

## **Proposals Concerning Entry Fees Associated With The County Championships**

### **Presented by the SCCU**

The SCCU is seeking Council agreement for the change to be made to ECF Rules for the County Championships:-

“With effect from the 2016 – 17 season, County Championship entry fees shall only be charged by the ECF for teams entering the Final Stage.”

This change could be achieved by making the following amendments to the current wording of the County Championship Rules:-

In Rule A3 change the word “Union” to “Final”. The first sentence of A3 will then read:-

“In the Final Stage, each team shall pay an entry fee, which shall be decided by the Board, to the ECF, and any games played will be charged according to the normal ECF regulations for leagues.”

It is noted that competitions between counties were not initiated by the ECF / BCF. Such competitions, both between counties within a region and the first competitions between regions, pre-date the formation of the BCF. The legitimate role of the ECF should be restricted to co-ordination of the competitions at a national level between the various Unions (i.e. the “Final Stage” of the County Championships, as now defined). Furthermore, the ECF incurs no expenses with regard to the Union Stage of the competition, so charging at that stage is both unfair and penalises those Unions, and their constituent counties, that have the most highly supported Union stages compared to their entitlement for places in the Final Stage. Thus it is neither fair nor historically justified for the ECF to impose charges at the Union Stage.

Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the ECF would not wish to lose income if the entry fees remained unchanged, but were only payable by fewer teams. Analysis of the 2014 – 15 County Championship competition suggests that the entry fees payable to the ECF, if levied only at the Final Stage, would have needed to be approximately £40 for the U140 and above competitions (including the Minor Counties) and £30 for the U120 and U100 competitions in order to raise a similar total income. (The actual fees for 2014 – 15 were £24 and £18 respectively for all teams entering their Union Stage) These fees would be paid by the Unions, and they would decide how to recover them from their individual counties. For example, they may choose to continue to levy a lesser fee from each team entering their Union Stage so as to meet the cost of their entries in the Final Stage. This would avoid the cost being a deterrent to accepting Final Stage nomination.