

CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

Executive Committee Meeting – 29th February 2024 Moss Farm 7.30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Opened 7.50 p.m.

Present: David Humpage (Chairman), Brian Horrocks (Secretary), Barry Harwood (Treasurer), Derek Barnett (Officials), Julie Rafferty (Safeguarding), Brian Boys (Cheshire County League Representative), Gareth Moorhouse (Cheshire Cricket Board), David Gane (Cup and Shield), Mike Cook (deputising for Grounds Representative), Selwyn Stephenson (Cheshire Cricket League Representative), Caroline Sheridan (Women's Cricket Representative), John Petch (Cheshire County Cricket Club)

Apologies for Absence

Andy Horsfield (Grounds Representative), Duncan Anderson (Facilities Representative), David Atkinson (Grants)

Previous Minutes:

No comments or issues were arising

Safeguarding (Julie Rafferty)

Julie's report was issued immediately after presentation at the meeting and is attached with these minutes. In summary we discussed:

- 2024 Safe Hands training courses now underway
- Level 2 Safeguarding training for clubs and individuals in the game
- A revised safeguarding policy due out shortly which will appear on the web site
- The Cheshire Cricket Board web site safeguarding content revision
- Safeguarding in the talent pathway
- The removal of the need for scorers to have a DBS
- A spring clean of the Safe Hands Management System

It was agreed that Julie's attendance at the pre-season Captains meetings for both leagues and umpires meetings would be beneficial, although a significant demand. Julie will receive invites and attend or provide some input if not available

Action – Ensure Julie has invitations to County League meetings – David H

Action – Ensure Julie has invitations to Cheshire League meetings – Brian H

Treasurer (Barry Harwood)

Basically, the same report as delivered for the AGM. Additional comments were made concerning disability cricket financial support we have provided. Previous concerns related to outstanding invoices had all been resolved.

Secretary (Brian Horrocks)

The same report as delivered for the AGM – repeated here.

The 4Cs development plan had been re-visited to project a further 4 years (reported elsewhere).

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Correspondence which included

- Establishment of secretarial role
- November executive meeting
- Establishment of 4Cs web site hosted under CCB
- CCB invoices
- Cheshire cup and shield (reported elsewhere)
- Funding of Cheshire disability squad
- New constitution
- Enquiry about joining the CCL
- AGM set up and availability
- Cheshire Cricket Board AGM and exec meeting

Development Plan and Clubs & Participation (Gareth Moorhouse)

Gareth described the two sessions held so far to rework the Development Plan to a further 4 years. It should be ready for sharing shortly. It tends to focus more on 4Cs specifically.

Clubs have received an open forum on-line briefing in the last 2 weeks. Affiliation to Cheshire Cricket was a major part of this. There is a new affiliation form and details on the web site. Affiliation options now exist for an 'associate' membership costing £10. Mid-week leagues may be an example here. They are still eligible for some of the benefits of being affiliated to Cheshire cricket. Clubs have been asked to affiliate by 13th April.

There are 89 clubmark clubs in the county, a very creditable number. There are three new documents from the safeguarding system for them to upload by 30th April.

Cheshire attended the January ECB meeting and once again received plaudits for being on-track or an exemplar. There are still numerous coaching courses being offered to schools and other communities. The Cheshire Cricket Board web site is available for 4Cs to use as we require.

Action – Assess the process for publication of 4Cs material on the web site – Brian H

Facilities and Grants (delivered by Gareth Moorhouse for Dave Atkinson)

The first of the season's meetings have been held. There is a £113k budget to manage between 109 clubs. A meeting of the allocations group due shortly may well exhaust much of this budget, but it is seen as positive spending for the future of the game. Other funding opportunities are available. The funding booklet, originally in paper form and discussed in club forums, has been transferred to the web site so is widely available.

It has been decided to revive the funding workshops given by Steve Wright. These workshops were appreciated by clubs. The spend required to stage these courses has been authorized. Three sessions in the west, east and central parts of the county will be presented.

Other efforts are being focused on facilities in schools for indoor practice. One such example in Tameside could be of great benefit in the Stockport club area. Selwyn offered a view that clubs not meeting ECB criteria may be disadvantaged.

Senior Leagues - Cheshire County League (Brian Boys)

Brian gave us an update following the County League AGM. The following points may be of

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interest:

- There will be Win/Lose cricket played in all divisions except the Premier. Here, a hybrid of win/lose and draw cricket will be played to the same format as the Birmingham league. This was voted in with a hefty majority.
- The cup rules have been overhauled with emphasis on DLS, bowlers allocations, time limits and the size of the mini groups in the early stages.
- There are several changes on the executive committee
- Changes to the Over 40s regulations
- A financial loss on the season largely attributable to the Dinner. There is now a focus on this aspect to determine an alternative
- The club contacts list is being revised in time for handbook circulation
- Further discussions about moving towards white ball cricket with coloured clothing and black sight screens for certain types of league cricket are starting slowly.

Senior Leagues - Cheshire Cricket League (Selwyn Stephenson)

Selwyn reported the following:

- The AGM has been held recently. There were many rule changes, many of which are seeking to gain closer alignment to the County League.
- The introduction of Competition Secretaries last year went well and the process is carried on this season.
- The handbook is currently being renewed, and re-structured to become slim line, again, using the County League as a model.
- Numbers of team are slightly up this season from 104 last year to 106. Although this suggests the league is a popular place to play cricket, we are conscious that further regionalisation could in fact be quite attractive to clubs seeking to further their cricket within Cheshire.

Senior Leagues – Women (Caroline Sheridan)

Caroline gave us the following update:

- The AGM has been held. New clubs are joining the hardball game from softball cricket.
- The rules meeting and the fixtures meetings are complete. The Captains meeting (mandatory at the threat of point loss) will be 20th March.

Action – Decide if there are any Cheshire Board or 4Cs notices which would benefit from being in any handbook/publicity in the above leagues (very quickly!!) – Gareth

Officials (Derek Barnett)

Derek reported as follows:

- The AGM was held the previous evening in the same room at Moss Farm. This was a very good meeting, well attended and well presented with a very valuable contribution from Cheshire Cricket Board (Stewart Garnett)
- Derek congratulated Barry on his ability to realign finances where banking had been a major headache over the last few months.
- A new ECBACO constitution is to be made available for counties to use as a template in March. Cheshire will be using this as part of setting up the new amalgamated association. After some years we have arrived at a decision, ratified in all AGMs of the three separate parties currently, to amalgamate and form one officials association in Cheshire. This will

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offer many opportunities for streamlining as well as much more emphasis on scorers as part of the officials team. Sandra Mason will be part of the set up of the new association representing scorers. Derek thanked James Emmerson profusely for his contributions as scoring lead in the county for several years now. Sandra steps into that role.

- The ACO executive committee is set up for a transition year. During 2024, several working parties will develop the detail of how the one new association can operate in areas such as Finance, Appointments, Constitution etc.
- Recruitment remains a major topic. We will have enough umpires to staff 6 of our 7 tiers of cricket. Our aim is to have sufficient umpires to staff the entire structure.
- The software tool Who's the Umpire from the ECB will be standardised across both men's leagues for league and cup matches in 2024.
- The ECN now handle the introductory courses for new umpires. The new offering aims to get umpires from classroom to field in days/weeks. Our own tutoring team will deliver local CPD courses, some of which are underway currently.
- As with 4Cs, the ACO have a development plan looking forward to 2027. This is being reviewed and maintained.
- ECB funding is tightening (as in most other aspects)
- General Conduct Regulations are now in force across all senior cricket in the county and some other areas in junior cricket.

Cheshire Cup and Shield (David Gane)

David updated us on the Cheshire Cup and Cheshire Shield. The cup has 35 entries (may rise from there) including some Cheshire Cricket League representation. Birkenhead Park re-applied and have been admitted. The draw is to be made next week.

The Cheshire Shield has 7 entries, which when added to the round 1 losers from the cup, provides us with 15 or potentially more. Enquires are still being made so at this level of entry the shield is deemed viable. The draw is made in May.

Grounds (Mike Cook for Andy Horsfield)

Mike covered several points as follows:

- The ECB software tool – Pitch Power is to be introduced to assist grounds associations in development planning. It is hoped to be ready for this season. If so, CAG should be able to use it for advising clubs on a firm data-based basis. We have 4 county pitch advisors who will use it. The aim is to be able to support all clubs, particularly those identified with specific needs. We emphasized the need to ensure all clubs at all levels of the structure could be given support.
- The funding process continues to support clubs with grounds development aspirations
- A meeting with Cheshire Cricket Board is scheduled for March
- The association are staging a pre-season grounds course for clubs in March
- There is a growing concern across cricket generally about the numbers of groundsmen retiring and leaving vacancies at clubs. Enthusiastic volunteers in clubs are good but the groundsmen need specific knowledge and training. CAG is doing what they can to help.

Cheshire County Cricket Club (John Petch)

John had provided his report which was circulated with the meeting notice. It is re-attached here. The only additional comment related to arranging early starts in the County League where needed to support the representative side. John can liaise with Ray Hunt on this matter.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40