

**CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED**  
**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT CHESHIRE FA OFFICES, MOSS FARM**  
**ON FRIDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2023 – 10.30am (following the AGM)**

**1. Attendance:** Nigel Muirhead (Chair), Di Totty (Vice Chair), Scott Elliott (Management Group Chair), Richard Newton (Director of Cricket), Mike Guest (Treasurer, and for Karl Bamford CYC), David Sharp (Secretary), Julie Rafferty (County Safeguarding Officer), David Humpage (Clubs), Jim Law (County Club), Nick Brooks (Independent Non-Executive Director), Joanna Seddon (Independent Non-Executive Director), Neeruj Luthra (Independent Non-Executive Director), Helen Nicholson (Independent Non-Executive Director) **Apology:** Karl Bamford (CYC).

At his first meeting since his appointment as Chair at the AGM which preceded this meeting Nigel Muirhead paid tribute to his predecessor Peter Davies and Mike Tyerman who as Chair and Vice chair respectively had retired at the AGM. Nigel congratulated Di Totty on her appointment as Vice chair. Nigel also welcomed Joanna Seddon and Helen Nicholson to their first meeting since their appointments as independent non-executive directors (iNEDs) at the AGM. Nigel looked forward to engaging with Board members and the ECB for the betterment of Cheshire cricket.

**2. Minutes of the meeting 2 December 2022. In item 15. Date of 2023 Meetings** should read the AGM to be held before the 10 Feb Board meeting (not after). And the date of the May meeting should read 5 May (and not 19 May). The minutes were amended and then signed as a true record.

**3. Matters arising from minutes of the meeting 2 December 2022**

**3.1 Governance - Women & Girls (W&G) lead appointments process- (item 3.1.2 of 2 December meeting).** Prior to the December meeting the Nominations Committee (NC) had met with applicants for the W&G's role and were particularly impressed with two of the candidates. The Board agreed at the Dec meeting that we offer the W&G role to the person recommended by the NC for that role – that person being Joanna Seddon. Joanna accepted, and at the AGM Joanna was appointed an iNED with the specific role of W&G lead. We also agreed at the December meeting that the person offered that appointment would be invited to join the Cheshire Women's Cricket League committee, and Joanna has now joined that committee.

Also at the December meeting, the Board agreed that Di Totty, Richard Newton and Nigel meet with the other impressive candidate, Helen Nicholson, to establish interest in joining the Board but not as W&G lead, and if Helen was interested then Helen should be offered the role. That meeting took place, Helen accepted and at the AGM Joanna was appointed an iNED.

**4. Director of Cricket inc Board Management Group (BMG).**

The BMG met on 15 Dec 2022 and 6 Feb 2023 and the minutes circulated to the Directors and Member representatives.

On behalf of the BMG and combined with his own report Richard summarised activity since the December Board Meeting as follows:

**4.1 Funding.** The Board's turnover is £1.2m.

**4.2 Staff.** The Board employs 26 staff (inc three part time) with two additional Coaching Officers being recruited soon. In total 20 males (inc two persons of colour) and eight females.

We have agreed to a request from Michele Alder, Business Support Officer, to reduce her working hours. From 1 April her working days will be Monday-Wednesday.

**4.3 County Partnership Agreement (CPA) Meeting with ECB 12 Dec.** Board representatives (Peter, Nigel, Richard and Gareth) including those from Cheshire CCC (Jim and John P) met with senior members of the ECB team for our CPA annual review meeting. Our Countywide Plan covering all the Board's activities, and distributed to Board members prior to our December Board meeting, was presented to ECB and well received at the CPA review meeting. Cheshire was described as a leading County Board in many areas of our work.

**4.4 Safeguarding Audit.** Board representatives (Nick, Julie, Richard), CCB staff, Club Safeguarding Officers and parents met with members of the ECB Safeguarding team. We were congratulated on our Safeguarding operation and seen as a leading County.

**4.5 Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket (ICEC) Report.** The game will face a challenging time following the release ICEC report due soon.

**4.6 Diversity.** We continue to progress with our plan to create opportunities for all. Our website has a dedicated EDI page displaying our EDI Plan, the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code, EDI news & resources, and stories from the community.

**4.7 Marketing.** There was a common wish to raise our profile and advertise ourselves. An away day for Board Directors is planned for 10 March to address this and discuss our vision and priorities in the times ahead. It was agreed to set up a Directors' and Member representatives WhatsApp group, and add bios to the 'our board' page on the website. The Board already has

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts and we have engaged Anouska Newton, a Marketing student, on a short term basis to add suitable stories on these social media platforms.

## 6. Secretary.

**6.1 Rules Review.** As confirmed at the CPA review with ECB on 12 December our Rules/Constitution conform with the CPA Governance requirements (Gold standard). It was agreed that we keep governance and the rules under review as a regular agenda item. Helen offered to help such reviews.

**6.2 Companies House.** Following the appointments at the AGM David will advise Companies House of the changes, and complete the annual confirmation statement.

**6.3 ECB Team Cards.** 7,000 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.

## 7. Treasurer.

**7.1 RBS Bank Account(s).** The operation has continued to perform in line with expectations with adequate funding levels being maintained.

**7.2 Investment.** Some monies have been transferred from the RBS day to day account to the Nationwide Business saver account to benefit from the higher interest rates currently being offered on this account. Adequate working capital has been kept in the RBS account to meet day to day funding requirements.

**7.3 Support payments to representative teams.** It was agreed that the Board through its Management Group would continue to consider and agree applications for £support for representative teams (e.g. the men's county senior teams) not funded from elsewhere. We would also consider support for club sides playing in national finals. All payments would be subject to the availability of satisfactory funding. The Treasurer will report any such payments at the Board meeting which follows.

## 8. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

**8.1 EDI webpage.** With input from Neeruj the EDI webpage continues to reflect that EDI runs through the heart of everything we do, and that cricket is a game for everyone.

**8.2 Neville Southall.** It was agreed that Neeruj would arrange a suitable evening to afford Board members an opportunity to meet Neville Southall via zoom to hear his experiences and views on EDI.

## 9. Safeguarding. Julie Rafferty's report alongside the latest CoSO newsletter were circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 1)

**9.1 Safeguarding Audit by ECB 19 January.** As the Board's Safeguarding Lead Nick Brooks paid tribute to Julie for her work as County Safeguarding Officer which has put Cheshire in such a strong position as proven during our Safeguarding Audit by ECB held on 19 January. ECB reported: *'Congratulations on a really successful audit...it is clear that safeguarding is embedded across the organisation, we were very impressed with the evidence provided'*

A 'big thank you' to Julie from Nick on behalf of the Board.

At the audit it was recommended that there was no longer the need for the County Safeguarding Officer to remain a Board Director now that the Board Lead was in place. The Board Lead would have strategic oversight with the CoSO leading on operational matters. This being so, Julie formally resigned as a Director at the meeting.

It was also recommended that we consider safeguarding in our governance risk register reviews. Nick and Helen are in touch with one another about this.

**9.2 Cheshire's Safeguarding Strategic Development Plan.** Nick and Julie are reviewing the ECB Safeguarding strategy (published January 2023) with a view to integrating all the relevant elements into our own Safeguarding Strategic Development Plan.

**9.3 Safe Hands workshops.** Eight workshops have been scheduled for new and existing Club Safeguarding Officers (CSOs).

**9.4 Safe Hands Management System (SHMS).** 101 out of 108 clubs are now live on SHMS. It is the plan for all clubs to live and compliant by the start of the 2023 season.

## 10. Women & Girls. The Women and Girls report prepared by Di Totty and Jessica Lewis was circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 2).

**10.1 W&G Lead.** Joanna Seddon is now W&G Lead succeeding Di following the appointment at the AGM.

**10.2 Match Balls 2023.** To support the preference in the Women's League to move towards wearing coloured kit, pink balls will be used for all games, unless both teams agree to wear whites and use a red ball. For 2023, Division 1 & 2 clubs will use the Lords ball and Division 3 & 4 will use the Tiflex Oxbridge ball.

## 11. Cheshire County Cricket Club. An update of the recent activities of Cheshire CCC prepared by Jim Law was circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 3).

**8.1 Governance.** Jim was pleased with the favourable feedback from ECB at the Board and County Club CPA meeting with them on 19 December.

The newly formed management committee reaching across cricket, finance, administration, governance, and marketing looking after the day to day running of the Club had now met twice and was working well. The broader general committee will meet four times a year.

**8.2 Sponsorship.** A sponsorship brochure will be produced for wide circulation A draft was shown to Board members. The Board agreed to sponsor some match balls during the season.

**8.3 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.** The Academy has been renamed 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. Under the stewardship of Manager, Stewart Macleod, and Coach, Stewart Garnett, Cheshire CCC looks forward to cooperating with Cheshire Youth to afford a smooth and transparent pathway for young players from age group cricket.

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

**12.1 Facilities sub-committee.** The 4Cs has formed a sub-committee headed by Duncan Anderson to consider the problems and possible solutions to the availability of grounds.

**12.2 Charity Day - Breast Cancer Research.** The County League is to hold a charity weekend during the 2023 season co-ordinated by an ambassador for the charity. The Board agreed to support the event.

**13. Youth Cricket.** Minutes of the CYC meeting held on 25 January were circulated prior to the meeting (**Appendix 5**).

**13.1 New Secretary.** Paul Brown has joined the CYC as Secretary. The Board's Nominations Committee had been impressed with Paul during the process when he applied for the Board's Management Group Chair role.

**13.2 Junior Leagues.** The leagues were all in good shape ahead of the 2023 season.

**14. AOB**

**14.1 Board meeting reports.** To help 'the flow' at our meetings Neeruj suggested that each verbal report from members at meetings focused on just two or three main areas. Members always have the opportunity to read the full reports usually circulated prior to meetings and added as appendices to these minutes.

**14.2 Safeguarding priority.** Di reminded the meeting of the importance we all attach to safeguarding and that it should remain a priority item on meeting agenda.

**14.3 Safeguarding standard statement.** Julie reminded the meeting that the Safeguarding standard statement last signed in Dec 2021 by each of the then Directors needed updating. Julie will prepare a new statement for signing by each of the current Directors.

**15. Date of remaining 2023 Meetings.** 5 May, 15 September and 8 December – all Fridays 10.30am at Hartford House, Moss Farm.

Signed .....

## Appendix 1

### County Safeguarding Officer – Julie Rafferty

#### Safeguarding Audit – 19 January 2023

The ECB Safeguarding audit took place on Thursday 19 January 2023. Claire Bassett and Mick Richards from the ECB Safeguarding Team, conducted the audit, examining Cheshire Cricket's compliance of the CPA Safeguarding Standards, sections 6.1 to 6.9. Although we are not due to receive the final report for another couple of weeks, Claire did provide a very short summary of their thoughts outlining key strengths and some recommendations, identifying no immediate risks:

#### Key Strengths:

- Website (leading example)
- CSO's engagement with Leagues
- Induction Process
- Safer recruitment – in particular the CSO's checking of social media.
- Codes of conduct
- LLC's spreadsheet (leading example)
- LTC across the

#### Pathways Recommendations:

- Develop an AAR (Adults at Risk) policy and relevant staff to complete training.

- Handbook to include safeguarding section.
- Consider necessity for CoSO to remain as Non-Executive Director now Board Lead in place (Board Lead to have strategic oversight, CoSO to lead on operational delivery.)
- CoSO to “dip check” coaching sessions
- Ensure safeguarding section in Board Risk Register
- Consider generic email address for CoSO and Deputy

*Claire (ECB) said: “Congratulations on a really successful audit...it is clear that safeguarding is embedded across the organisation, we were very impressed with the evidence provided.”*

### **Cheshire Cricket Safeguarding Strategic Development Plan**

The Cheshire Cricket Board Safeguarding Development Plan has been in draft for a while, awaiting the publication of the ECB Safeguarding Strategy. The ECB Safeguarding Strategy (see attached document) was finally published in January 2023, with the Key three Safeguarding Principles being:

Culture – Leadership, Governance, and Learning Development

Deliver – Policies, Managing Concerns, Safer Recruitment, Digital Transformation, Quality Assurance

Environment – Collaboration, Resources, Empowerment, Communication, Events

Nick and Julie are currently reviewing the document with a view to integrating all the relevant elements into the CCB Safeguarding Strategic Development Plan. Once the draft document is complete, it will be circulated for consultation. [ECB-Safeguarding-Strategy-2022-2024.pdf](#)

### **Safe Hands Training**

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Location</b>
14/02/23	Tues	6.30-9.30pm	Mid Cheshire	Cheshire FA, Northwich
28/02/23	Tues	6.30-9.30pm	Trafford & Tameside	Hale Barns CC
06/03/23	Mon	6.30-9.30pm	Warrington & Halton	Appleton CC
13/03/23	Mon	6.30-9.30pm	Macclesfield	Macclesfield CC
30/03/23	Thurs	6.30-9.30pm	Stockport	Stockport Georgians CC
17/04/23	Mon	6.30-9.30pm	Chester & Wirral	Upton CC
18/04/23	Tues	6.30-9.30pm	South Cheshire	Haslington CC
25/04/23	Tues	6.30-9.30pm	Mid Cheshire	Cheshire FA, Northwich

With the predicted demand of about 95-100 spaces and a maximum of 20 spaces per workshop, these workshops should more than satisfy the demand, although consideration will be given to delivering an additional workshop if necessary. The workshops have gone live within the last week and to date, 40 people have registered for the eight workshops.

### **Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) – Phase 4 and Spring Clean**

101 of 108 Cheshire Cricket clubs are now live on the SHMS and the ambition is that Phase 4 will see all Cheshire Cricket clubs live and compliant on the system by the start of the 2023 season. Work is ongoing by the CoSO and the Development & Coaching Officers to support the clubs to access the system and load all the necessary information.

There are many benefits to registering on the SHMS:

1. Access to a **free** liability insurance offer from Howdens
2. Helps clubs to meet their safeguarding responsibilities and improving their safeguarding compliance
3. Creating a safer environment to play cricket
4. Additional support from the Cheshire Cricket Board – including online and 121 support
5. Easy to use and update
6. Registration is recommended and supported by the leagues

We are also recommending that all clubs who are already onboarded on the SHMS should undertake some spring cleaning of their club area and information, ready for the start of the season.

### **Amendment to published policies & procedures.**

Several policies and procedures were agreed at the December 2022 board meeting. On review of the documents they don't include all the constituent members of Cheshire Cricket namely:

1. Cheshire Cricket Board
2. Cheshire Youth Cricket
3. Cheshire County Cricket Club
4. Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee

The Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee has been omitted from the documents. In view of this, agreement is sought for these documents to be amended and republished.

### **Safeguarding themes**

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

- Club coach/ captain – allegations of theft/ fraud and club discipline issues
- Coach/ Junior supervisor convicted of racially aggravated public order offence at football match.
- Support for transgender player
- Captain/ Coach – allegations of sexual assault of a junior player
- Review of safeguarding agreement of club player

## **Appendix 2**

### **Women and Girls Cricket – Di Totty**

#### **National Programmes**

In 2023 we are hoping to have 800 girls take part in All Stars cricket and 450 in Dynamos cricket. This will be 166 and 156 player increase on last year. In order to increase our figures for 2023 we will running free girls only dynamos programmes during the summer holidays. These will be funded by bursaries from the ECB. We will also explore running these at some clubs to help them set up girls' teams.

In order to keep the girls playing cricket and promote sustainable playing offers, we will run National Programme soft ball cricket festivals prior to WSF

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

In 2023 our plans are to hold winter taster sessions at a groups usual meeting place e.g., village hall, school etc. Following these we would like to invite groups down to "Hub Clubs" and hold skills circuits or festival style games for multiple groups to be part of.

Link to clubs running Girls Only All Stars (Rainbows) or Dynamos (Brownies) and Women's softball events (Guides/Rangers).

We have sent emails out to Cheshire Girls Guiding commissioners and are waiting for responses from individual groups to express their interest.

#### **Schools**

In 2023 our target is to deliver in 24 secondary schools across 4 different programmes; Chance to Shine, Greater Manchester project, the Westminster fund and ECB proof of concept programme.

We will also run a number of indoor and outdoor competitions. The girls primary school finals day will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> July and the secondary finals will take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> July. Both will take place at Warrington Cricket Club.

#### **Girls League cricket**

This week meetings took place for both the CGCL and the CWCL Div 5. All meetings were successful and plans for 2023 are looking good.

Currently 59 teams have expressed an interest in playing in the CGCL. This would be a 12 team increase from those that played last year. 24 teams have expressed an interest in playing in division 5 of the CWCL. This will be an 8 team increase from 2022.

We are also exploring a brand new U18s girls league. We will run KO cups and host finals days for the leagues.

We also have plans to run number of festivals this summer to help increase participations, especially in West Cheshire.

### **Women's Softball Festivals and Indoor League**

This winter we are running a comprehensive indoor league. We are running soft ball leagues across five venues that are geographically spread throughout the county. 24 teams are due to play in these leagues. This year we have also added hard ball indoor leagues across 2 venues. There are 12 teams taking part in these.

Plans are underway for women's soft ball cricket festivals. We are planning to centrally run another 20 events.

We have also recently trialled women's hard ball coaching sessions which received excellent feedback. The first session had 16 players in attendance and the second session was sold out. There will be two more sessions this winter. We will look to expand this offer in 2023/2024.

### **Courses and Pathway**

Our Excellence and District courses are underway and have been well received. The 4 Excellence courses are at capacity. The 2 new district courses have also proved popular. One is fully booked and the other has over 20 players booked on. As per the boys' courses, the girls Excellence players will be invited to 4 sessions worth of additional trials.

All girls on our pathway will be included in EXC or DIS level courses. If players can't attend the district courses, due to limited options, they will still be included in the summer competition.

The EPP and GA sessions are going well. The players are enjoying the sessions and we've had lots of positive feedback.

### **Coaches and Managers**

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

**U11 Girls** - Jo Herbertson & Charlie Scudder

**U13 Girls** - Marianne Lea & Tony Mather

**U15 Girls** - Kerry Hartnett and Andrew Jackson

**U18 Dev** - Jess Lewis

**U18 Girls** - Jess Lewis and Dave Atkinson

**District** - District cricket will be managed by the women and girls' staff. There will be two age groups who will play across Whit and Summer.

### **Cheshire Women's Cricket League - Season 2023**

As reported at the last Board meeting the total number of clubs now stands at 28 with 37 hardball teams in Divisions 1-4, the number of softball teams in Division 5 continues to grow.

We have established a league executive committee and new Board member Jo Seddon is the latest recruit. The current focus has been on the league structure and fixtures for the forthcoming season, which is made trickier this year by 6 teams having entered the National Cup. I am sure Martin Saxon will come up with a solution to satisfy most clubs.

More clubs are engaging female overseas players, and as reported by David Humpage we will need to ensure that clear protocols are in place, should an overseas player wish to also play men's cricket.

We have agreed that to support the transition to coloured kit, we will use pink balls for all games, unless both teams agree to wear whites and use a red ball. We have selected two suppliers of pink balls for 2023, Division 1 & 2 clubs will use the Lords ball (discounted to £10 per ball) and Division 3 & 4 will use

the Tiflex Oxbridge ball (discounted to £7.50 per ball). Both suppliers have indicated an increase to those prices in 2024. The performance of both balls will be assessed before entering into any contract negotiations for 2024.

Going forward, the executive will review the development plan and conduct a SWOT analysis to identify key challenges going forward. One of which has been highlighted by David Humpage in his report, is the availability of facilities, not just playing facilities but also for indoor winter training sessions. There is a significant shortage of indoor venues in the West of the County.

The ongoing challenge is the need to grow the volunteer base to support the growth in the game.

The League will hold a Captain's meeting in March, (possibly 22<sup>nd</sup>) to reaffirm our rules and playing regulations and to ensure safeguarding is a priority for clubs.

As always thanks goes to the Board, to Richard and Jess and their teams for the support given to the League and our clubs.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome Jo Seddon and Helen Nicholson to the Board.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Cheshire County Cricket Club – Jim Law**

#### **Working structure**

- Delighted with the ECB feedback re Board and County Club at December CPA meeting!
- Management Committee: Jim Law (Chair/Marketing), John Petch (Administration), Julie Rafferty (Safeguarding), Pete Babbage (Cricket) and Stuart Anderson (Finance) is up and running – two meetings to date.

#### **Finance**

- Costs agreed for 2023 (travel expenses, insurance premiums, meals etc; primarily unchanged from 2022)
- 2nd XI travelling expenses confirmed as per 1st XI

#### **Cricket**

- David Wainwright confirmed as 3 day captain, Sam Perry as vice. (Nick Anderson T20/50 over)
- Matt Carter joins from Nottinghamshire on dual registration for T20 games
- Nets underway (looking to establishing 18-man squad for white ball games)
- 1st XI venues finalised; 16 April opening game at Sale CC (first time since 1909!)
- Discussions with Gavin Colebourn and Stewart Garnett re role of 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, working closer with Cheshire CCC 1st XI and U18s. 2023 programme should support focus for red and white ball cricket and with the two Stewarts and Gavin working together we will have greater coaching capacity. Name change to Cheshire CCC 2nd XI.
- Ingeborg Bevers will be 1st primary scorer in 2023 (and Over 50s!)

#### **Administration**

- 2023 fixture card in preparation
- Working group formed for Showcase match arrangements (v Yorkshire 31 July)
- NCCA Edgbaston member's meeting end Feb to finalise updated regulations etc
- Player registrations being finalised
- CPA discussions ongoing with ECB via new Smartsheet portal

#### **Marketing**

- Sponsorship document produced and attached
- 200 Club 'makeover' planned
- Member communication in development

#### **Safeguarding**

- Host club risk assessments being requested
- All committee members to undertake ECB e-learning course
- JR undertaking 'skills matrix' to ensure appropriate officials/committee members/representatives have correct qualifications i.e.:
  - Current DBS
  - Completion of Safeguarding Young Cricketers e-Learning or equivalent (within last 3yrs)
  - First aid (for key people)
  - Completion of Home Office Prevent e-Learning

- Signed Codes of Conduct Coaching qualifications for some key people

## **Appendix 4**

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

Spring is in the air and snowdrops and crocus are beginning to bloom. The season cannot be far away.

Clubs are now starting winter nets, and it is interesting to see how many different venues are now being used both across the county and in various parts of Greater Manchester.

This brings me to the challenge of facilities that I have previously highlighted. We are setting up a Facilities Sub-Committee under the CCCC banner to consider the problems and possible solutions to this problem which looms ever larger on the horizon as women's cricket expands. This is very much in its embryo format, but I am pleased to say that Duncan Anderson has agreed to chair the committee. Duncan will be talking to various people in the next few weeks, and we hope to have the committee up and running by the start of the season.

Both the Women's League and the CCL have now had their AGMs, and the CCCL will follow suit in mid-February. No major changes are afoot with refining and tidying up the order of the day.

It is worth noting that the CCCL will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025. Very early days but we envisage a game against the MCC as one event to mark the occasion.

There is a slight increase in teams playing this coming season, with a number of new entrants both to the CCL and to the CCCL Sunday structure where we now have potentially 58 teams for the coming season.

As previously reported there are several new clubs and teams in the Women's League as the female side of the game continues to expand. There is an increase in Overseas and Contracted Players in the women's game and careful consideration will be needed to make sure that the league rules are appropriately worded to accommodate these players in a fair manner.

As I am sure most of you are aware the CCCL Executive now consists of representatives of both male and female cricketers and that body has been discussing the organizational structure of the Women's League (and many other strategic matters), which I am sure is now on firm foundations for the future.

I am told that the Umpiring Courses have been successful this winter and at least 4 new recruits to the league panels have already been sourced. I attended a recent meeting of the CCCL Umpires Association and was advised that numbers seemed strong for the coming season, with the usual disclaimers about availability and ailments!

Discussion is still ongoing as to who actually appoints the umpires in the CCL and indeed on a wider basis in the county. Watch this space!

The Groundsmen's Association continues to lay on courses and is now active in many ways in assisting clubs with any problems. A number of new Pitch Advisors have been appointed and we wish them well in their time in office.

The CCCC Constitution is still with John Petch and I am hoping to meet with him shortly to review progress.

The County Grant Fund is now open again for 2023 with a slightly lower initial budget than that for 2022. The committee has held its first meeting and agreed on the plans as to how this should be advertised and money distributed for the coming year. Applications are now being invited from clubs that wish to avail themselves of these grants.

Aside from the playing of the game the CCCL has agreed to hold a charity weekend during the coming season, the beneficiary being Breast Cancer Research. The event will be co-ordinated by an Ambassador for the charity who is a member of a CCCL club, and may become an annual event with a different beneficiary each year.

Finally, the now customary thanks to Gareth and Jess. Customary it may be but sincerely well deserved.

## **Appendix 5**

### **Cheshire Youth Cricket – Mike Guest**



## **CYC Committee meeting 10.30 AM Wednesday 25 January 2023 at Moss Farm**

**Attendees:** Karl Bamford; Mike Guest; Tim Mullins; Jess Lewis; Gavin Colebourn; Richard Newton; Neeruj Luthra; Paul Brown.

**Apologies:** Julie Rafferty; Gareth Moorhouse; Owen Williamson; Jane Williams; Peter Davies

- 1. Chairman's Welcome.** Karl opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He introduced Paul who was stepping in to pick up the Secretary role to lessen Mike's workload. Karl thanked those submitting reports for doing so in advance of the meeting which makes the meeting on the day more effective.

**Action** – all to circulate reports by close of business Friday 14 April for next meeting.

Karl also wished to acknowledge the contribution of Peter Davies to CYC and Cheshire cricket as a whole – this was echoed by all present. There was a wish to find a way to keep Peter involved and also an appropriate way to recognise Peter's contribution in a tangible way.

**Action** - Karl to speak to Peter to work out how to do this.

- 2. Minutes of last meeting.** Minutes of the meeting on 6 September 2022 were approved without amendment.

### **3. Matters arising**

**3.1 Constitution update.** A draft has been received from the lawyers and is under review. Karl's view is that the draft is comprehensive, and he suggested it be adopted once finalised. There were no objections.

**Action** – Karl to arrange adoption of new constitution once finalised.

**3.2 New secretary.** Paul's appointment was proposed by Karl and seconded by Richard. This was approved.

**3.3 Feedback on presentation day.** Over 200 attended with most age groups being well represented. Anecdotal feedback gathered by those attending was generally positive although some missed the formality under the previous format. There were clear benefits for CYC in that the time commitment to organise the event was significantly less than the previous format. Jess said there had been some challenges with for the girls age groups because of timing, match commitments etc.

It was agreed a working party should be set up to consider the format for next year considering lessons learned this time round.

**Action** – Karl, Jess and Gavin to meet to progress this.

**3.4 Innovations.** Gavin noted the work with the University on using virtual reality had not produced the desired results but had fostered very positive relations. A further programme was to be undertaken over Easter.

Gavin also noted the ECB had made further funding available for county age group cricket. This was intended to deliver wider participation but could not be used to fund kit or festivals. It had been decided to use the funds by reducing the excellence course from 12 to 10 weeks and introduce assessments over Easter. These would include players directly nominated by clubs who had not attended excellence.

It was noted the restrictions on the use of the funds made it difficult to utilise them effectively. It was felt the proposed use made the best possible use of the funds within those constraints. However, it was critical to give robust feedback to the ECB on how the funds could be more effectively used. As the new CCB chairman it was felt Nigel Muirhead would be well placed to deliver this feedback.

**Action** – Richard/Gavin to pick up with Nigel.

**3.5 Clubs and District Cricket.** Karl noted the importance of the whole pathway and acknowledged the significant contribution made by clubs in this.

The boys' district festival this year would take place over Whit Week (week commencing 29 May). North Wales had agreed to send teams to the festival this year so there would be six teams at each age group – five from Cheshire and one from North Wales. There would be more of a focus on T20 to allow more opportunities to make a contribution. Smaller county age group squads would be selected after the Easter assessments with a view to adding to the squads based on performance at the festival.

Jess noted the plans for girls' district cricket this year were similar to last with a festival over whit week. The relationship with North Wales was less formal than the boys – girls from North Wales would be able to take part in district cricket but would not be eligible for selection for county age group squads.

More generally Jess noted that district courses were being run for the first time this year – Saturday courses were now sold out and Sundays nearly so. Excellence courses were also going from strength to strength.

4. **Safe Hands.** Julie had submitted her report and no issues were noted. Two additional points were raised:
  - Venues for county age group matches this summer should have access to a defibrillator. There had been funds available from Cheshire Cricket Trust and the ECB to support clubs in acquiring defibs
  - Some of the county age group games held at Northwich would be live streamed. Managers of the relevant sides would need to advise the opposition manager of this in advance in case of any objections
5. **Marketing.** Neeruj noted there were a number of initiatives at CCB level which had seen significant improvements to the website including around what was a very strong Equality, Diversity and Inclusiveness agenda in the county.  
**Action** – Neeruj/Richard to progress marketing initiatives at the CCB level.
6. **ECB National Club Competitions.** Dates had been set for the county rounds of the various age group Vitality Cup competitions as noted in Jane's report. Managers would need to be mindful of these dates in agreeing fixtures for the county age group sides.  
**Action** – Gavin to liaise with Jane on this.
7. **County Age Group/District Cricket.** Gavin noted that, at under 18 level, the County would be entering a side into the national white ball competition. However, following the experience last year in the national counties' multi-day competition the decision had been taken not to enter a side this year. Instead, and in order to provide more challenging and meaningful cricket arrangements had been made with Lancashire, Derbyshire and Worcestershire to play multi-day format games. These would include some over age players and would provide more exposure for the players to the first class counties.  
Gavin also noted that the County's position in first class academies was stronger than ever with 7 players currently involved.  
Finally, it was noted that discussions were under way to instal additional nets at BTH.  
Jess noted that work was under way to try to create more development opportunities for female players in the 18 – 25 age group.
8. **Girls' cricket.** In addition to her report Jess noted that the both the Academy and EPP courses were going extremely well, with the latter being supported by Lancashire Thunder. Overall, the relationship with Thunder was very strong and positive.  
One aspect which was causing issues was a lack of physio support for the girls at this level.
9. **Club/Junior Leagues.** It was noted that Owen would be taking over this role from Gareth for the coming season and should be invited to future meetings. A league meeting was booked for February.
10. **Coaches Association.** There was nothing to add to the matters mentioned in Graeme's report.
11. **Schools Cricket.** Coaches continue to deliver a very high level of input to schools – 20 hours per week per coach.
12. **Treasurer's update.** Mike noted CYC's finances continued to be in a strong position. Mike noted that although CYC ran at a surplus the costs of shared staff were borne by CCB so in effect the surplus at CYC level was its contribution towards CCB staff costs.
13. **AOB.** None.
14. **Next meeting.** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April (to be followed by county age group volunteer manager meeting) – both at Moss Farm: Committee 4.00pm; Managers 6.00pm

