Somerset; if 6 then 4.
- 6 New Tier 3 WEPL for 2016 will be:-
  - a) 10<sup>th</sup> placed team from Premier 2 1<sup>st</sup> X1 2015
  - b) Remaining teams from 2015 Tier 3 ie those neither promoted nor relegated
  - c) The top 4 placed Premier 1 2<sup>nd</sup> X1s at the end of 2015
  - d) Next highest placed teams from Tier 4 2015 – see Point 4 above
- 7 10<sup>th</sup> placed team from the 2015 Tier 3 WEPL 1<sup>st</sup> X1 division will be relegated to the new Tier 4 for 2016 (the top division of the Feeder League)
- 8 10<sup>th</sup> placed team from the 2015 Tier 4 1<sup>st</sup> X1 division will be relegated to the new Tier 5 in 2016 (new Feeder League Division 2 – old B&D Senior Division)

## **B & D Criteria**

- *Priority will be as per list below - a) then b) etc. in order. Final numbers are dependent on final positions at the end of the 2015 season - the 'formula' below is the guide.*
- **NB** *As stated in the 'Health Warning', the criteria below is the best guide at this stage. However, with the variables of streaming, promotion and relegation, the B&D reserves the right to make the final decisions at the end of the 2015 season once these details are confirmed.*
- *There are no plans for accelerated promotion or relegation at the end of the 2016 season – there will have already been sufficient change for teams.*
- *B&D Divisions 1-6 2016 will play 45 overs per side. The format for the remaining divisions will be determined after the 2015 season and the new structure has been finalised.*
- *10 teams in each division*

### **Div 1 – Tier 4 (Old WEPL T4)**

- a) 1<sup>st</sup> X1s from WEPL
- b) 1<sup>st</sup> placed Sen Division
- c) Premier 1 2<sup>nd</sup> X1s
- d) Senior Division in order until there are 10 teams (eg if 2 'spare' places then teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>)

### **Div 2 – Tier 5 (Old Senior Division)**

- a) 10<sup>th</sup> placed Tier 4 1<sup>st</sup> X1
- b) Premier 2 2nds
- c) Senior Division in order – as above but only down to 8<sup>th</sup> place maximum
- d) 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Division 1 - promoted

### **Div 3 – Tier 6 (Old Div 1)**

- a) Rest of Senior Division – to 10<sup>th</sup> place (could include 8<sup>th</sup> place according to numbers)
- b) Tier 3 2nds in order of placing
- c) Top of Division 1 - in order according to 'space'

### **Div 4 – Tier 7**

- a) Rest of Division 1 to 10<sup>th</sup> place – no further automatic relegation from Division 1 to avoid demotion over two divisions to Division 6 and because relegation has taken place anyway\*
- b) Top 2 of Division 2
- c) Top of WEPL Tier 4 2nds\*\*

*\*This is necessary in order to accommodate T4 2<sup>nd</sup> teams en bloc in Div 5*

*\*\*These will be the top 2 placed teams in T4 (Bristol or Glos); if placing is level it will depend on most points and then most wins. If there is no 'space' then the top 10 teams from T4 2nds will go into Div 5 en bloc; the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> teams will be those with the lowest positions in T4 on the inverse basis.*

### **Div 5 – Tier 8**

- a) Next 10 WEPL Tier 4 2nds en bloc

### **Div 6 – Tier 9**

- a) 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> WEPL Tier 4 2nds if necessary (as above)\*\*
- b) Rest of Division 2 - no further automatic relegation as for Div 1 above
- c) Top of Division 3 – could be 1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> if there are no Tier4 2nds in the division; otherwise 1<sup>st</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup> only

**Div 7 onwards – NB** *The number of teams for these divisions will depend on those above*

- a) Rest of next division - 3 onwards (eg 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)
- b) Top of next division – 4 onwards (eg 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>)

**Summary (numbers permitting)**

- WEPL Premier 1 2nds will go to B&D Division 1; Premier 2 2nds to Division 2; Tier 3 to Division 3
- WEPL 10 Tier 4 2nds will go en bloc to Div 5; other 2 or 3 teams will be in an adjacent division as per notes above

**Final Observations**

- No teams have been named in this paper to avoid distracting people from the principles and/or becoming obsessed by the placement of their own team.
- It is a theoretical exercise until the 2015 season has been completed and, in the case of the B&D, there are a significant number of variables.
- The B&D reserves the right to make the final decisions as set out in the Health Warning at the start of this paper and will do this in good faith.

Trevor Crouch – Chairman

Tony Hitch – Secretary

On behalf of the BDCA

March 2015