

CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2020– 10.45am via ZOOM

- 1. Attendance:** Peter Davies (Chairman), Mike Tyerman (Vice Chairman), Stan Davies (Management Group Chairman), Mike Roff (Treasurer), David Sharp (Secretary), David Bailey (County Club), Karl Bamford (CYC), Mike Guest (CYC), Catherine Forshaw, Di Totty, Julie Rafferty (County Welfare Officer), Richard Newton (Director of Cricket). Apologies: David Humpage (Clubs).

The Chairman welcomed Catherine Forshaw, and Di Totty to their first meeting as independent non-executive directors. He also welcomed Karl Bamford and Mike Guest who were representing Cheshire Youth Cricket on a temporary basis until CYC appoints a new representative following the retirement of David Batty from the CYC Committee (and consequently retires as the CYC representative to the Board).

- 2. Minutes of the Meeting 18 September 2020.** Agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting 18 September

3.1 Governance (item 3.1 of 18 Sept Meeting). A reminder that the ECB CPA Governance Framework requires that the Rules of County Boards are aligned with the silver requirements of the ECB Governance Framework by Feb 2022 particularly in terms of diversity (a min of 30% of each gender, and a min of one members from BAME background), and the length of term of office (generally a max of 8 years).

As a result of its deliberations towards a revision of the rules in line with those 'silver requirements' the working group (Chairman, Director of Cricket, and Secretary) has concluded that we need professional support to produce a legally correct revision of our rules. The working group has consulted with Catherine Forshaw who has provided a heavily discounted price to undertake the work in its entirety. This was agreed at the meeting.

The working group will now meet with Catherine to progress a legally correct revision of our rules and agree a timescale for presentation of the rules revision to the Board for approval.

Normally at this meeting each year the process for the re-election of Officers at the Feb AGM for a two year period in accordance with the existing rules is agreed.

Assuming it will take some time to complete and agree the new rules, it was agreed that we conform with the existing rules in terms of the appointment of officials leading up to the Feb AGM.

Nominations for the offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary would therefore be advertised during December. The existing officials are eligible for re-election and willing to stand. Any nominations received will be passed to the Nominations Committee (the three member representatives) for consideration in good time before the AGM.

3.2 Clothing Supply Agreement (item 3.2 of 18 Sept Meeting). A verbal pre Covid agreement with SurrIDGE Sports for a new clothing contract in 2021 has been delayed and the existing clothing line will be extended into the 2021 season due to the large number of stock being held at SurrIDGE after a non playing County Youth season. Contract for new clothing range for 2022 to commence in new year. For clarity this arrangement does not include the Cheshire CCC Men's clothing.

3.3 Cheshire Youth Cricket (item 10 of the 18 Sept Meeting). Stan Davies confirmed that David Batty (Secretary), Roger Miln (Treasurer) and himself (Chairman) had retired from their roles on the CYC Committee after many years service. They are replaced by Karl Bamford (Chairman) and Mike Guest (Treasurer/Secretary). Members of the Board paid tribute to all those retirees for their dedication and support over the years. Karl and Mike are already involved in forming a new committee and revising the CYC rules. They were asked to advise the Board Sec of the new CYC representative to the Board to replace David Batty once CYC has elected that person. The chosen representative will become a Director of the Board.

- 4. Board Management Group.** The MG met on 16 October and 4 November and the minutes of those meetings had 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 September Board Meeting (see Appendix 1).

4.1 Cheshire Cricket Trust. The Trustees met on 21 Oct 2020.

The Trust's defibrillator support scheme has ended. Any enquiries would be directed to the Club Cricket Charity which is the charitable arm of the National Cricket Conference who in association with ECB administer a national defib supply project for clubs and organisations.

In association with the Cheshire Umpires & Scorers Association the Trustees have agreed a Bursary to support the recruitment of young umpires. It is likely that the availability of the Bursary will be advertised when the CUSA launches its pre 2021 season courses.

5. Secretary

5.1 ECB OSCAs. The NatWest Cricket Awards incorporating the **OSCAs** and PCA Awards were presented during Vitality Blast Finals Day on 1 October. Our nomination in the 'Proactive Leadership within the Cricket Community' category, Miles Horner of Macclesfield CC, won the National Award, our first OSCA winner since the OSCA event started in 2003.

5.2 New Website. The new website was 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 was agreed (see 3.1 above).

6. Treasurer

6.1 RBS Bank Account. The balance in our RBS account remains satisfactory to maintain our operation at the current level.

6.2 Board Accounts 2019/2020. The draft Accounts were circulated to Board Members prior to the meeting and approved at the meeting. Proposed by D.Bailey. Seconded by M.Tyerman. The accounts will be formally adopted at the AGM in February.

6.3 Investment. The withdrawal from the Nationwide as a contingency measure during the summer has not been needed and has been re-invested with the Nationwide.

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 the minutes of the County Club General Committee Meeting dated 16 November which had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

The AGM was held on 16 Nov and the 2021 officials had been elected.

A new website using pitchero had been agreed and would help the club promote itself around the county.

The NCCA was drafting contingency plans for regional T20 and 50 over competitions in 2021. The 3 day competition would not be regionalised and momentum would be maintained to retain this form of cricket at this level.

9. Youth Cricket. See item 3.3 above. Mike Tyerman advised that usually by this time of the year we had received advice on the following season's U13 & U15 Club Cups. As with all the ECB national competitions we have yet to receive any information with the future being so uncertain.

10. Clubs Committee. In his apology for absence from the meeting David Humpage had reported that the shortened season had been a success, and that plans were being made for 2021, although without any real concept of what would be allowed come next April. The plan is to have a full season with promotion and relegation, but this is reliant on Covid Government/ECB guidelines. See 11.2 below for CWCL items

11. Women & Girls. In her role as Independent non-executive Director with specific interest in Women & Girls cricket and its development, Di Totty reported as follows:

11.1 CCB. Women & Girls cricket through the Board is in good shape with the great work being done by the Board's staff members Jessica Lewis, Jo Herbertson and Kerry Hartnett to increase participation and improve the pathway through to professional cricket. We now have 3 league cricketers with professional contracts - in addition to Sophie Ecclestone, Eve Jones (Porthill CC) and Hannah Jones (Didsbury CC) have been given full time contracts as part of the 8 Regional Centres. Hannah is contracted to Thunder, and Eve to Central Sparks. **There is a** comprehensive development plan recently reviewed to assess the COVID-19 impact. A key area of focus will be a strategy to attract more volunteers to serve the growing interest in W&G cricket. A recent zoom meeting for any club with an interest in W&G cricket attracted 62 participants.

11.2 CWCL More clubs are looking for established cricket formats. In 2021 there will be 22 clubs with 5 clubs having Women's 2nd X1s. The League will be looking at the structure to ensure it meets the clubs' needs. There will be a 5th Division based on the very popular softball format offering short competitive games. 7 clubs have shown interest in entering this softball league, with other clubs considering it as a 2nd X1 option.

11.3 Cheshire Women's County Club. The County Club has decided not to enter the ECB T20 County Competition for 2021 as it does not have the calibre of players or the interest from more experienced players. At its recent AGM the 3 attendees (all officers) decided that the Club would take a year out to re-assess the situation and see what the ECB plans to do about County cricket. ECB's plan was to not provide a platform or provide funding for 2021, but after a backlash from some counties ECB agreed to stage a 2021 competition.

12. County Welfare Officer. Julie Rafferty's report is attached to these minutes (see Appendix 2).

13. AOB. Julie's report included a mention of Children's Mental Health Week 1-7 Feb 2021. It was agreed to support this by way of raising awareness. RCN will contact Julie to discuss. The Trust's Trustees present at the Board Meeting offered the Trust's support if required.

14. Dates of 2021 Meetings. 19 Feb (inc AGM), 14 May, 17 Sept and 3 Dec - all Fridays 10.45am

Signed

Appendix 1

Director of Cricket and Management Group Report 4 December 2020

October – CCB Advance Courses commence with nearly 50 sessions at 8 different sites throughout the County. Record number of approx 1100 participants. 4 week interruption due to 2nd 'lockdown' which will delay the start of most Excellence/District courses in the new year. Plans in place to 'catch up' on 'lost' hours during half term and Easter.

Since July 20th over 3000 children have attended courses. A definite appetite for sport to continue!

We have managed to complete a **Coach Development** course carried over from last winter and commence a Foundation 1 course this weekend with 17 candidates. Further courses planned in early 2021. The Board agreed at last meeting to continue 50% refund to Clubs whose members complete the Foundation 1 Course and are involved in summer coaching activities at the Clubs in 2021.

New Covid Indoor rules:

Allow group sizes of upto 15 youths. 4 Nets x 6 participants is permissible providing no more than 2 groups mix. Maximum of 2 adults plus a coach allowed in a net.

Coach Development allowed to continue

18 year olds training with their same academic year groups are included.

November lockdown - CCB benefitted from the latest Job Retention Scheme (Flexible Furlough) and this will remain in place for staff (much reduced level now courses are back up and running). 3 days leave entitlement has been 'taken off' each staff annual entitlement (total 14 days since March). Zoom meetings continue to take place with updates as necessary to all staff. Staff are holding meetings via zoom with Clubs.

School work has been reduced due to Covid, with some Head Teachers making the decision not to allow external deliverers into their schools. Each member of staff delivering approximately 10 hours a week in this setting currently. Sessions include a mixture of Chance to Shine and paid sessions.

Progress with the potential move of **CCB offices** to County FA building on Moss Farm has been delayed

ECB continue to hold meetings periodically but less frequent than over the summer due to their restructuring. Information on Women & Girls funding and County Grants Fund (Clubs) should be forthcoming over the next few weeks. ECB have identified 4 main priority areas for CCB's: **Youth, Clubs, Women & Girls and Urban.**

The year has brought its challenges in all aspects of our lives in a way that we have never encountered before. During these unprecedented times the cricketing family of Cheshire have displayed great passion, dedication and determination to make cricket happen during this period.

Fantastic effort by all!!!!!!

Appendix 2

County Welfare Officer's report – 4 December 2020

CWO Network meetings

Since my last report in September, the 2020 season finished and there has been an increase in engagement with the club welfare officers, to establish how the 2020 season developed for them and for their clubs. As outlined in my last report, CWO network meetings were being organised.

Seven CWO network meetings have now taken place, commencing on 11 November, finishing on the 3 December 2020. 63 Club welfare officers attended, which equates to 33% of the total, with over 50% of clubs represented.

We discussed: highs and lows of the seasons

good news stories and good practice

Summary of my season

Update regard DBS

Safe Hands webinars

Safe Hands system

Change of name for CWO and CoWO (*Safeguarding in place of Welfare*)

Support for the future

CWO network meetings for 2021

The feedback has been positive:

"Found it very useful"

"Thanks for the update this evening, was really helpful"

"Thanks for arranging the Zoom meeting, took some really good points from the meeting, it has also given me a kick to get things moving"

"Thank you for hosting the meeting this evening, which I found to be most helpful"

Safe Hands Training

The ECB Safeguarding team have continued to deliver Safe Hands webinars for club welfare officer to renew their qualification for a further 12 months and a further 5 CWO attended the online webinars, with the total number of CWO's attending the Safe Hands webinars to date now being 31, between June and December. In view of the current situation, further webinars are planned in the new year.

DBS issues

Following the announcement of the 2nd lockdown, ECB Disclosures announced that all DBS checks would once again be verified online by a specific people, fortunately this time the list was extended to include the Development and Coaching officers (Secondary County Wide Users) which helped spread the responsibility. Although lockdown has eased, the same procedures are still in place and the DBS check requests have gradually increased within the last couple of weeks. I envisage that this process will be in place well into the new year. These procedures were communicated via the latest newsletter, circulated in November.

Children's Mental Health Week 2021 - #HelloYellow (Young Minds)

This falls 1-7 February 2021 and it was suggested by one of the club welfare officers, during one of the network meetings, with a view to the CCB could getting involved and raising awareness. We know that the first lockdown had a significant effect on children and young people, highlighted in this table:

	Emotional difficulties	Behavioural difficulties	Restlessness & attention difficulties
Children (parent report)	Increased	Increased	Increased
Adolescents (parent report)	Decreased	No change	Increased
Adolescents (adolescent report)	No change	No change	No change
Children with SEN & mental health difficulties	Decreased	No change	No change

(University of Oxford – June 2020)

More than 10,000 parents took part in the Co-SPACE (COVID-19 supporting Parents, Adolescents, and Children in Epidemics) survey led by experts at the University of Oxford. Parents/carers also reported that their children's behaviour had got worse over time, with an increase in behaviours such as temper tantrums, arguments and children not doing what they are asked. Parents/carers in the survey also reported that their children showed greater levels of restlessness/fidgety behaviour and difficulties concentrating over the one-month period.

In view of this, it seems an appropriate time to show how the CBB take mental health seriously in children, young people and adults and want to promote the importance of good mental well-being in children and young people in this initiative.

At this time, the excellence and district courses will be running and its the intention to:

Get the children to wear yellow during this week

Promote a fundraising aspect for the Young Minds charity and approach the Cheshire Cricket Board Trust to endorse this as well

Promote the initiative using social media

Encourage clubs to do the same, although the season won't have commenced, junior nets may have started.

Opening Up Cricket – "It's not weak to speak" webinar



A face to face interactive session was initially planned for the start of the 2020 season by "Opening Up Cricket" but for obvious reasons it didn't take place. To continue the theme from Children's Mental Health week, plans are in place to try and organise a webinar before the start of the season 2021, for CCB staff and clubs to attend.

Safeguarding section of CCB website

I will be working with David in 2021 to ensure that the Safeguarding section of the CCB website is up to date with relevant information and links, which is easy to navigate, concentrating on:

1. Safe Hands Policy & Procedures
2. DBS checks and safer recruitment
3. Reporting concerns
4. Training & events
5. County Welfare Officer news
6. ECB resources