

**CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED**  
**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 14 MAY 2021 – 10.45am via ZOOM**

- 1. Attendance:** Peter Davies (Chairman), Mike Tyerman (Vice Chairman), Mike Roff (Treasurer), David Sharp (Secretary), John Petch (for David Bailey, County Club), David Humpage (Clubs), Karl Bamford (CYC), Catherine Forshaw (Independent Non-Executive Director), Di Totty (Independent Non-Executive Director), Julie Rafferty (County Safeguarding Officer), Richard Newton (Director of Cricket).

**Apology:** Stan Davies (Management Group Chairman), David Bailey (County Club).

- 2. Minutes of the Meeting 19 Feb 2021.** Agreed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting 19 Feb**

**3.1 CPA - Governance - Board Rules Revision (item 3.1 of 19 Feb Meeting).** The working group in association with Catherine Forshaw in her professional capacity with Brabners had finalised a legally correct revision of our rules in line with the requirements of the ECB Governance Framework (Gold standard). The revision of the Rules, and a Director's Code of Conduct, were circulated to the Directors on 30 April for consideration prior to today's meeting.

It was agreed to defer discussion of the detail until after 21 June when hopefully Government covid regulations would enable us to arrange a face to face meeting. To prepare for such a meeting the Directors were asked to provide a list of items from the new rules prior to that meeting about which they needed clarification and/or discussion.

The working group and Catherine recommended that the rules precedent for use by the Board's Members (County Club, Clubs Committee and CYC) to guide them in revising their own rules should be deferred until after the Directors have agreed the Board's own rules

- 4. Director of Cricket inc Board Management Group.** The MG met on 31 March and the minutes circulated to the Directors.

On behalf of the MG and combined with his own report RCN presented a summary of activity since the February Board Meeting (see Appendix 1).

**4.1 Treasurer.** The Treasurer has announced his decision to retire as soon as practicable once the Board appoints a replacement. The Directors agreed that the post will be advertised and the Management Group will lead the appointment process.

**4.2 Cheshire Cricket Trust.** The Trustees met on 12 April.

**4.2.1 Reappointment of Trustees.** The following Trustees were reappointed for two years from 12 April 2021: Mike Guest, David Sharp and John Petch. The other Trustees are Karl Bamford, Sarah McCann and Sophie Staniforth.

**4.2.2. Disabilities.** The Trustees continue to consider supporting disabilities in consultation with the CCB. The Trustees agreed to provide c£1500 clothing for the Cheshire Cobras Visually Impaired Team. A similar request to the CCB from the Cheshire Disabilities Squad (Physical, Learning and Deaf) is being considered by the Board/Clubs Committee.

**4.2.3 Cheshire Cricket Board Development Scheme.** It was hoped that the YoYo fundraising event arranged by the CCB as part of its Development Programme would resume in 2022, and the CCB would again choose the Trust as one its chosen Charities.

**5. Secretary**

**5.1 ECB Team Cards.** 5000 ECB Team Cards for use around the county this summer have been delivered to Moss Farm and available for collection.

**5.2 Websites.** DWS continues to service and maintain the Board's website and its play-cricket site.

**5.3 CPA.** Two areas in the CPA where we are red/amber are as follows:

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** – Board will need an EDI 'Action Plan' to demonstrate our awareness of and commitment to, improving EDI throughout the game. Awaiting an ECB template that we can adopt.

**Anti Discrimination Code** – the Board and its Members will be required to formally adopt the code in their rules. ECB has pledged support / guidance around the timing and roll out of this

**6. Treasurer**

**6.1 RBS Bank Account.** With the continuance of ECB funding, payments from the Job Retention Scheme, and a top up from the Nationwide savings account the balance in our RBS account is currently satisfactory to maintain our operation at the current level.

**6.2 Insurance.** The Board's Insurance Policy with Extra Cover Marshall Woodbridge was renewed on 1 March and an updated schedule of representative teams covered by the insurance policy sent to the insurers.

**6.3 Support payments to Representative Teams.** On receipt of a statement of accounts and a budget for 2021 a payment of £500 has been paid to the Over 50s to support its 2021 Match Programme. There have been no other requests to date from other representative teams.

**7. Director of Cricket.** RCN's report is included in Appendix 1 referred to in item 4 above.

**8. Cheshire County Cricket Club.** John Petch (for David Bailey) referred members to David's report (Appendix 2) circulated prior to the meeting

**8.1 2021 NCCA Matches.** The T20 competition has been cancelled. The 50 over Trophy matches start on 30 May with a home match at Didsbury. The 3 day Championship starts in July.

**8.2 Showcase Match.** The Showcase match v Warwickshire CCC 1st XI is scheduled for Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup> at Chester BHCC.

**8.3 CPA.** The County Club's County Partnership Agreement with ECB has been signed by DB and includes governance requirements and the way the Club is run.

**8.4 New website.** The new website has been launched. A new feature enables County Members to join and pay on line.

**8.5 Members Ticket/Fixture Card.** This has been circulated to all County Members

**9. Youth Cricket.** Karl Bamford reported as follows:

**9.1 2021 Development and Match Programmes.** See Appendix 3

**9.2 U13 & U15 Vitality Club Cup Competitions.** 37 Clubs have entered the U13 Cup, and 33 clubs have entered the U15 Cup. Both Cup draws and results are available on the Cheshire Youth Cricket Competitions play-cricket site.

**9.3 Junior Leagues.** It was confirmed that all our Junior Leagues report to CYC via Gareth Moorhouse, the Board's Clubs and Participation Manager, who is a member of the CYC Management Committee. It was noted that 37 clubs have entered the U19 T20 Vitality Club Competition.

**9.4 Safeguarding Officer.** Sarah Hallas is preparing a role description.

**9.5 Clothing Contract with Surridge.** Minor changes are being made to the contract prior to renewal.

**10. Clubs Committee.** David Humpage referred members to his report circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 4)

**11. Women & Girls.** In her role as Independent non-executive Director with specific interest in Women & Girls cricket and its development, Di Totty reported on the following topics detailed in Appendix 5.

**11.1 CCB.** Women & Girls cricket through the Board continues in good shape with the great work being done by the Board's staff members Jessica Lewis, Jo Herbertson and Kerry Hartnett in the following areas: National Programmes, Girl Guiding, Schools, Clubs, Softball Festivals, District and County, Regional Development Centre, and Coach Development.

To support the growth of the W&G's game RCN reminded members of plans prior to lockdown to recruit additional coaching officers.

**11.2 CWCL.** See Appx 5

**11.3 The Professional Game.** See Appx 5

**12. County Safeguarding Officer.** Julie Rafferty's report is attached to these minutes (see Appendix 6).

**13. AOB.** Those present paid tribute to the work done by the Director of Cricket and his staff in keeping the operation going through these difficult times. In return the Director of Cricket mentioned the considerable contribution made to the game during this period by the hundreds of volunteers around the county.

**14. Dates of the remaining 2021 Meetings.** 17 Sept and 3 Dec - Fridays 10.45am. Venues tbc

Signed .....

## Appendix 1

### Director of Cricket & Board Management Group- Richard Newton

**CCB Advance Courses** commenced on the 29<sup>th</sup> March for a 3 week period throughout Easter at different Club sites throughout the County. The weather was very kind and enabled us to complete the remainder of the Advance sessions and avoiding 75k of refunds aswell as providing over 1100 children with quality coaching prior to the season. Unfortunately due to 'lockdowns' over the winter we were unable to run our 12 week **Excellence/District programme**. This has caused challenges with selecting County Teams (only running those in National Competitions in 2021) and District teams during Whit week. **Summer Programme** for August currently being planned.

**Coach Development courses** are continuing throughout the summer at Club sites. ECB have allocated County Boards a significant number of free places for the new Support Coach course and coaching bursaries towards the cost of a Foundation 1 course for priority groups (Women, BAME, low income). Numbers attending **First Aid courses** are very good. There is a definite appetite for people to get involved in volunteering!

March 2020-April 2021 – The Board have benefitted from just under 300k from the Government Job Retention Scheme (**Furlough**). This has helped considerably in offsetting reduced activity. Zoom meetings continue to take place with updates as necessary to all staff.

**Primary School** work involving Chance to Shine and paid sessions gained momentum from the 8<sup>th</sup> March following certain Government restrictions being lifted in this. Each member of staff are currently delivering 20-30 hours a week in this setting. The **Girls Secondary School** sessions have now commenced with 12 schools involved in an intensive programme. We are still awaiting confirmation via the Greater Manchester Cricket Partnership for additional schools funding support in this area.

**All Stars and Dynamos** sessions started at clubs this week. At present Cheshire have the 5<sup>th</sup> highest populated courses in the country.

An Expressions of Interest bid will be presented to Lord Taverners/ECB next week to bid for funding towards Super 1's (all year round cricket programme for 12-25 year olds with a **disability**) at 4 possibly 5 hubs throughout the County.

Progress with the potential move of **CCB offices** to County FA building on Moss Farm is still ongoing.

**ECB** have just launched (May 10<sup>th</sup>) a funding opportunity for Clubs to access upto £1000 for junior cricket and £250 for Women's cricket. The proviso being that money is used to enhance existing programmes and or new participants. This funding is linked to the launch of The Hundred. Information on the **County Grant Fund** (Clubs) has been delayed until later in the Summer.

**CPA** contract has been signed by the Board and our self-evaluation completed and returned to ECB. Progress on all 17 categories to be made over the coming months/years.

The Board has very recently been allocated funds towards an **OSCAs** 'event'. Early discussions are taking place with Lancashire with regards to the practicalities of a 'joint' event held at Old Trafford (The Point).

Another 'Lockdown' period since our last meeting has brought more challenges but thanks to all the efforts of our **key volunteers** the season has commenced on time with 1000's of people in Cheshire participating in the game that we love!

## Appendix 2

### Cheshire County Cricket Club – David Bailey

Hi Everyone

Since our last meeting the County Club has been pursuing its consideration of the requirements of the CPA and Diversity contract with the ECB. There have been several exchanges with the ECB where we were ably assisted by the Board representatives Richard Newton and Gareth Moorhouse.

The onerous requirements of the CPA when run by volunteers has given us considerable discomfort and a degree of concern as to how we can come about satisfying the rather excessive demands.

This led to a meeting between the Board and the CCCC at our request to see what benefits there were on either side by a closer relationship if not a full merger.

The meeting was very positive and culminated in the decision for a status quo to remain but that there should be a closer connection through coaching and under 18's team with the Academy and eventually the first team.

You have had a joint statement in the last few days summarising the current situation. Since then we have moved on with some further positive enquiries in line with the decisions reached at the meeting.

On the field we have had nets for spinners and nets tonight (friday) for quick bowlers of all ages at Kings School's new facilities. A final session of the best of all will then take place in March. We need new players as there has been quite a lot of players moving about the country and others anticipating availability problems of one sort or other.

The first T20 match we play is at Oxton v Cumbria the week before the Leagues start their game - ridiculously early!!! But at least there should be no fixture clashes!!

The showcase match is against Warwickshire at Chester on a Sunday in July. This will be a great opportunity to present the County Club, The Board and Cheshire Youth in a good and hopefully profitable light.

Stay safe

David Bailey

### **Appendix 3**

#### **Cheshire Youth Cricket – Karl Bamford**

Following a difficult winter and long periods of inactivity, CCB courses and CYC activity returned over Easter with a staggering 1200 children benefitting from coaching on our Advanced and Excellence programme in the first couple of weeks in April.

As a result of concluding the Advanced programme at outdoors club venues, it meant staff could make observations and selections for the District festival taking place at the end of May.

The festival will see a record number of players (185) across age groups 12 to 15 years old compete in a four-day festival over the Whit holidays. Once completed there will be county age groups selected at U13, U14, U15.

Meanwhile across the U16-U18 age groups there was a stand-alone excellence session followed by 4 internal or district games for these age groups. Over 50 players will be used in a series of 30 over games in May to help select two county squads covering these age groups.

For age groups U13, U14, U15 & U18s they will compete in associated ECB competitions with an U18 development team playing a series of multi day and limited over games. There are to be no teams attending festivals this year.

It is hoped CCB can offer further coaching provision for younger age groups; 10-12 years old in the summer holidays and their CAG programmes resuming in 2022.

There are plans for regional cricket at U15 & U18 this summer to be held at Loughborough but there is to be no formal scouting of players.

A special mention and thanks to volunteers Karl Bamford, Peter Davies, Mike Guest, Tim Mullins, Dave Atkinson and Ian Strachan who have taken on more responsibilities in helping organising and running sides this year. Without their contributions we would not be able to offer anywhere near the level of representative cricket we are.

*Prepared by Gavin Colebourn*

### **Appendix 4**

#### **Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee – David Humpage**

The season got off to a flying start with good weather, and more significantly with the CCCL playing to its normal rules (excluding sanitisation breaks). The CCL decided to continue with 80 over games in the interim. Hopefully they will revert to their normal format soon.

It was good to meet the Board Chairman and the Secretary out and about on the first weekend.

After a good first three weeks we encountered one of those dismal weekends when the rain came down, and the wind blew. Despite that one or two brave clubs in the west of the county managed to stage shortened games so it was not a complete wash out. The writer settled down to watch the rugby on TV instead of his usual travels. No disrespect but a 70 mile round trip to watch Chester 2nd.XI demolish Cheadle 2nds seemed no competition !

We have again recently held a successful CCCC meeting by Zoom. It was good to hear from the various constituents of the committee where they were up to with their planning for 2021. Despite the problems due to the pandemic work to ensure the future of the game in the county is proceeding apace.

There seems to be an increase in players overall, although there are some clubs that are experiencing problems, mainly in the CCL with the more rural clubs. I am pleased to see that the Sunday Friendly system run by Gareth has got off to a good start, and that it has now been expanded to include Junior Cricket. I believe that it is important to provide season long junior fixtures to maintain the interest for youngsters for the future.

The Women's League has only just started, and early details can be found in the latest edition of the excellent Dazzler, produced again by Martin Saxon.

Umpires availability seems to be good throughout the structure. Derek Barnett told us that steps are being taken to attempt to recruit younger people into the umpiring fraternity. How successful this will be remains to be seen, but it is well worth a go.

Richard Cragg is carrying on the good work as Chairman of the Groundsman's Association which he has galvanised into a very proactive body. Courses and advice abound. The Association has identified in conjunction with the league, 6 clubs in the CCL which they intend to concentrate on to in an attempt to improve their on field facilities.

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

## **Appendix 5**

### **Women and Girls – Di Totty**

#### **1) Board Highlights**

##### **National Programmes**

The latest figures from the ECB said that Cheshire had 517 girls signed up to All stars and 193 signed up to dynamos. Our targets are 600 and 250 respectively. We are happy with the numbers to date and confident we will get close to both targets.

##### **Girl Guiding and Community**

We have had a great uptake from girl guiding with over 15 sessions planned in or delivered and we expect this to increase. It is proving a fantastic way to link clubs with local girl guiding centres. Kerry is doing a great job at arranging these.

##### **Schools**

The Girls Chance2Shine is going well with lots of delivery taking place. We are in 14 schools as C2S allowed flexibility on the original 12 planned programmes. Due to the nature of the secondary school lessons and timetables, it's difficult to book block sessions. Therefore, hitting the 480 hours of delivery across 1 term with all other activity going on is a challenge. However, with the potential of competitions during this summer we may get very close to our target and as such keep all of our funding.

##### **Clubs**

CGCL East and West leagues are now up and running. East has an U11, U13 and U15 leagues. West has an U13 league with hopes to grow over the next few years, following the lead of the East league. Plans are in place for festivals at U9, U11 and U13 softball levels plus U13 hardball.

##### **Club development**

We are currently working with just over 60 clubs with women and/or girls' sections. There has been a recent increase in female activity in West Cheshire, with clubs taking it upon themselves to start women and girls' sections. New clubs in this area include Irby, Wallasey (72 at a taster session), Caldby and Neston. Clubs in East Cheshire continue to develop with many now having multiple teams at junior age groups and women's teams.

##### **Women's Softball Festivals**

There are currently 10 WSF planned this summer therefore we are halfway to our target of 20. We still think that we will get close to 20 festivals by the time the summer is over as clubs are just beginning to pick up momentum and Women's Big Cricket Month (June) will help and raise the profile of W&G cricket. We have created a covid policy for WSF to ensure they run in a safe manner.

##### **District and County**

County teams at U15 and U18 have now been selected with all players informed. 12 players were selected at U15 and 14 at U18. This is to allow space for those on the periphery of squads to gain a place if they impress during the

summer. The competition for places was higher than ever before and we are hopeful there will be a development U18s team next season to ensure players don't drop out of the game. Squad lists will be added to the website soon and all fixtures are on play cricket.

Over 60 girls will take part in U11 and U14 district festivals this summer. This is the first time we've run a district competition and it has been well received. Matches will take place over half term and during the summer holidays. All players have been informed of their involvement and plans are in place for the formats etc... Some county players may also be asked to take part in girls district as well to fill specific roles and develop leadership abilities.

### Regional Development Centre

The regional partnership is going well. Our 3 players selected in the regional academy (Tilly Kesteven, Grace Michel, and Bethan Robinson) have been training all winter and will play regional games in the summer. They have also signed dual contracts to play women's cricket and have been playing for Cumbria and Lancashire over the last few weeks.

### Coach Development

We have plans to run women's only support coach courses this summer and have free F1s and F2s planned to run during winter 21/22.

## **2) Cheshire Women's Cricket League**

Season started on 25 April – number of games rained off, main impact on first round of KO Cups, so finding time on the square to re-arrange could be challenging.

Early fixtures provided some shock results in Division 1, Appleton beat Porthill, Chester BH beat Didsbury (last year's champions), Stockport Trinity easily beat Div 1 newcomers Leigh, with Ellie Mason run out on 158 and Jenny Dunn 103 not out. Lancs showing renewed interest in Ellie.

The following week Leigh beat Porthill, Didsbury beat Trinity and Oakmere beat CBH – so looks like an interesting season already for Division 1 clubs.

Divisions 2-4 - just getting going with 6 games played to date.

Division 5 (Softball) – 3 games played to date; pace will pick up over next few weeks.

National KO Cup – Didsbury, Leigh, Nantwich and Porthill – round 1 cut off extended due to rain affected matches, Didsbury through to next round w/o Blackpool CC.

## **3) Professional Cricket**

North West Thunder training at Chester BH twice a week playing 4 games (plus a friendly): -

26 May – friendly (behind closed doors, classed as recreational)

RHF Trophy 50 overs: 31 May v Sunrisers; 6 June v Lightning – both limited to 250 spectator capacity (professional Covid standards apply); online tickets only £5 adult £1 juniors.

4 July v Western Storm T20; 30 August v Northern Diamonds T20 – Covid arrangements not known.

***Prepared by Jess Lewis/Di Totty***

## **Appendix 6**

### **County Safeguarding Officer – Julie Rafferty**

#### **Safeguarding Newsletter**

The 2-page Safeguarding Newsletter was circulated at the end of March 2021 and I'm hoping that everyone received a copy (copy available on the website). The main themes that were highlighted related to:

- DBS
- CSO network meetings
- CSO Safe Hands webinars
- CSO compliance
- Open Age cricket

- Single sex junior team management
- Safe Hands Management System

### **CSO Network meetings**

Eight “pre-season” CSO network meetings were organised for March and April. 58 Club Safeguarding Officers attended with 49 clubs represented. Feedback from the sessions was good and the next network meetings will take place mid-season in June and July.

### **Safe Hands Webinar Training**

The ECB Safeguarding team are continuing to deliver the Safe Hands webinars to new and existing Club Safeguarding Officers until the end of May 2021. Myself and Sarah Hallas are attending an ECB Safe Hands Tutor Event on 3-4 June 2021, which will enable us to deliver the new Safe Hands training package both face to face and online.

### **Safe Hands Management System (SHMS)**

Significant progress has been made in the population of the SHMS. To date, the statistics are:

- 84 clubs live
- 2066 club officials on the system
- 1481 – compliant (72%)
- 193 – incomplete (9%)
- 392 – pending (19%)

7 SHMS support sessions were organised in March and April and over 30 club administrators attended

There are several clubs who are very close to full compliance, 8 clubs are still to add information on the system and 13 additional clubs have made little progress. The ECB have said that they would like full system compliance by 31 July 2021. In the next few months additional support and assistance will be given to clubs to achieve this by myself and the DCO's.

### **DBS issues**

After over 12 months of CCB staff having to initiate and verify DBS applications, the ECB announced that outdoor face to face verifications could take place from 12 April 2021. I anticipate that as the government guideline change, indoor verification will also be allowed from next week, although nothing has been announced by the ECB regarding this issue.

### **Safeguarding themes**

We are 3 weeks into the start of the season and the current themes and issues that I have been dealing with relate to:

- Complaints regarding club coaches
- Concerns about a sex offender at a cricket ground
- Transgender & use of pro-nouns (junior players)