

CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

Executive Committee Meeting – 6th November 2024 Moss Farm 7.30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Opened 7.30 p.m.

Present:

David Humpage (Chairman), Brian Horrocks (Secretary), Barry Harwood (Treasurer), Derek Barnett (Officials), Brian Boys (Cheshire County League Representative), Gareth Moorhouse (Cheshire Cricket Board), Selwyn Stephenson (Cheshire Cricket League Representative), Andy Horsfield (Grounds Representative), Julie Rafferty (Safeguarding), David Gane (Cup and Shield), Caroline Sheridan (Women's Cricket Representative), Duncan Anderson (Facilities Representative), Stuart Anderson (Cheshire County Cricket Club)

Apologies for Absence

Dave Atkinson (Grants), John Petch (Cheshire County Cricket Club), Jess Lewis (Women's cricket)

Previous Minutes:

No matters arising

Chairmans Welcome

David welcomed back Stuart Anderson, formerly Treasurer to 4Cs, representing John Petch on the night on behalf of Cheshire County Cricket Club

Treasurer (Barry Harwood)

- Barry has dealt with a £2800 invoice in respect of Pitch Inspections and reporting
- We appear to be in surplus to the tune of £600 for the year, to be confirmed through the accounting process
- Two subscriptions are outstanding but commitment gained for their payment. One Merseyside payment is not yet committed but progress is being made towards it.

Secretary (Brian Horrocks)

Correspondence which included

- An ECB Leagues and clubs survey had been received, whilst not directly aimed at 4Cs, it is of interest to our club members.
- Re-application from Irby CC to join the Cheshire Pyramid after a few years out. This is approved and it is now for Cheshire Cricket League to determine their actual position in the league and correspond with the club.

Action – Establish Irby positioning and inform them – Brian H, Selwyn

- Recently modified policies from ECB related to Disparity and Transgender Participation were discussed. The conclusion is that ECB policies should always be followed at least in general principles. Umpires, in particular, should be aware of the ramifications. Derek will liaise with the Training and Education team to build some reference to the policies in the winter CPD sessions. Support for understanding, interpreting, and following guidance is

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always available from Cheshire Cricket Board.

- The 4Cs development plan was the subject of some correspondence. The resultant draft document is discussed below.
- Brooklands CC had corresponded with us to enquire about a new team. In practice, it is a league decision as they are already represented in CCCL and CCL. Neither league has had further enquiries (to our knowledge).

Development Plan (Brian Horrocks)

In common with several other parts of the cricket organization, we have created a 'Development Plan'. This document was circulated recently and discussed in outline. Its intention is to provide a framework to support the work of 4Cs and give structure to our activities. The plan revolves around two key objectives

- To work towards a fully inclusive, organised and resourced system of adult recreational cricket
- To support our partner organisations (e.g. ACO, Grounds etc) for the wider benefit of adult recreational cricket

Each objective is supported by some tasks under the guidance of a named official. Each task carries with it some form of evaluation to enable us to comment on how well it is going. It is not intended that it is a focal point that we are enslaved to, rather, a framework around which our discussions can have more meaning. The document was created (expertly) initially by Gareth to follow the same format as the other development plans. This enables the Cheshire Cricket Board to see common themes and approaches across the entire spectrum of cricket in the county.

For us, it is a prop we can use. It is a living document in that updates can (and should) be made whenever we feel it necessary. Nominally these plans have a 4-year life cycle after which a major revision is carried out. We will hold a formal review of it once a year (timing to be determined by David) when we might expect some changes. Each meeting of the 4Cs will refer to the plan and, if necessary, changes can be made 'mid-term'.

Ownership of the plan is with 4Cs (under 4Cs Chairman's guidance) and will be maintained by the 4Cs Secretary. Gareth remains, as ever, available for consultation. All 4Cs members are encouraged to digest the plan and offer thoughts for improvement which we can pick up next time.

Safeguarding (Julie Rafferty)

- Julie issued a detailed document prior to the meeting. New training offerings, CSO network meetings, Safe Hands Management System (108 out of 109 clubs have one now!) and Safeguarding themes experienced recently were the topics covered. The report is re-attached to the mail with these minutes.
- We have 19 non-clubmark clubs. An aim would be to encourage all clubs to achieve clubmark. The leagues may be able to assist by including the requirement for affiliations and safeguarding to be explicit in the constitutional rules. Both CCCL and CCL are reviewing their constitutions currently so the action is:

Action – Introduce this concept into the rule change discussions currently underway – Selwyn, Brian B

- We had a specific query related to young scorers taking a place inside a scoreboard with one other adult scorer. The bottom line is that this should not happen. The young scorer's parents or host club must make arrangements to have them accompanied. The query came from the perspective of who will oversee this happening. Umpires have responsibility in the pre-match routine. Again, it is possible that the leagues could include something in the rule set to cover this.

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Action – Introduce this concept into the rule change discussions currently underway – Selwyn, Brian B

- Julie's final point was to congratulate Charlotte Jennings of Macclesfield who won an award at a national safeguarding event recently.

Facilities and Grants (Duncan Anderson)

- Considering the likelihood of brand-new grounds appearing is very low, the emphasis is on making existing facilities useable especially where they have fallen out of use. Clubs folding does not necessarily mean the ground has to disappear. Non turf pitches (NTP) are a distinct possibility, particularly in schools' environments. The stigma surrounding NTP needs to be tackled as these facilities can often provide a good standard of cricket. The reliable bounce is something that could enhance the game at lower levels. To that extent all leagues should consider whether they can make greater use of NTP. Operators of NTP may be in places where additional costs are required to play cricket e.g. the school caretaker opening facilities which would otherwise be closed.
- Some good news – a new 4 net facility has been opened by Tameside council in a local school with encouragement from Cheshire Cricket.

Senior Leagues - Cheshire County Cricket League (Brian Boys)

Brian had sent round his report beforehand. Despite a weather ravaged season we got there. Win/Lose cricket made a good debut. The two umpiring associations were effectively starting to merge into one such that umpires stood across the divide routinely.

Senior Leagues - Cheshire Cricket League (Selwyn Stephenson)

- Selwyn reflected on a well fought season where several divisions had close finishes. Congratulations went to Warrington who returned immediately as champions and Middlewich who made a return to the top flight after several years.
- CCL are working on some regionalisation proposals which we think will increase the attraction to prospective clubs, and be appreciated by the existing clubs who have significant match day journey times.
- CCL discipline has been satisfactory with any poor behaviour dealt with by the GCR disciplinary code promptly.

Senior Leagues – Women (Caroline Sheridan)

- Caroline reflected on the stability of the existing divisions. The AGM is due shortly which may introduce some change; however, rule changes will be dealt with by an email exchange later.
- There is likely to be a new North West competition in which our clubs could apply to enter.
- Cheshire has applied to become a tier 3 county for competition purposes. We await a final decision.

Officials (Derek Barnett)

- Derek presented his report (not circulated beforehand but now attached with these minutes). The key activity now is the amalgamation of the three existing umpiring associations in Cheshire (ACO, CCCLUSA, CCLUSA). We expect this to streamline the

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organization, becoming much more efficient and a better service to the leagues. ACO is in itself not a new organization but an expansion once amalgamated with the other two.

- Changes are being made to the relationships between ACO and the county Boards. Boards will take over the responsibility for recruitment, and thus the funding arrangements. The ACO will be responsible for CPD training.
- Several training offerings are appearing over the winter.
- There is more clarity over the umpire pathway for individuals to progress. Cheshire division 1 women's fixtures are now eligible as evidence to support pathways in women's cricket eliminating the need for our candidates to travel outside the county to qualify.
- Training for scorers is imminent, with the emphasis on electronic scoring. Sandra Mason is mentoring candidates.

Clubs Development Manager (Gareth Moorhouse)

Gareth's report has been included in the final set of documents to support these minutes attached with the email. In summary:

- The club affiliation agreement was revamped in 2024. 108 out of 109 clubs have done so, in 2025 we will need a res-signing only because some terminology has changed, there is no substantial change to the agreement.
- Congratulations to Holmes Chapel, the most recent club to achieve clubmark.
- A new countywide plan is emerging, funding is tied to this. This is due for sharing with ECB in April. Our Board have met with various stakeholders (continuing) over the close season to ensure the plan covers all aspects we are collectively concerned about.
- The recent 'Oscas' ceremony at Old Trafford went well with local nominations.
- Government funding for Cricket is now questioned under the new government approach to budgeting. Original intentions may be reviewed.

Cheshire Cup and Shield (David Gane)

- David had shared his report beforehand. In the meeting we ratified his proposal to discontinue the Cheshire Shield. It went ahead in 2024 as a trial to see if extra encouragement would get clubs to enter. In the end, whilst the initial entry may have been satisfactory (if minimal), there were too many concessions which show the regard the competition is held in.
- The Cheshire Cup will be the sole competition in 2025. David will look at proposals to make this competition more attractive to lower-level teams- such as rounds 1 and 2 reserved for lower teams with Premier/Division 1 entering at round 3. Other ideas will be explored.
- There are other issues to tackle: coloured clothing and pink balls are up for discussion. Dukes pink balls are more expensive. The possibility of 4Cs purchasing them was discussed although that may be unfair in some areas of the structure. We need to wait for CCCL to determine their policies of clothing and balls in 2025 to give more of an idea about possibilities.

Grounds (Andy Horsfield)

- 36 ground inspections have been made to date. The clubs are in receipt of reports to allow them to consider applying for funding grants.
- The CAG 2024 AGM is on 20th November at Toft. This is to be combined with a social event to thank groundsmen for their very difficult endeavours in 2024 given the weather at the start of the season.
- The CCL and CCCL pitch marks are needed by the Grounds team to consider their inspection needs.

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Action – Remind league coordinators of pitch markings to share outcomes with the Grounds team – Brian H, Brian B

Cheshire County Cricket Club (Stuart Anderson)

Stuart did have a prepared report which was not pre-circulated. It is attached to the minutes email. Stuart ran through the mixed fortunes of the County Club team.

AOB

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm