

CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 17 September 2021 – 10.30am The Windmill, Tabley

1. Attendance: Peter Davies (Chairman), Mike Tyerman (Vice Chairman), David Sharp (Secretary), David Bailey (County Club), David Humpage (Clubs), Di Totty (Independent Non-Executive Director), Richard Newton (Director of Cricket).

Apologies: Karl Bamford (CYC), Stan Davies (Management Group Chairman), Catherine Forshaw (Independent Non-Executive Director), Julie Rafferty (County Safeguarding Officer), Mike Roff (Treasurer),

2. Minutes of the Meeting 14 May 2021. Agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting 14 May

3.1 CPA - Governance - Board Rules Revision (item 3.1 of 14 May Meeting). The suggestions circulated by David Humpage prior to the meeting were discussed by those present at the meeting.

It was agreed that:

- a. the representatives of the three members (Clubs Committee, County Club, and Youth) to be co-opted member representatives rather than Directors. These member representatives are each elected by their committees in accordance with their own rules, each with a vote on behalf of their committees at Board meetings.
- b. the Board sets a target of, and takes all appropriate actions to encourage, a minimum of 30% of each gender and a minimum of one from a BAME background. These Appointed Directors to serve in accordance with the time limits set in the rules.
- c. The Nominations Committee comprises a majority of Directors chaired by the Board Chair.
- d. the Director of Cricket, Safeguarding Officer, Treasurer and Secretary be regarded as ex-officio Appointed Directors to serve as Directors for the period of their employment with Cheshire Cricket Board Ltd
- e. the position of Management Group Chair be considered at the Feb 2022 AGM
- f. the positions of Chair and Vice Chair be considered at the Feb 2023 AGM

It was further agreed that the ECB requirement for each Board to have a Director to act as Safeguarding lead would be reviewed at a future Board Meeting. This person should not be the County Safeguarding Officer.

Having discussed and agreed the above, the Board's Rules circulated prior to the May Meeting were unanimously agreed.

The amendments would now need incorporating in the Rules.

As minuted at the May Meeting the rules precedent for use by the three Board's Members (County Club, Clubs Committee and Youth Cricket) to guide them in revising their own rules could now proceed.

- 4. Director of Cricket inc Board Management Group.** The MG met on 21 & 25 May, and 6 Sept 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 May Board Meeting (see below and Appendix 1).
- 4.1 Treasurer.** Mike Guest will replace Mike Roff as Treasurer. MG starts on 1 October, and MG formally retires at the December Board Meeting.
- 4.2 CPA.** The CPA contract has been signed by the Board and our interim self-evaluation took place with ECB representatives on 22 July.
Board representatives will meet with ECB on 12 Jan to review the 17 sections of our CPA. The focus at that meeting will be on areas of the CPA considered by ECB *'that may bring the game into disrepute such as Governance, EDI, COVID, safeguarding, and standard areas by exception, on a County by County basis'*.
- 4.3 Children's Courses.** Record numbers enjoyed the Summer (950) and Autumn (930) programmes
- 4.4 Coach Development Courses.** Courses for men and women are planned for this Autumn, including the introduction of the new Foundation 2 Course. ECB allocated County Boards a significant number of free places for the new Support Coach course (10 courses were held at Club sites this Summer) and coaching bursaries towards the cost of a Foundation 1 course for priority groups (Women, BAME, low income).
The Board had agreed a 50% refund to Clubs for candidates attending, passing and delivering coaching sessions at their respective Club for 2021 and the Board agreed this should continue for 2022.
- 4.5 CCB Lord Taverners Super 1s.** Our bid has been successful. Additional funding will support an all year-round cricket programme at hubs across Cheshire for 12-25 year olds with a disability.
- 4.6 Board's Office.** RCN continues to contact Cheshire FA regarding potential relocation from 2 Moss Farm Cottages to part of the nearby Moss Farm Cheshire County FA Offices.
- 4.7 Staff.** Charlie Ann Scudder joined the Board as Coaching Officer from 6 Sept. We now have 24 staff. The Board continues to actively pursue the employment of a diverse workforce.

4.8 Safe Hands Management System – To date 79 of the 84 Cheshire Clubmark accredited Clubs are ECB compliant.

4.9 County Grant Fund (Clubs). Launched 24 September - Cheshire will receive £140,000. A sub-group will determine the allocation of £140,00 based on Club applications.

4.10 Cheshire Cricket Trust. The Trustees last met on 12 April. The next meeting will be during Oct/Nov tbc.

4.10.1 Trustees. Sarah McCann has announced that she will not be seeking re-appointment at the Spring 2022 Meeting.

4.10.2 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 of its chosen Charities.

5. Secretary

5.1 Grassroot Awards. This event replaces the OSCAs from 2021. The Board panel selected the following category winners from the 30+ nominations.

Adam Harwick - Connecting Communities

Chris Simpson - Cricket Innovators

Gloria Lui - Game Changer

Richard Clorley - Growing the Game

Kim Davies & Tom Jones - Inspire to Play

Stuart Hirst - Lifetime Achiever

Emily Page & Oliver Passant - Rising Stars

Mandy Harding - Unsung Hero

The awards will be announced at a combined event with Lancashire at The Point OT on 8 Oct to which our nominees have been invited. Lancashire will organise the event. We have been allocated 160 tickets and invites have been sent to other volunteers across our network.

5.2 Board Officials. The procedure for the appointment of officials scheduled for appointment at the 2022 AGM will be agreed at the December Board meeting.

6. Treasurer

6.1 RBS Bank Account. With ECB funding, payments from the Job Retention Scheme (ends Sept 2021), and course fee bookings, the balance in our RBS account remains satisfactory to maintain our operation at the current level.

6.2 Investment. The drawn down made in April from the Nationwide 95 Day Saver Account to support an anticipated reduction in income and to support our staffing structure was not needed and has been reinvested.

6.3 Board Accounts 2020/2021. Draft Accounts will be available prior to the Dec Meeting.

6.4 Support payments to Representative Teams. A payment of £500 has been made to Cheshire 60/70s to help towards the travel/accommodation expenses of its sides reaching the final stages of the National Comps. This is additional to the £1000 paid earlier in the year.

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

8. Cheshire County Cricket Club. David Bailey referred to his report (Appendix 2) circulated prior to the meeting.

8.1 Fixture clashes with NCCA Matches. It was agreed that the relevant Club and County officials should meet with one another in good time during the winter to try and minimise the difficulties caused by NCCA/Cheshire Cup and League fixture clashes.

8.2 New website. The new website continues to be developed.

9. Youth Cricket. The Youth report was circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 3)

9.1 County Age Group 2022. There are some major changes proposed by ECB for the boys' competitions next year.

Under 14s, 16s and 18s will be the ECB National Competition years with other age groups playing friendlies. For under 18s the proposal (to which Cheshire has objected) is for separate 'First Class Counties' and 'National Counties' competitions for multi day cricket. The National Competition years for Girls remains as 2021 for next year.

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

10.1 Cheshire League. To assist the management of the CCL, a representative of the CCCL will sit on the CCL

Executive Committee as Chair of the CCL Rules Committee. There is an agreement in principle to move towards a common set of rules and playing regulations for the two leagues.

10.2 Derbyshire & Cheshire League. Support has been offered to the Derbyshire and Cheshire League to secure a future for the clubs in the border area of Cheshire/Derbyshire.

11. Women & Girls. In her role as Independent non-executive Director with specific interest in Women & Girls cricket and its development, Di Totty circulated a report (see Appendix 5).

11.1 CCB. Congratulations to Richard, Jessica Lewis, and the team for the sterling work they have done and the significant progress we have made with W & G cricket in Cheshire. Jess has provided an update detailing the activities completed this year (see Appendix 5).

11.2 CWCL. The League continues to be successful and attracts interest from clubs in neighbouring counties. The Board confirmed its ongoing support as and when needed.

The Board extended its appreciation for the significant contribution made to the League and the development of women and girls' cricket in Cheshire by the League Chair, Sarah McCann who has decided to step down for personal reasons. The hunt is on for a replacement, and we have big shoes to fill.

11.3 Regional Cricket. Three players from the girls' academy have played for NW Thunder this summer. Another two have been selected to take part in the new profile builder system, which will guide selection for next summer.

12. County Safeguarding Officer. Julie Rafferty's report was circulated prior to the meeting. (see Appendix 6).

12.1 Safe Hands Management System (SHMS). Julie was thanked for the work involved in supporting the 84 ClubMark clubs to ensure that they become compliant on the SHMS so they can retain their ClubMark status. The deadline was 31 July 2021, the statistics are included in her report (Appendix 6).

12.2 Safe Hands Training. During June/July over 50% of our Club Safeguarding Officers attended webinar training and achieved accreditation for a further 2 years. Andy Margeson and Julie attended an ECB Safe Hands Tutors' training event in Loughborough which authorises them to deliver the new Safe Hands training programme to new and existing CSOs. Safe Hands Workshops across the county for Club CSOs will be arranged over the winter.

12.3 CPA – Safeguarding Standards. Work has been ongoing to imbed the nine CPA Safeguarding standards in Cheshire Cricket Board Safeguarding practices.

13. AOB - none

14. Date of the remaining 2021 Meeting. 3 Dec – Friday 10.45am. Venue tbc

Signed

Appendix 1

Director of Cricket & Board Management Group- Richard Newton

Summer Programme. August saw record numbers of approx 950 participants. A 'normal' year is between 500-600 participants. This resulted in challenges with staffing and employment of many casual staff.

Coach Development courses including Women only are planned for this Autumn, including the introduction of the new Foundation 2 Course. ECB allocated County Boards a significant number of free places for the new Support Coach course (10 courses were held at Club sites this Summer) and coaching bursaries towards the cost of a Foundation 1 course for priority groups (Women, BAME, low income). There is still a definite appetite for people to get involved in volunteering! The 50% refund towards Clubs for candidates attending, passing and delivering coaching sessions at their respective Club has been recommended to continue for 2022 by the BMG. This is only applicable to those not receiving the above bursary.

Primary School work involving Chance to Shine and paid sessions continued to thrive along with the **Girls Secondary School programme.** Unfortunately, the competition element to these programmes was decimated due to covid. We are still awaiting confirmation via the Greater Manchester Cricket Partnership for additional schools funding support in this area.

All Stars and Dynamos - At present Cheshire Clubs have the 5th highest populated courses in the country. In addition, Clubs are offering coaching sessions for this age group outside the National Programme.

CCB **Lord Taverners Super 1's** bid has been successful. Additional funding will support an all year-round cricket programme for 12-25 year olds with a disability at 4 possibly throughout the County in year 1. Further hubs will be added in year 2 and 3.

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

Pleased to announce that this month **Charlie Ann Scudder** joined the CCB Coaching staff.

Information on the **County Grant Fund** (Clubs) will be launched next week to Clubs. Cheshire have been allocated 140k.

Safe Hands Management System – At present 79 of the 84 Cheshire Clubmark accredited Clubs are ECB compliant on the system.

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 have recently been allocated funds towards a **Grassroots Cricket Awards** event. Invitations to the joint Lancashire event at Old Trafford are currently being collated. A Cheshire working party was set up to manage this process.

A big thank you to all the volunteers in Cheshire who have made cricket possible during these challenging times!

Appendix 2

Cheshire County Cricket Club – David Bailey

Whilst we are still grappling with the continuing Covid virus there are signs that the future is a little more hopeful for 2022 summer.

Shortly we will be having our first “in person” meeting of the general committee. The secretary and I are working on the agenda which promises to be very different to normal due to the various changes now required of us by the ECB under the new CPA arrangements and the future governance commitments.

During the last year we have been running the County via a skeleton of members as this seemed, under the Covid circumstances, to be the most efficient way of doing things. The General Committee now need to meet “in person” to consider a variety of matters that have arisen and ways in which we can achieve their objectives as well as ways to improve our own performances.

On the cricket field (the T20 was cancelled) we succeeded in reaching the quarter finals of the Trophy competition and finished third in the Championship - this would have been improved upon had the weather not intervened with our results and the fixture/club selection clashes had been more acceptable! Where have we heard that before? Oxfordshire, whom we beat convincingly in a great match at Banbury eventually won the Title.

The quality of the cricket played was to a high standard. This was despite the fact that there were a huge variety of fixture and club/county selection clashes. Even a complete team replacement after a Covid isolation necessity produced a victory over Shropshire!

At the Players' supper during the last match against Berkshire I made a point of congratulating Peter Babbage (ably assisted by his good lady Diana and Elise S) for the magnificent way in which they had handled the unbelievable challenges from a variety of directions that led in one fixture to a total of 28 contacts to get a team out! To be able to say we had a good season speaks volumes for the standard of cricket being played in the Clubs around the County and the willingness of most cricketers to play for their county even under difficult situations.

What else have we learned during this time? I set out a few points below for eventual discussion when we next meet.

- 1 is it more efficient to run the county via a small management company of say 6 members meeting regularly and reporting to the General Committee via their minutes and then meeting say two or three times a year to discuss matters of major importance?
- 2 to set out on the route of compliance with the Governance requirements - a nightmare of committee reorganisation and rebalancing?
- 3 to enable 2 above to be achieved it will be necessary or a good idea for all members to retire in order that reappointments to suit Governance can be achieved? “Start from scratch.”
- 4 to continue to pursue the process already commenced with the request to the Board to take control of and to allow us to join in person the full fixture process with the Cheshire leagues to, where practical, minimise the fixture clashes with County matches (generally Sundays).
- 5 to continue the process already started with the ECB and the NCCA (separately) regarding the fixture arrangement clashes of County fixtures with ECB competitions (initial conversations with Paul Bedford (ECB) have been completed confirming their view that a NCCA County team is considered to be the Elite team in the County.
- 6 to ensure that the CCB acknowledges the stature of the County XI in line with the ECB's requirement.
- 7 consider the current relationship with the Cheshire Cricket Board.

8 fuller use of the new web site - doing really well at present thanks to the energy and vision of one Jim! The winter may require a wider range of thought and content.

9 job vacancies on web site (recent advert for a Treasurer received four applications and final selection is under way and will be sorted on September 20th!). Utilise the website for all annual election vacancies and other opportunities available through the County.

Some food for thought - Covid has been responsible for a lot of changes, so we are no different!

Appendix 3

Cheshire Youth Cricket

County age group (CAG) and district cricket-girls and boys

The boys and girls CAG programmes were successfully completed (albeit restricted with no boys' teams up to Under 13's, and girls up to under 15's) with some notable results. With no county match programme in the previous season nor winter programme, larger squads were selected at the younger age groups to give more players experience. Whilst this meant more rotation of players and may have at times diluted the strength of the teams, it allowed the coaches and managers to see more players and aid the selection of squads for next year.

It is anticipated we return to a full range of age group squads next year supported by the CCB coaching staff.

There are some major changes being proposed by the ECB for their boys' competitions next year. Under 14's, 16's and 18's will be the ECB competition years with other age groups playing friendlies. For under 18's it is proposed (which we have objected to) there will be separate 'First Class' and 'National' competitions for multi day cricket.

The district competitions for both boys and girls were successful involving more junior players as extra teams were created to increase participation.

National Club competitions

The under 13s and 15s competitions were completed successfully with Lindow winning the under 15s Cheshire competition and Chester Boughton Hall the Under 13s Cheshire competition. Neither team progressed further at the national knockout stages.

Club Junior Leagues

CYC involvement with the junior leagues is carried out through Gareth Moorhouse who did a great job in fostering best practice and sharing of ideas between the various junior leagues. All leagues operated successfully overcoming the hurdles presented by the Pandemic. The use of play cricket by the clubs was increasing and Gareth in 2022 will continue to lobby the leagues to increase participation.

Coach Association

There has been a resumption of coaching courses at Level 1 and 2 from April 2021. New ECB support courses have been run in June and July that have replaced the Coach Support Worker courses. A full Winter programme has been planned for coaching and first aid courses.

Several staff coaches have been put forward to gain further qualifications to enable them to deliver coach development training.

Constitution

The CYC Constitution is still in abeyance, pending the completion of the CCB work being undertaken, particularly around Board representation and Governance, which we anticipate we will mirror. We understand the Board will finalise their work by the end of January 2022

Mike Guest CYC Secretary September 2021

Appendix 4

Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee – David Humpage

The season has finally come to a conclusion, and the trophies distributed. Despite the ongoing Covid problems, overall the season has been a success. The CCCL has been won by Nantwich, chased all the way by a resurgent Didsbury side. Timperley and Cheadle have been relegated from the Premier Division and are replaced for 2022 by Bowdon and Brooklands. Lindow won Division 2 and will be promoted along with Alvanley to Division 1. Again in Division 2 Stockport and Barrow have been relegated to the CCL and replaced by promoted sides from the CCL in Cheadle Hulme and Hawk Green.

Chester won the Cheshire Cup when they defeated New Brighton in a game played on a glorious Sunday early in September. Their ground must now be one of the best looking grounds in the North West. Upton won the Cheshire Plate on "Mad Sunday" when there were key cup and league games all over the county at various levels, not to mention a game for the County side. Yours truly went to the CCCL 3rd.XI Finals Day played at a rather damp Bramhall, and won convincingly by Didsbury who are now fielding 6 men's teams and 2 women's teams each week. It is encouraging to hear of more clubs wanting to field extra sides in 2022, so we must be doing something right ! There is interest from a number of new clubs in entering the Over 40 Competition in 2022, including one club from the D&C League. Gareth Moorhouse has been running a Whatsapp Group for Sunday friendly fixtures, and again this has increased participation across the county.

Special mention to Alvanley who have reached the final of the Village Cup to be played at Lord's and also to Alderley Edge who reached the last 4 of the National 20/20 competition.

I have ongoing concerns about the management of the CCL, and agreement has now been reached for a representative of the CCCL to sit on their Executive Committee. Brian Boys is the nominated representative, and has also been instated as Chairman of the CCL Rules Committee. I have agreed with their Chairman in principle to move towards a common set of rules and playing regulations between the two leagues, although this may take some time to implement in practice.

There are problems too in the Derbyshire and Cheshire League, which is currently down to 19 clubs, not all of whom have a 2nd.XI. Rumours of further departures are circulating although nothing has been confirmed to date. I have met with their Chairman recently and assured him of our support going forward. One problem is a complete lack of support for their Derbyshire clubs from the Derbyshire Board. Someone in Derby seems to have moved the county boundary to Buxton!

The Women's League has had a successful season, and interest in the game amongst women is increasing, with more clubs introducing women's sections. Chester have once again been crowned as Champions of Division 1. All the details can be found in the latest edition of the excellent Dazzler, produced by Martin Saxon.

Umpires availability seems to be good throughout the structure. The CCCC have had two umpires to every 1st.XI game this season, and whilst this is not the case lower down the structure, efforts are being made to recruit more participants particularly with the emphasis on younger umpires. Co-operation between the CCCL and the CCL is good on the umpiring front..

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.

Appendix 5

Women and Girls – Di Totty

Congratulations to Richard, Jess, and the team for the sterling work they have done and the significant progress we have made with W & G cricket in Cheshire. Jess has kindly provided the update below, detailing the activities completed this year.

National Programmes. The latest figures from the ECB said that Cheshire had met their targets for the number of girls taking part in national programmes. We had 696 (target was 600) girls taking part in All stars and 314 (target was 250) in dynamos.

Girl Guiding and Community. We delivered to 13 unique venues delivering to 217 unique participants.

Schools. We had a great summer of delivery across the secondary schools in the UK. Figures are being finalised this week and we are very close to our target. Competitions were unable to run due to the pandemic which may leave us short of some hours however we are in discussion with C2S about using that underspent to deliver in schools this term. The feedback from the schools on the delivery they have received has been fantastic and many are keen for delivery next summer.

Club cricket. The girls' leagues and CWCL Division 5 will be running until the end of September to allow for any missed fixtures to be played. Final stats will be provided then however it looks like lots of cricket has been played with extra friendlies taking place outside of the league structure. We are already working on plans for Autumn and Winter leagues/ events.

Club development. Club development work in ongoing. Now the new season has started we will be arranging 1-2-1 meetings and forum meeting with the clubs to share experiences, information and help where needed.

Women's Softball Festivals. A special mention to Jo Herbertson for her commitment and enthusiasm in getting all these events and delivered. A brilliant summer for WSF.

20 unique venues (6 new venues from previous delivery)

24 festivals (8 self-ran by clubs) and 2 rained off.

57 unique teams (149 teams of 6 across all events) which would equate to approx. 342 unique participants (894 non unique)

District and County

U11 District. The U11 girls played 8 days of fixtures across may half term and the summer holidays. 32 girls were split between 3 teams which were named the Sapphires, Rubies and Emeralds. The feedback from the parents was extremely positive.

U14 District. The U14 district had 7 match days. They took the same names as the U11s girls, and 36 girls were involved in these matches.

U15 County. Cheshire U15 girls played 9 games, won 5 and lost 4. Cheshire made it a clean sweep against Yorkshire winning 4 from 4 and beat Derbyshire. Cheshire lost all 4 games to Lancashire despite bowling them out for 71 in one of the fixtures. The girls bowling and fielding attack was good however lost games as they struggled with the bat and confidence.

U18 County. The young U18 girls were due to play 19 matches this summer. 6 x league fixtures, 6 x T20s, 3 x friendlies and 4 x festival games. Of these fixtures 16 took place and Cheshire only managed to win 4 and they lost 12.

A big THANK YOU to Lee Prince for all his hard work and commitment over the years.

Regional Cricket. 3 players from the girls' academy have played for NW Thunder this summer. Another 2 have just been selected to take part in the new profile builder system, which will guide selection for next summer.

Coach Education. Women's F1 will take place on the 12th and 19th December 21 at the Grange in Hartford

Women's F2 will take place March 22

Both courses will be free of charge to female coaches in Cheshire

Cheshire Women's Cricket League (CWCL)

Really good and competitive season, which is ending after two-week extension, all Divisional winners decided, except for the softball divisions (Div. 5) that are still in progress.

Div 1 – Chester Boughton Hall

Div 2 – Nantwich

Div 3 East – Woodley

Div 3 West – Hawarden Park

Div 4 – Stockport Georgians 2s

T20 Divisional Cup – Oakmere

T20 KO Cup – Didsbury

We continue to attract interest from clubs in neighbouring counties, and we are in discussions with existing league clubs about the potential impact of more teams joining us. We want to make the right decisions that develop and protect the league.

The North/East of the County remains strong, with a plethora of clubs, the South/West is still work in progress, though there has been good interest in softball on the Wirral.

Our volunteers work hard to make the league a huge success, none more so than Sarah McCann, who has for personal reasons decided to step down as Chair. The hunt is on for a replacement, and we have big shoes to fill.

I invite the Board to thank Sarah for her contribution and recognise the significant contribution and service she has given to developing women and girls cricket in Cheshire.

Appendix 6

County Safeguarding Officer – Julie Rafferty

Safe Hands Management System (SHMS)

A lot of time has been spent supporting the 84 ClubMark clubs to ensure that they become compliant on the SHMS so they can retain their ClubMark status. The deadline was 31 July 2021, the statistics are as follows:

- 55 clubs (65%) were recognised as compliant by the ECB on the system by 31 July 2021, with the remaining 29 clubs expected to submit appeals to the ECB to explain the reason for non-compliance and steps taken to become compliant.
- 26 clubs (90% of the 29 clubs) submitted an appeal
- 24 clubs were successful in their appeal, as Parkfield Liscard CC lost their ClubMark accreditation and Alderley Edge CC's appeal is pending
- 3 clubs – Brooklands, Tattenhall and Weaverham CCs did not submit appeals by the deadline, resulting in Brooklands and Tattenhall CCs submitting late appeals, as a result their ClubMark decision is pending
- **Currently there are now 79 clubs (94%) compliant on the SHMS as a result they have retained their ClubMark status**

This is a great team effort, with special thanks to Gareth Moorhouse and the DCO's for all their assistance and support, which has contributed to this achievement.

1. Safe Hands Training

The ECB Safeguarding team delivered Safe Hands webinars between June 2020 to July 2021, resulting in 96 Club Safeguarding Officers (CSO) (over 50%) accessing the training and achieving accreditation for a further 2 years. In June 2021, myself and Andy Margeson attended an ECB Safe Hands Tutors training event in Loughborough which now authorises us to deliver the new Safe Hands training programme to new and existing CSO's. It is anticipated that about 100 CSO's will require training for the 2022 season, which equates to 5-6 3hr Safe Hands workshops which will be delivered face to face at different venues. The dates for the Safe Hands workshops will be released by the end of September 2021.

2. CPA – Safeguarding Standards

Work has been ongoing to start to imbed the nine CPA Safeguarding standards in Cheshire Cricket Board Safeguarding practices, of which we have assessed that the CCB are meeting at least 4 of the standards. The remaining 5 standards are being progressed as follows:

- 4.1 Safe Hands Policy – This section requires the board, staff members and volunteers to sign a Safeguarding Standard statement and Code of Conduct, which records their acknowledgement the content of the Safe hands Policy and an accepted level of behaviour. Processes have already been put this in place for new starters to include Safeguarding in the induction stage.
- 4.2 Safeguarding Polices & Procedures – As well as having appropriate policies and procedures in place, this links in with 4.1 and requires appropriate Code of Conduct to be put in place for staff, volunteers and board members
- 4.4 Safeguarding Board Lead – The County Safeguarding Officer (CoSO) reports to the CCB although ECB do recommend that the board should consider appointing a safeguarding lead independent from the CoSO, which needs further discussion
- 4.5 Staff Training – Safeguarding training has been delivered to paid members of the CCB but not to volunteers and board members who need to be included, as per the ECB Safeguarding Training Matrix. The suggested safeguarding induction documentation has already been put in place
- 4.6 DBS Checks – All CCB staff and volunteers involved in regulated activity have an up-to-date DBS check. This standard also includes the implementation of the SHMS, which has been discussed previously and is ongoing to eventually include non-ClubMark clubs. Most clubs have a DBS verifier and efforts are in place to ensure that all clubs have a DBS verifier which enables them to initiate and verify new DBS applications

3. End of Season CSO network meetings

Several "end of season" CSO network meetings are currently being organised for October and November 2021, which will be delivered via zoom to maximise attendance. This will be an opportunity for myself and the CSO's to highlight the main safeguarding themes for the 2021 season, as well as discussing any additional learning and forthcoming developments.

4. Safeguarding themes

Since the last board meeting the themes and issues dealt with by the CoSO relate to:

- DBS blemishes (content on the DBS certificate which needs risk assessing)
- Ongoing reviews of current safeguarding situations
- Concerns about mental health for junior and senior players
- Reports of bullying incidents involving junior players
- Open age cricket issues (underage players, playing in senior cricket)
- Several people associated with cricket clubs have been suspended due to sexual offence investigations or convictions
- Referral made to the local authority due to concerns about an All-Stars participant