

CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

Executive Committee Meeting – 19th February 2025 Moss Farm 7. 40 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Opened 7.40 p.m.

Present:

David Humpage (Chairman), Brian Horrocks (Secretary), Martin Roberts (Officials), Brian Boys (Cheshire County League), Gareth Moorhouse (Cheshire Cricket Board), Selwyn Stephenson (Cheshire Cricket League), Julie Rafferty (Safeguarding), David Gane (Cheshire Cup), Caroline Sheridan (Women's Cricket), Duncan Anderson (Facilities)

Apologies for Absence

Dave Atkinson (Grants), John Petch (Cheshire County Cricket Club), Andy Horsfield (Grounds)
Barry Harwood (Treasurer)

Previous Minutes:

The previous minutes were accepted as a true record with a review of the outstanding actions as follows:

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

This had been completed with Irby in both first and second team divisions for 2025 in the Cheshire Cricket League

- b. Action – Introduce this concept (affiliations) in to the rule change discussions currently underway – Selwyn, Brian B, David

The requirements for clubs to be affiliated and operating under the jurisdiction of the Cheshire Cricket Board have been reinforced in both league handbooks.

- c. Introduce this concept (young scorers in adult company) in to the rule change discussions currently underway – Selwyn, Brian B

Julie Rafferty had responded to Ian Brown on this matter. The topic caused some discussion as there are many nuances and practical issues. Scorers no longer require a DBS therefore the use of such a tool is not something we can use to demand certain safeguards. Mandating an adult to always accompany all young scorers (in enclosed spaces) may not be practical for teams travelling across the county and spending 6 hours in such a position. We can encourage clubs with young scorers to establish the scoring arrangement at the venues they are to visit, such that if an enclosed space is possible, and scoring with an adult scorer is probable, they make provision for chaperoning them. It was suggested that both leagues should include in their handbooks the ECB safeguarding directive card issued to umpires and clubs to be reminded that it is their responsibility for compliance. This message can be reiterated at the Pre-season meetings which Julie undertook to do.

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

This had been done at the end of last season

CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

Chairman (David Humpage)

No further observations needed at this time

Treasurer (Barry Harwood)

The treasurers report had been dealt with in the AGM a few minutes earlier, no further updates were necessary. The financial documents are attached to the minutes for more detailed review where necessary.

Secretary (Brian Horrocks)

- Correspondence had been discussed in the AGM with no further points required
- We spent a few minutes discussing the Development Plan which had been updated towards the end of last year. All the known measures had been updated, many were scheduled to have reviews in the first part of 2025. The plan had been circulated earlier in February. The exec members are now asked to review the plan, particularly those elements for which they have a direct influence. The plan can be utilised as a structure for future discussions.

Action – Review the Development Plan for discussion at the next meeting - All

Safeguarding (Julie Rafferty)

- Julie had circulated the Safeguarding report just prior to the meeting. As such, we listened to the report and a copy is attached to the minutes for a more detailed analysis where necessary. We discussed: new safeguarding courses, CSO network meetings, SHMS, Policy development, DBS procedural changes, ECB policy releases, and other safeguarding themes.
- During the discussions we highlighted an important principle. Whilst ECB issued safeguarding requirements were a minimum the leagues would adhere to, there were circumstances where one or both leagues may apply additional stipulations. These 'league' requirements were additional and ECB had no direct jurisdiction over them. An example being: In juniors playing open age cricket, ECB now stipulate 12 years old being the minimum age have removed the school year 8 requirement. The Leagues still ask for year 8 to be observed, therefore a 12-year-old Year 7 pupil is clear to play by ECB, but not clear to play by CCCL and CCL rules.
- Julie is working with a small number of delinquent Clubs to ensure their SHMS are up to date. To that end Selwyn is asked to provide support.

Action – Provide Chairman support in dealing with the three clubs specified at the meeting - Selwyn

- ECB requirements deal with junior cricketers under the age of 18 in the light of the revised ECB Recreational Safety Guidelines effective 01/03/25. Play Cricket can be used to highlight registration of under 18 players. The leagues should be aware of that and be prepared to handle junior registration appropriately. Currently the threshold in Play Cricket is 16.

Action – Ensure the League Club Chairmen are aware of the under 16 parameter in Play Cricket and amend to under 18 – Selwyn, Brian B

CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

Facilities and Grants (Duncan Anderson)

- Little to report on this topic. More awareness now of the validity of Non-Turf Pitches is encouraging. Efforts continue to identify cheshire facilities that can be re-deployed, renovated, or more widely used. Club forums in the next few weeks will reinforce the messages.
- The ECB County Grants Fund went live on February 1st. CCB received applications from 16 clubs, and the (initial) ECB funding allocation was distributed at the first panel meeting. A range of projects were supported, including new Non-Turf practice facilities, solar panels, indoor/outdoor social provision and upgrades to changing spaces to make them more female friendly. The grant scheme is now paused for 2025 and will only re-open if more funding becomes available from ECB.

Senior Leagues - Cheshire County Cricket League (Brian Boys)

- Brian had sent round his report before the meeting which is attached to the minutes. No further detail was necessary other than to announce a date of 9th April for the pre-season meeting, most likely at Warrington Sports Club (TBC).
- Fixtures for CCCL have now been released for April and May.

Senior Leagues - Cheshire Cricket League (Selwyn Stephenson)

- Selwyn identified regionalisation as a key topic that will be a focal point in 2025 as we explore the potential with the clubs. It is seen as a critical issue in ensuring future cricket at that level, with the potential for new clubs as well as retaining current clubs.
- 2025 rules had again been aligned further with CCCL, a process we will continue.
- CCL are currently working with two clubs (one CCCL and one CCL) on the practicalities of a club merger which would allow cricket across the leagues. This will be possible in 2025, with potentially a different approach adopted in 2026. Our aim is always to enable cricket wherever possible.
- In the changing shape of our cricket landscape, CCL are accommodating several clubs who have elected to withdraw teams in favour of fielding second elevens in place of either first and second elevens or solely first elevens. Again, the overall aim is to retain clubs to play cricket at the level they can/wish.
- Fixtures for CCL are starting now, delayed by decisions by clubs on team additions/withdrawals
- The clubs pre-season meeting is scheduled for 16th April at Holmes Chapel

Senior Leagues – Women (Caroline Sheridan)

- Caroline reflected on the activities in setting up the 2025 season. Some club changes have happened since last year and these reflect in the make-up of the league.
- A starring system has been introduced this year (similar to many other sports) to ensure players play at the level they are capable of and not at lower levels. This introduces a safeguard for ensuring very good players do not discourage weaker players. A new umpires and scorers representative had taken up duties (Emma Mallinson) who would represent the league in ACO meetings and work.
- A 5-year plan has been created for women's cricket (similar to the one described for 4Cs) which is under review.
- 2025 fixtures have been released.
- Panel umpiring is to be introduced in 2026 – to replace the current less formal club

CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

representative umpiring. This may not apply at all levels in the league, the detail is still to be worked out.

Officials (Martin Roberts)

- Martin recapped on the work done by the three former officials associations to become a single Cheshire ACO. This is now the way officiating is handled in the county for open age cricket in the CCCL and CCL.
- The new association (an amalgam of the former Cheshire ACO, Cheshire County League Officials, Cheshire Cricket League officials) has started work, and will have the first full exec meeting on 3rd March.
- CACO (Cheshire Association of Cricket Officials) will occupy a section of the Cheshire Cricket Board web site. This is not a new situation, previously the education team did this.
- We are investigating the potential for 'Who's the Umpire', a software tool already in use in both leagues for match appointment handling, to extend to captains reporting and fair play reporting. Both systems currently use a google form and excel spreadsheets operated independently by the leagues.
- New ECB policy received this week for 1st March introduction will be managed by the association for onward dissemination amongst officials.
- Current scorer and umpire courses may yield additional officials for the coming season. Numbers of umpires appears to be similar to last year, numbers of scorers may be on the increase.
- The associations are dealing with several issues related to ECB processes and funding

Cheshire Cup (David Gane)

- It was confirmed that the Shield competition would not be held in 2025
- The Cheshire Cup had approximately 40 entries to date with a few more highly likely. Once again very few CCL clubs accepted the invitation sent out recently.
- The process for 2026 could change in that clubs are automatically entered unless they opt out. This is a similar arrangement in many sports. David will assess the implications and requirements. Whether this could work for CCL clubs would be in question.

Clubs Development Manager (Gareth Moorhouse)

- Gareth reflected on a good response to recent scorers courses. New offerings were in the pipeline.
- He and the Board were engaged in some hectic work and deadlines in relation to the ECB, some of which will have implications for 4Cs.
- Club development forums are scheduled for March. If the leagues have any information to pass on this is an opportunity.
- Affiliations are progressing well at 80 out of 109 clubs signed up. League support in pursuing the late payers may be requested. Clubs are being urged to stay on top of club mark issues.
- It was earlier reported that the leagues had adopted additional wording for their rules to emphasise affiliation within Cheshire Cricket Board jurisdiction. Gareth would be keen to see the wording adopted

Action – Send proposed wording for league handbooks to Gareth – Brian B, Brian H

CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

Grounds (Andy Horsfield)

Andy was unavailable for a report, however, Gareth reiterated the pitch power process of ground evaluations and suggested a target similar to last year of 30 plus clubs would receive a visit and report. 2024 visits were favourably received.

Cheshire County Cricket Club (John Petch)

John was not available, but a report had been received prior to the meeting and is attached to the minutes

AOB

The next meeting is likely to be in June TBC

Meeting closed 9.50 pm