

CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 18 September 2020– 10.45am via ZOOM

1. **Attendance:** P.Davies (Chairman), M.Tyerman (Vice Chairman), S.Davies (Management Group Chairman), M.D.Roff (Treasurer), D.W.Sharp (Secretary), D.Bailey (County Club), D.T.Humpage (Clubs), R.C.Newton (Director of Cricket). Apologies: D.Batty (Youth Cricket), C.A.Forshaw, J.Rafferty (County Welfare Officer).
2. **Minutes of the Meeting 21 Feb 2020.** Agreed and signed as a true record. May Meeting was cancelled.
3. **Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting 21 Feb**
 - 3.1 **Board Composition (item 3.1 of 21 Feb Meeting).** We continue to consider the silver elements of the ECB Governance Reform requirements. and to incorporate these within our existing Rules. Proposals prepared by PD, RNN and DWS were presented at the meeting. These would now be aligned with our existing rules, and thereafter sent to Catherine Forshaw for comments prior to seeking formal approval by the Board at its Dec Meeting.
To reflect the growth and importance of the Women and Girls game, and following a proposal by the Chairman and subsequent discussion, it was agreed to invite Di Totty to join the Board as an independent non-executive Director with a specific responsibility for Women and Girls Cricket.
 - 3.2 **Clothing Supply Agreement (item 3.2 of 21 Feb Meeting).** RCN is awaiting a reply from Surridge Sports regarding the process for the renewal of the Contract from 2021 .
4. **Board Management Group.** The MG had met on 29 May, 24 June, 14 & 27 July, and 18 Aug Members and minutes of these meetings had been been circulated to the Directors. On behalf of the MG and combined with his own report RCN presented a summary of the activity since the Feb Board Meeting (see Appendix 1).
Arising from the comment in the report it was agreed to continue the 50% subsidy for **ECB Foundation 1 Coaching Courses** to encourage as many volunteers as possible to start on the coaching ladder. The Board continues to subsidise the UKCC2 Courses at source.
Cheshire Cricket Trust. The Trustees met on 22 November 2019. The meeting scheduled for March was cancelled. The Trustees will meet again via Zoom during Oct/Nov - date tba.
5. **Secretary**
 - 5.1 **ECB OSCAs.** Nominations from the following Cheshire volunteers for consideration for this year's 'virtual' OSCAs ever have been submitted to ECB: Geoff Nuzum – Runcorn CC – Raise The Bat; Jimmy Lomas & Ed Stubbs – Toft CC – Connecting Communities; Miles Horner – Macclesfield CC - Proactive Leadership within the Cricket Community
 - 5.2 **New Website.** The new website will be launched during November.
 - 5.3 **Board Officials 2021-22.** The procedure for the appointment of the officials scheduled for appointment at the 2021 AGM in accordance with the Rules will be agreed at the Dec Board Meeting.
6. **Treasurer**
 - 6.1 **RBS Bank Account.** A withdrawal was made from the Nationwide investment to absorb any negative impact of the Coronavirus. Thanks to the management of the Board's activities since the withdrawal as mentioned in RCN's report this funding has not yet been needed and therefore at present the balance in our RBS account continues to remain satisfactory.
 - 6.2 **Board Accounts 2019/2020.** Draft Accounts will be available prior to the Dec Meeting.
 - 6.3 **Investment.** continue to consider roll overs of our investment with the Nationwide at each anniversary date
 - 6.4 **Financial Support for our representative teams.** Following receipt of a statement of Accounts for 2019 and a budget for 2020 from Cheshire 60s and 70s the Board to agree a payment of £1000 towards Affiliation Fees and Match Balls at its Feb Meeting, and this amount was paid. As the 60s/70s played no cricket in 2020 the payment will be allocated to the 2021 season.
7. **Director of Cricket.** RCN's report is included in Appendix 1 referred to in item 4 above.
8. **County Club.** David Bailey referred members to his report circulated prior to the Meeting (see Appendix 2).
9. **Clubs Committee.** David Humpage referred members to his report circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 3)
10. **Youth Cricket.** Mr. S. Davies advised that several members of the CYC Committee were retiring from their posts. This would be confirmed at the Dec Board Meeting when the new appointees would be announced.
 - 10.1 **Match Programme.** There was no representative cricket played in 2020.
 - 10.2 **U13 & U15 Club Cups.** The 2020 comps were cancelled.
 - 10.3 **ECB U19 T20 Club Competition.** 32 clubs entered. Oxton won the Championship, and Cheadle won the Shield
 - 10.4 **Clothing Supply Agreement.** See item 3.2 above.
 - 10.5 **Youth Awards Evening.** This long-standing annual popular event scheduled for Fri 18 September (today) at Halton Stadium has been cancelled.
11. **County Welfare Officer.** Julie Rafferty's report is attached to these minutes (see Appendix 4).
12. **AOB.** None
13. **Date of Next Meeting.** Friday 4 Dec 10.45am via Zoom

Signed

Appendix 1

Director of Cricket and Management Group Report 18th September 2020

16th March – CCB County Partnership Agreement (CPA) presentation to ECB.

16th March (evening) – ECB suspended any planned Board CPA meetings.

17th March – CCB took the decision to suspend all coaching activity.

18th March – Coaching Officers (5) work stopped.

30th March – Remaining staff (15) ceased work commitments with exception of Gareth and Richard.
April – Furlough Scheme announced by Government.

18th March – 31st August - £138391 claimed via furlough scheme.

1st June – CWO back working.

1st July – CCB Managers (3) + Business Support Officer back part time.

20th July – Remaining staff (16) back part time (approx. 30hrs per week).

20th July - 1st September - 6 weeks of outdoor courses (1150 children)

7th September – Indoor Autumn programme commenced (800 children).

13th October onwards – CCB Advance Courses commence with over 40 sessions planned at 8 different sites throughout the County. Unfinished Coach development courses to be completed and new courses organised. BMG recommends that we continue 50% refund to Clubs whose members complete the Foundation 1 Course and are involved in summer coaching activities at the Clubs.

During the above period the Board have paid staff 100% salary except for 80% in June. 11 days leave entitlement has been 'taken off' each annual entitlement. Zoom meetings have taken place with all staff with updates, as necessary. CCB now have 2 zoom accounts and staff are being encouraged to hold meetings via this method which will make them more time efficient and cut down on travelling expenses.

April – July – Cheshire Clubs awarded over £1100000 in grants.

March – September – Several BMG 'zoom' meetings have taken place to make decisions on the above staffing issues and reacting to what we have been confronted with.

October – Hope to move CCB offices to County FA building on Moss Farm.

Throughout 'lockdown' ECB have been holding weekly/fortnightly meetings, informing Boards of developments with Government to get the game back on under Covid-19 guidance/rules.

Announced this week that ECB will be cutting workforce by 20% with the likelihood that all departments will be involved. It was also stated that CCB's would be receiving their full core funding (294k) from 1st Feb 2021 to 31st Jan 2022. We await news on ECB funding amounts for Women & Girls (57k - 2020) and Emerging Players Programme (30k – 2020).

The business side of the Board was fortunate that 'lockdown' occurred in March as opposed to this time of year. A further 'lockdown' for a sustainable period from now would have a catastrophic impact on Board finances and our ability to generate income. The obvious downside to an April lockdown was a decimated playing season.

The challenges that Covid-19 introduced to cricket has been massive and without the outstanding work of Leagues, Clubs, volunteers, and the rest of the cricketing family in Cheshire the disruption would have been far greater. A big thank you from me to all those that made cricket happen in these very surreal and unprecedented times!

Appendix 2

Cheshire County Cricket Club from David Bailey

Like every citizen of the UK and elsewhere the County Club suffered severe restrictions due to the Corvid 19 pandemic. After much "toing and froing" the NCCA decided to call off the summer's fixtures leaving the individual clubs to arrange friendlies under strict rules should they wish to do so. Several did and many were cancelled before play could commence due to Corvid contacts!

The County Club decided that there was no benefit to be gained by such fixtures on top of the costs involved also that it was better that the players concentrated on their clubs' fixtures. It was also felt that there would

be a challenge with availability of players and grounds due to the concentration of club cricket over the last few weeks of the summer.

This was a great disappointment since as you know this year was to be the start of a new era on County recreational cricket.

By cancellation of the fixtures it meant that the season of 2021 would be hopefully the new start and that we could concentrate our minds on that target.

We have therefore started to reorganise our own situation and plans for 2021. We hope to take advantage of the extra time available to relaunch ourselves in several ways. How successful we will be in doing this is to be seen. Our main thrust will be to get nearer to and to include the Clubs more in our own media network etc. A new web site is proposed to facilitate this.

With good wishes and safe times to you all...

Seniors 60/70s from Ian Brown

All official competition matches at 60 and 70 age levels were cancelled by the National committee in mid-June. The Northern group chair conducted a survey of the counties as to their wishes in the event of the ECB being permitted to allow recreational cricket. Except for one county in the North all were content to organise friendlies with the appropriate Covid regulations. Internally we surveyed our members as their wish to play. A number had to decline largely for shielding reasons either personally or within their families. Nonetheless we had enough to run 1st team matches within the group which extended to upcoming fixtures with Staffs and Shropshire outside the North. Additionally, we have played a mixed 70s /60s not in the 1sts on Thursday. This has kept everyone together on a rotational basis and allowed our new recruits to be integrated for what we hope will be a proper season in 2021. I have deliberately not given match details as the results were not as important as keeping the Seniors functioning fully. .

The tour to Singapore and Malaysia went ahead in late February and March . A number had to withdraw on medical grounds. It was successful. The fixture and the dinner at Singapore CC was the highlight. Future touring is obviously problematical at the moment. There is a new organizing group as Irene Wilde and I have stepped down. I wish to place on record my and I believe everyone's thanks to the 'Matron' for her efforts in the past 6 years.

Sadly, I must report the death of Ted Williams on 24 August 2020 after a 3-year struggle with cancer. I first played with and against Ted in 1966. He was a founder member of our 60s side. Additionally, Graham Butterworth who played for the 50s some time ago passed away in the Spring. Graham's death is a reminder of the devastation caused by Covid. Finally, on a happier note we have instigated the Ted Williams Tankard Trophy to be played for between Lancs and ourselves annually which was won at Toft by Lancs O60s.

Paul Freedman has received the Shield to be presented annually for contribution to Seniors cricket. A gift of a picture will be handed to Norman Halsall for his 25 years contribution to 50s cricket shortly . We have kept going !!

Appendix 3

Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee

It is an understatement to say that this has been a season like no other.

At one stage it appeared that we would have no cricket at all, but in the end the discussions between ECB and the Government bore fruit and we were allowed to start play late July.

The question then was what formats to use and how long should the season be. ECB advice was to arrange localised shorter games to reduce travel, and in their eyes, increase the opportunities for play. The County League originally had planned for a number of 20/20 games, possibly three per day on each ground, but modified this plan in the light of the restrictions, particularly the sanitisation breaks, and ultimately came to the option of 2x20/20 games or 1 longer game of no less than 40 overs played in regionalised divisions of 6. It was agreed that the season would end on the original proposed date of 12th.September, with divisional finals on 13th.September. The Cheshire League originally set out to play their 2020 designated season set back by two weeks, but were "persuaded" to modify this to incorporate the concept of localised fixtures. They still intend to play until 26th.September subject to ground availability. The CCCL Sunday League was similarly divided into localised groups of six, but with no play-offs.

It was agreed to stage the Cheshire Cup provided that the Sunday League and Women's League games took priority at all times. This has worked well and it is to the credit of David Gane that he has arranged the Cup games without any apparent problem. The final will be Cheadle v Nantwich at Cheadle on 20th.September.The Shield Final will be Hawk Green v Barrow on 13th.,September.The Under 19 competition has again been run with great skill by Gareth and has somehow been squeezed into the programme. The final of that will be Oxtun v Bramhall or Timperley.

All in all there has been a great deal of cricket played in the reduced time available. Some clubs have even found time to arrange Over 40 friendly games, and Gareth has organised a WhatsApp group for Sunday friendly cricket for those clubs that did not choose to enter the CCCL Sunday divisions.

The season has not been without its coronavirus problems. Romiley CC were hit when a young player returned from Croatia, played in two games and was found to have tested positive. This caused a couple of weeks disruption with other players having to be tested and to self-isolate, not only at Romiley but at the clubs he had played against. Games had to be rearranged or cancelled – all in all very necessary, but something we could do without.

There seems overall to be an increase in enthusiasm for the game, with more players being available, one or two clubs turning out extra sides, and noticeably more attendees at games than in the past. Whether this carries on into 2021 remains to be seen. We live in hope.

There has been a number of umpires who, understandably, were reluctant to stand for health reasons, but certainly in the CCCL we have been able to cover virtually all the games with 2 umpires.

I must take this opportunity to highlight the work that Gareth has done with the Junior Leagues across the county. I have sat in on some of the Zoom meetings he has held with Junior League organisers, and the amount of junior games played in the short time available has been phenomenal. The "old" idea that junior games stop at the end of July has been blown out of the water, and whilst it can be argued that less people have been away on holiday than usual this year increasing player availability, it certainly sets a trend for the future which we hope to follow. We have even had Under 11 evening games in September at my club!. Where there is a will there is a way.

On to the ladies. They have managed to cram their planned programme into the short time available and the league has gone very well. It is most encouraging to see on social media the number of clubs that are setting up women's sections, and there is no doubt that this side of the game will expand going forward. We plan to hold the first meeting of the CCCL Executive Committee including representatives of Women's Cricket in early October, and clearly expansion of the Women's League will be high on the agenda.

It has been a strange year for groundsmen, with no pitches to prepare for a long period, but I have been impressed on my travels with the condition of the grounds round the county. Richard Cragg is proving to be an excellent Chairman of the Groundsman's Association and the advice and help now available to clubs is paying dividends.

Huge thanks again to Gareth and to Jess particularly for their efforts. Where would we be without them!

Thanks also to the officials of, particularly, the CCCL and the CCL for their efforts to get the game on in the most unusual circumstances.

DTH – Sept. 2020

Appendix 4

County Welfare Officer's report – 18 September 2020

Despite Covid19 and 6 weeks of furlough leave, the last 7 months have been both busy and challenging. Since the last report in February, the main areas to highlight are:

- Safe Hands training
- DBS issues
- Safeguarding cases/ concerns
- Club Welfare Officer reflection

Safe Hands Training

Prior to the lockdown measures being imposed, 2 face to face Safe Hands training sessions took place in preparation for the 2020 season, they were on 11 November 2019 and 24 February 2020. A combination of 24 existing and new club welfare officers attended that training. Due to lockdown, the remaining face to face workshops could not take place. I approached the ECB safeguarding team to establish if I could deliver Safe Hands training online, which they did not allow. As some cricketing activity started in June, a series of 2-hour Safe Hands webinars, centrally delivered by the ECB Safeguarding team were made available to all existing and new club welfare officers. Between June and September, a total of 24 Cheshire club welfare officers attended the webinars. It is anticipated that these webinars will continue until November 2020 and the remaining 28 Cheshire club welfare officers who are yet to attend one of the webinars, have been told and sent the appropriate link to register and enrol. Feedback for the webinars has been positive, of which I attended and participated in 2 sessions in June. To date, nearly 750 club welfare officers in England and Wales have attended these sessions.

The ECB Safeguarding team have also allowed me and Sarah Hallas to deliver the Safe Hands webinar content to Cheshire club welfare officers, once face to face training is permitted and viable.

DBS issues

Between March and July, the Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) introduced temporary changes to the DBS verification process, allowing online verification to take place. As a result, the ECB DBS team and Atlantic Data (the designated ECB DBS processing company) reduced the number of authorised DBS verifiers, only allowing the primary countywide user(s) to initiate and verify DBS applications online. Both Gareth Moorhouse and I, were authorised to initiate and verify DBS applications for the Cheshire cricket area. In the four-month period, I have initiated and verified over 80 applications.

Safeguarding cases/ concerns

Safeguarding concerns and cases continue to be reported and as you would anticipate, since cricketing activity started in June there has been a sharp increase, which breakdown as follows:

1. Mental health concerns – 3
2. Junior and senior behaviour – 11
3. Open age cricket – 5
4. Criminal behaviour inside & outside of cricket – 4
5. DBS related issues – 4
6. Covid19 non-compliance complaints – 2

The main issue of concern relates to junior and senior players behaviour, although most cases relate to junior players. We know that everyone has missed watching and playing cricket and we cannot under estimate the impact of lockdown/ Covid19 on us all, in particular junior players, but the overriding issue has been the level of behaviour and verbally abusive language that has been used, causing significant levels of distress. I have had several conversations with club welfare officers and we wholeheartedly agree that there is no place for “sledging” in junior cricket, due to the detrimental impact it may have on others. Some of these incidents have taken place in league matches, which have been reported to the relevant leagues.

Also, due to the significant delay to the 2020 season, it was decided that there would be no junior county selection or county age group cricket, as a result any junior wanting to play in open age cricket for the remainder of the 2020 season had to be in Year 8 or above. This information was circulated in a newsletter to all club welfare officers prior to any matches taking place, but some clubs have ignored the guidelines and played under age players; again, some were league matches and the relevant leagues have been informed.

Club Welfare Officer reflection

Due to the issues reported and difficulties experienced by clubs this season, several online club welfare officer network meetings are being organised for the end of September/ beginning of October and again before the season starts in April 2021.

The intention of the sessions is to discuss and share concerns, difficulties and good practice with peers, to ensure that appropriate support and information is available for all club welfare officers.