

CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2022 – 10.45am ZOOM

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

Those present shared a moment of reflection following the sad news that Stan Davies our Management Group Chair had died on 10 February.

- 2. Minutes of the Meeting 21 Dec 2021.** The date of the Feb Meeting should read 18 Feb and not 25 Feb. With this amendment the minutes were then agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting 21 December

3.1 CPA - Governance - (item 3.1 of 21 Dec Meeting).

3.1.1 ECB/CCB CPA Meeting. Board and County Club representatives met with ECB on 12 January to review progress towards compliance with the CPA requirements. Our progress was well received by ECB.

3.1.2 Appointments Process- (item 3.1.1 of 21 Dec Meeting). The Nominations Committee (NC) had met twice since the Dec Board Meeting to discuss the process and agree role descriptions for Safeguarding Lead, EDI Lead, Chair, Vice Chair and Management Group Chair.

Safeguarding Lead. The role was advertised on 4 Jan. At the closing date 28 Jan there was one applicant, Catherine Forshaw. Catherine is an existing Director and has offered herself for re-appointment at the AGM immediately following the Board Meeting.

For clarity, Julie Rafferty (County Safeguarding Officer) will continue as an ex-officio Director

EDI Lead. The role was advertised on 4 Jan. At the closing date 28 Jan there was one strong applicant, Neeruj Luthra. The appointment would be considered at the AGM immediately following the Board Meeting.

Chair, Vice Chair and Management Group Chair. These roles were advertised on 31 Jan. The closing date is 31 March. Nominations from the NC would be considered at the Board May Meeting for appointment at the 2023 AGM.

Di Totty. Di was appointed as an Independent non-executive Director at the 18 Sept 2020 Board Meeting. A min of two years must elapse before a Director offers themselves for re-election. Di would therefore be up for re-election at the 2023 AGM.

3.1.3 Members Rules/Constitutions (item 3.1.2 of 21 Dec Meeting). The County Club, Clubs Committee, and Youth Cricket have each sent their existing Rules/Constitutions to Catherine Forshaw. In her professional role with Brabners, Catherine will prepare a template in line with the ECB CPA Governance requirements for use by the three Members. Costs will be capped at special rates and paid for by the Board.

- 4. Director of Cricket inc Board Management Group.** Richard introduced his report by saying that the last 2 months had been extremely sad, with the passing of Mike and Stan. Richard had established an excellent working relationship and had become great friends with both over the last 30 years. He will miss them both incredibly.

The MG met on 2 February 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 December Board Meeting (see Appendix 1).

5. Secretary

5.1 ECB Team Cards. ECB Team Cards for use around the county for matches this summer will be delivered to Moss Farm soon. DWS will advise Member Secretaries when they are available for collection.

5.2 Cheshire League Arbitration. On 16 January the Board received a request from the Cheshire League to arbitrate on an ongoing issue involving the League and two Clubs. A Board Arbitration Panel met with representatives from the League and the Clubs on 25 January to determine a decision. The decision which was final and binding, was conveyed to those representatives the following day. The members of the panel were thanked for the speedy and professional manner in which the process was conducted.

6. Treasurer

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

6.2 Investment. A lump sum investment remains in the Nationwide 95 Day Saver Account.

6.3 2020/2021 Accounts. The accounts were approved at the Dec Meeting and will be presented for adoption at the AGM.

6.4 Corporation Tax and VAT. Following advice from an independent specialist company it was confirmed that:

a. we are not required to register for VAT

b. Courses and paid school sessions are classed as trading activities and Corporation Tax would be payable on any profits, should they arise. An exercise has been undertaken that illustrates that these activities are not profit making and as such no Corporation Tax is due for the last 4 years. This exercise will be repeated annually.

6.5 Online Access. MJG now has online access to RBS, NEST, and SAGE.

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's report was circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 2).

8.1 Showcase Match 11am 31 July v Warwickshire CCC at Chester BHCC. All Cheshire cricketing bodies are invited to participate as organisers or spectators. Those interested please contact Cheshire CCC.

8.2 ECB CPA Governance. County Club and Board Representatives met at Alderley Edge CC on 9 Feb primarily for the County Club to seek help from the Board in satisfying the CPA Governance requirements but also to consider a closer relationship regarding marketing Cheshire cricket.

9. Youth Cricket. The minutes of the Youth Committee Meeting dated 7 Dec were circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 3)

10. Clubs Committee. David Humpage's report was circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 4).

10.1 Women's Clubs & League Funding. The Board is keen to consider on going £support for the continued development of Women's Club and League cricket if and as needed. RCN to discuss ways forward with Di Totty.

11. Women & Girls. In her role as Independent non-executive Director with specific interest in Women & Girls cricket and its development, Di Totty's report was circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 5).

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

13. AOB

13.1 Office move to share Cheshire FA Offices. The much awaited move to the Cheshire FA is hopefully imminent (see Appendix 1), and now dependent on the formal approval of the Council to the Cheshire FAs application. Meantime staff continue to use our existing facility when necessary and working from home at other times.

14. Dates for remaining 2022 Meetings. 20 May, 16 September, 9 December – Fridays 10.45am. Times and venues tbc

Signed

Appendix 1

Director of Cricket & Board Management Group- Richard Newton

On a personal level, the last 2 months have been extremely sad, with the passing of Mike and Stan. I built up a great working relationship and became great friends with both over the last 30 years. I will miss them both incredibly. However, to quote a legend of the music industry, "The show must go on".

Advanced Courses have been completed and we now enter the **District and Excellence** stages of the pathway coaching. Numbers attending are extremely healthy and we have begun to use a new indoor centre based at a school in Trafford. We have also formalised a minimum 50% reduction for any families on Universal Credit.

Coach Development courses, are currently taking place with healthy numbers of both females and males attending.

Primary School work involving Chance to Shine and paid sessions continues to thrive along with the **Girls Secondary School** programme getting into full flow. School competitions dates are being scheduled after 2 blank years. We have had confirmation via the Greater Manchester Cricket Partnership that additional funding to support Primary, Secondary and Street projects will add up to 150k between 2022-2024.

All Stars and Dynamos – Preparations and promotion are well underway for the 2022 programme. Following a successful campaign in 2021, Cheshire are hoping to maintain high numbers (5th ranked in the country 2021).

Lord Taverners Super 1s – We have now begun the coaching for 12-25 year olds at 4 hubs as part of the Super 1s initiative. Further hubs will be added in year 2. Table Cricket sessions are also taking place for young people with a disability. Special Schools tournament is planned for end of June.

We are still awaiting the finalised contract with regards to the move of **CCB offices** to County FA building on Moss Farm. The Council are holding up the process, but all is extremely positive with the FA.

The **County Grant Fund** panel have met 3 times now and allocated 120k to 17 Clubs. Cheshire have been allocated 140k for year 1, but we are hoping for confirmation of a further increase of 50k in the coming days/weeks

CPA – Annual Review meeting to took place with ECB on 12th January 2022 in which we discussed the years progress, with particular emphasis on Tier 1 (Governance, Safeguarding, Covid, EDI). Feedback on the day seemed very positive but we still await the written minutes of the Review.

Grassroots Cricket Awards - A web page has been devoted to nominate and write a brief report (plus photograph) for outstanding services to cricket. We are working with Lancashire to come up with some monthly awards for volunteers. The 2nd Awards evening at Old Trafford is being planned for October 2022.

A big thank you to all the volunteers in Cheshire who continue to make cricket happen.

Appendix 2

Cheshire County Cricket Club – David Bailey

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.

Appendix 3

Cheshire Youth Cricket 18.02.22

We have all been greatly saddened by the passing of Stan Davies. Stan has championed and represented youth cricket in Cheshire for a long period and has been instrumental in the success of youth cricket in the County. All of us involved with CYC will greatly miss his involvement and his straight-talking, common-sense approach to the activities we undertake. He was rightly, very proud of the achievements of CYC, and knew it was down to having a great team in place around him, so didn't seek individual acclaim but was always keen to support everyone involved- but not shrinking to wield his authority when required.

CYC has lost a champion, friend and massive supporter who will be greatly missed.

The following is a summary of the activities taking place within CYC.

Boys cricket

The district and excellence courses are ongoing with record numbers of participating. A new venue at Blessed Thomas Halford school in Trafford is being used filling a gap in provision in that region.

A full county age group programme is in place for 2022 with festivals confirmed for under 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15's. Links with the county club have been strengthened with some of the under 16's and 18's players attending sessions with the Cheshire CCC academy squad and 1st Xi captains Nick Anderson and Rob Sehmi

Girls cricket

The girls excellence courses are up and running with high numbers attending. Plans are in place for district under 11's and 14's training days at Easter, followed by matches at Whit and in the summer holidays.
A full County age group programme is in place for under 11, 13, 15 and 18's.

Junior leagues

The leagues are in the process of finalising their formats for 2022. Initial indications show positive signs with increased team numbers and a new competition (Under 17 hundred competition) running alongside the under 19 T20 competition.

It appears leagues will return to their traditional window of holding matches from late April until late July. Through a combination of, summer holiday junior cricket weeks, 'Get the Game on' junior scheme and additional Dynamos cricket festivals, there will be lots of cricket available for juniors over the holiday period.

Coach Education

There are 350 affiliated coaches registered in Cheshire.

Courses are taking place or planned for Foundation 1, ECB Coach core course and ECB support courses, all of which are well attended.

Specialist coaching workshops are scheduled for wicketkeeping, spin bowling and fielding.

ECB bursary applications have been made for scheduled coaching courses for women, people from ethnically diverse communities and people with disabilities.

First aid courses and ECB staff coach development training are all taking place.

ECB National Club competitions

The organisation of the under 15's and under 13's national competitions is under way, and expected to run as in previous years.

Marketing

A CCB awareness campaign is underway, using informatics to illustrate what we do, and numbers involved, posted on all social media platforms.

Our young ambassadors Rohan Luthra and Rebecca Othick have started their year. They are using all social media platforms, introducing themselves and explaining how each young person can access this added -value service. They are gathering insights and feedback by surveying young people on the pathway.

Appendix 4

Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee – David Humpage

Although winter is still with us and rain coming down as I write, the days are lengthening and it reminds us that the cricket season is not far away.

It has been a close season dominated in the first part with working to resolve the dispute arising in the Cheshire League over promotion. The matter was finally resolved by adjudication by a panel set up by the Board. My thanks to those involved whose professional approach to the matter was acknowledged and appreciated on all concerned. The outcome highlighted once again the problems in the management of the CCL and again this is something we are working on.

A recent major development has been the approval by both the CCL and the CCCL to move the Divisions 1 and A of the CCL into the CCCL with immediate effect. Both leagues feel that this move will be beneficial, and hopefully will allow the CCL breathing space to consolidate its management over a smaller number of teams and divisions.

Much work is needed to ensure a smooth transition of the move, and a series of meetings with clubs concerned is planned.

On the field the CCCL will be using a Duke ball this coming season in all 1st.XI matches following the success of a trial in 2021. The Sovereign ball will continue to be used for all other CCCL senior games.

As is usual in the close season efforts are being made to increase the number of umpires available. The usual courses are being run across the county. The CCCL Umpires Association is setting up Captains Meetings prior to the new season to improve mutual understandings.

The Women's game continues to grow and more and more clubs are taking up the challenge of setting up women's sections. The league continues to expand with a number of new clubs and teams involved for 2022. The soft ball league continues to be a great success as the stepping stone to hard ball games further down the line. Caroline

Sheridan has taken over from Sarah McCann as Chair and a new Secretary is being sought. I would like to pay my own personal tribute to Sarah who has worked tirelessly over the past few years to boost the women's game. I have no doubt that her wise council will not be too far away.

Funding for the women's game is a subject that I raised previously at the Board and I would like to discuss this again at the meeting.

The Groundsman's Association has a new Chairman in Andy Horsfield who is the groundsman at Timperley CC. The usual course are being planned and efforts are being made to encourage younger players to take an interest in the skills required to produce good pitches.

Finally my thanks to Gareth and to Jess for their efforts.

Appendix 5

Women and Girls – Di Totty

National Programmes

Our county targets for NP are 450 All stars (319 in 2021) and 800 Dynamos (698 in 2021). To meet these, we will run specific activation sessions in community groups and schools. We are seeing an increase in clubs running girls only programmes. At least 6 clubs have shown an interest in running girls only dynamos programmes (Toft, Warrington, AOM, Oakmere, Hawk Green and Barrow).

As part of the coach development programme, we will run women's only NP activator sessions.

Girl Guiding and Community

Our first Brownies session of the year took place last night (17/02) in Lymm. We have a significant demand for girls guiding cricket sessions this summer. We will look to run community-based girl guiding sessions this summer to expand our offer.

Schools

In addition to our current Chance to Shine programme, we are exploring options of another secondary school programme funded by the ECB. This new programme will provide playing opportunities for girls who may not otherwise have the opportunity to play cricket. It is not based on transiting to clubs but focuses on players mental health and developing enjoying for the sport within schools.

Club cricket

We are close to confirming structure and fixtures for all CCB ran leagues.

There will be 16 teams playing in the CWCL Division 5 across 2 geographical areas. 5 of these teams are new to the league.

There will potentially be 80+ teams playing in the CGCL this summer, due to a significant expansion of our playing offers. A lot of work is taking place behind the scenes to make this possible and more information will be shared when we can. Last summer we only had 33 teams playing therefore this increase will be a remarkable moment for girls' cricket in Cheshire.

Club development

We will be looking to role out a new development plan for clubs which aligns to the ECBs plans for women and girl's cricket. We will continue to meet with clubs on a 1-2-1 basis to develop these.

Women's Softball Festivals

The indoor league is running well across all 5 venues and plans are under way for summer festivals.

District and County

The Excellence course has started well with all 4 courses having a high demand and an increased standard across all courses.

The planning for fixtures for county and district is underway and will be published soon.

The Coaches and Managers for the season are as follows:

Jess will arrange fixtures, grounds and umpires for all fixtures and communicate with staff/volunteers.

U11 Girls: Jo Herbertson

U13 Girls: Andrew Jackson and Charlie Scudder

U15 Girls: Kerry Hartnett and Rick Hughes

U18 Dev: Rehaan Rather

U18 Girls: Jess Lewis and Ali Cutler

Regional Cricket
No update.

Coach Education

The womens F2 is still due to start on March 5th and there is still a handful of places left, free of charge for women in Cheshire. We have a target of 60 new female coaches this year across the Support Coach Course, F1 and Core Coach.

Cheshire Women's Cricket League

Concern - Still looking for a League Secretary to replace Caroline Sheridan, who is now League Chair.

Rules meeting held in January - following a late request to join the League and late requests for promotion and 2nd teams, we finally agreed the new Divisional structures: -

Division 1 (8 teams) – Appleton, Chester BH, Didsbury, Georgians, Leigh, Nantwich, Oakmere, Trinity

Division 2 (7 teams) – Ashton on Mersey, Hawarden, Leyland, Lindow, Oxton, Upton, Woodley

Division 3 East (6 teams) – Didsbury 2s, Georgians 2s, Greenfield, Hawk Green, Hayfield, Heaton Mersey & Cheadle

Division 3 West (5 teams) – Appleton 2s, Chester BH 2s, Nantwich 2s, Porthill, Wistaston

Division 4 (7 teams) – Buxton, Heaton Mersey & Cheadle 2s, Langley, Lindow 2s, Lymm OP, Oakmere 2s, North-East Cheshire/Stockport Georgians 3s

Division 5 is the Softball League – currently run by CCB on behalf of the League – as reported by Jess 5 new teams will be playing in 2022, total now 16, geographically split into two regions.

Key Rule Changes – Fielding circles will be used in Division 1, Senior KO Cup and Divisional T20; Batters will retire on 40 in Senior KO and Divisional T20 and be allowed to return once all team are out or retired; Continue the suspension of cricket teas, as majority of players prefer to bring their own refreshments based on their lifestyle eating choices – this also removes the risk of cross contamination or potential allergy issues.

Captains Pre-Season Meeting/Committee Meeting – 23 March 2022

Season starts on Sunday 24 April 2022.

Appendix 6

County Safeguarding Officer – Julie Rafferty

1. Safe Hands Training

Face to face Safe Hands workshops for new and existing Club Safeguarding Officers (CSO) start in March, and there are currently 6 workshops scheduled. The dates, areas and venues are as follows:

7 March 2022 – Bowden Vale CC (Trafford & Tameside)

24 March 2022 – Macclesfield CC (Macclesfield)

29 March 2022 – Elworth CC (South Cheshire)

31 March 2022 – Cheshire FA office (Mid Cheshire)

19 April 2022 – Neston (Wirral)

26 April 2022 – Romiley (Stockport)

With the predicted demand of about 100 spaces and a maximum of 20 spaces per workshop, these workshops should more than satisfy the demand, although consideration will be given to delivering at least one more workshop in the event of some people not being able to attend any of these workshops.

To date, 54 people have registered for the six workshops

2. Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) – Phase 3

Phase 3 of the Safe Hands Management System has started and 13 additional clubs have been initially added to the system, they include:

South Cheshire	Trafford & Tameside	Macclesfield	Stockport	Wirral	Chester & Warrington
Holmes Chapel	Stalybridge	Pott Shrigley	High Lane	Maritime	Westminster Park
Bunbury		Over Peover	Mellor	Old Parkonians	
		Styal		Tranmere Victoria	
		Wilmslow			

They all have a junior section or deliver one of the national programmes and will be live on the system before the start of the season. After discussions with the ECB Safeguarding team, it's hoped that ALL remaining clubs in the Cheshire Cricket area will also be invited to use the SHMS, which will support clubs to have greater compliance with safeguarding requirements in their club.

3. CPA – Safeguarding Standards

Work continues to achieve full compliance with the CPA Safeguarding standards in the Cheshire Cricket Board Safeguarding practices and I am pleased to report that most CCB employees and board members have completed all the necessary training and documentation to demonstrate our commitment.

I will work with David Sharp to ensure the website illustrates the CCB's commitment to Safeguarding and consider publishing the County Board Safeguarding Standard Statement, together with updating the Safeguarding section of the website.

Following a meeting with Richard Watson, from the ECB Safeguarding team, he outlined that County Board safeguarding audits will start in summer/ autumn time and will take about 2 days to complete. Further information will be provided to outline the process.

4. ECB Online briefing for Board Leads & County Safeguarding Officers (4 February 2022)

The ECB Safeguarding team provided 2-hour online briefings for the County Board Leads and the Safeguarding Officers on 4 February 2022 and the main themes discussed were:

Board Leads	County Safeguarding Officers
Responsibilities	Responsibilities & an evolving role
CPA process	Areas of focus of the ECB Proactive team
Safe Hands Management System	Safe Hands management System
Areas of focus for the ECB Proactive team	Training update
Training update	Safe Hands workshops
Case management update	Supervision of County Safeguarding Officers
Forthcoming Safeguarding Conference	Case management update
	Reporting concerns
	DBS update

5. Safeguarding themes

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

- Suspension of a coach for inappropriate contact with junior players/ members
- DBS renewals and related enquiries
- Continuing investigation of racist behaviour
- Advice about due diligence in the appointment of captains etc..