

CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT CHESHIRE FA OFFICES, MOSS FARM
ON FRIDAY 10 MAY 2024 – 10.00am following the AGM held earlier that day.

Prior to the formal meeting, Richard Newton, Director of Cricket gave a repeat to our Board of the presentation which he and Nigel had made to the full ECB Board meeting on 20 March. The presentation in March had provided an ideal opportunity for Nigel and Richard to convey key messages from the Cheshire Cricket Board direct to the ECB Board.

- 1. Attendance:** Di Totty (Vice Chair) in the chair, Richard Newton (Director of Cricket), Mike Guest (Treasurer), David Sharp (Secretary), David Humpage (Clubs), Jim Law (County Club), Paul Brown (CYC), Nick Brooks (Independent Non-Executive Director), Neeruj Luthra (Independent Non-Executive Director), Helen Nicholson (Independent Non-Executive Director), Joanna Seddon (Independent Non-Executive Director).
Apologies: Nigel Muirhead (Chair), Scott Elliott (Management Group Chair).
- 2. Minutes of the meeting 16 February 2024.** Agreed and then signed by the acting chair as a true record.
- 3. Matters arising from the meeting 16 February 2024**
 - 3.1 Chris Edwards BEM story (item 3.1 of 16 Feb meeting refers).** No news yet regarding our suggestion to ECB of using Chris as a highlight case study of people with disabilities working within cricket.
- 4. Management Group.** Minutes of the MG meeting held on 30 April 2024 were circulated to the Directors and Member representatives prior to the Board meeting. The following items include those raised by the Director of Cricket, Treasurer and Secretary:
 - 4.1 ECB CPA.** CPA 2 commences Feb 2025 until Jan 2029. Funding levels announced on 8 May show an increase on CPA 1. Details of the funding and ECB's expectations will be discussed with them on 30 May.
 - 4.2 Cash Flow and Management Accounts.** After the 30 May meeting with ECB when details of funding streams become available a forecast for the years 2024/25 and 2025/26 will be prepared.
 - 4.3 Financial support for other bodies** i.e. Men's Seniors, Women's League, Disabilities, Cheshire CCC. It was agreed to continue to consider support on presentation of suitable applications. Following requests to the Treasurer payments to the 50s and Cheshire CCC have been agreed.
 - 4.4 ECB Cricket Collective Awards** (formerly Grassroots Awards, and OSCAs). Nominations from across the Cheshire cricketing network have been invited for this year's awards. The closing date is 14 July after which a selection panel comprising representatives from the Directors and full-time staff will meet to select our winners. Di, David, Helen and Neeruj offered to represent the Directors.
 - 4.5 Use of the meeting room at Hartford House.** Following an email from the FA about the use of the facility at Hartford House for meetings, the Directors and Member Representatives confirmed how much we value use of the facility at Hartford House and were asked to remind all cricket users of the facility of our expectations and their responsibilities when using any of the facilities. David will prepare some guidance notes for circulation.
 - 4.6 Yoyo Test for charity.** The biennial fundraising event which takes place during the Children's Excellence and District programme raised £6000 which will be shared between the Owen McVeigh Foundation and the Cheshire Cricket Trust.
 - 4.7 Defibrillators.** Whilst the availability of defibrillators at clubs and venues, and awareness of the value of CPR training continue to increase, Board members were reminded that defibrillators should be regularly serviced.
 - 4.8 Mental health support.** Our HR arrangement with Croner includes mental health support for staff.
- 5. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).** Neeruj reiterated his comment made at previous meetings that inclusion is a topic across all the Board's activities and should be ingrained in all we do. Neeruj and Richard will be making a personal visit to meet the ECB EDI lead at Lord's on 22 May.
- 6. Safeguarding.** Nick highlighted the following from Julie Rafferty's County Safeguarding Officer's report (see **Appendix 1**) which had been circulated prior to the meeting:
 - 6.1 CPA Safeguarding update.** Richard, Nick and Julie met with the ECB County Safeguarding Advisor, Fiona Holden on 18 April 2024, and reported good progress in all areas of the safeguarding standards within the CPA.
 - 6.2 Safe Hands training courses.** Four Safe Hands courses have taken place with over 45 Club Safeguarding officers trained. All Cheshire affiliated clubs now have at least one trained CSO. There are 192 CSOs, 187 (97%) of which have attended a Safe Hands course.
 - 6.3 Policy updates and reviews.** The Board has agreed the Safeguarding Policy statement which has now been published on the CCB website.
The Whistleblowing, Safer Recruitment, Anti-bullying policies are due for review. Board members are asked to access the policies via the CCB website and advise approval and any amendments to David and Julie Rafferty by the end of May 2024.

6.4 Cricket Regulator Recognition and Reward Scheme. Club or County Safeguarding Officer nominations should be made by 1 August.

Julie has identified several deserving Club Safeguarding Officers, and Board members are invited to suggest further nominations to Julie.

6.5 Cheshire County Cricket and Cheshire Cricket league meetings. Julie attended the two main Cheshire leagues' meetings in April 2024 to deliver key safeguarding messages to the club representatives.

6.6 Safeguarding Themes. Safeguarding issues and cases since the last Board meeting are listed in Appendix 1.

7. Governance. A Governance Report had been circulated prior to the meeting (**see Appendix 2**).

7.1 CCB Rules review.

7.1.1. Gold standard items. Two clauses in section 10 of the rules were considered impractical and unrealistic and it was agreed to delete them.

7.1.2 Directors' term of office. To provide more flexibility and help prevent a scenario of several Directors having to leave the Board at the same time it was agreed that the term be one, two or three years with a maximum continuous service of eight years.

7.2 Data Protection/Privacy Policy. We continue to consider options for conducting a review of our policies and procedures.

7.3 Foundation status for County Boards. Some Board members had attended two (virtual) workshops arranged by ECB during March to enable County Boards to consider Charity/Foundation status.

It was agreed that at the present time the Board retains its status as a company limited by guarantee and does not seek charity/foundation status. Notwithstanding any benefits which may be derived, at present, the management implications are considered too onerous.

8. Women & Girls. Joanna referred members to the Women & Girls Report (see Appendix 3) circulated prior to the meeting.

8.1 CWCL. As highlighted at the previous Board meeting travel distances (linked to non-Cheshire clubs) and concessions are already impacting Division 2, and the concern on this functioning well as a bridging division to the top of the league remains.

8.2 NW Community session at Old Trafford. A cross county community session was held on the outfield at Old Trafford on 9 May. It was a delight to see 100+ U11/12 girls from Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire playing together and enjoying the experience in the evening sunshine.

9. Youth Cricket (CYC). Paul referred members to the CYC Report (**see Appendix 4**) circulated prior to the meeting.

9.1 Hub Club initiative. Underpinned by a service level agreement and as part of the Board's Facilities Strategy the plan is to create partnerships with clubs to host age group county matches and help to address, the increasing difficulties in securing grounds particularly for Sunday matches.

9.2 Player Ambassadors. CYC is considering inviting one or two previous CYC cricketers who have gone on to the professional game to act as a player ambassador to share insights and be involved in marketing activities.

9.3 Early Engagement. The ECB Performance Dept is proposing free places on coaching courses for all children aged 12 and under. This will obviously have an adverse effect on CCB's investment, especially in EDI areas, and is being challenged.

9.4 What happens after Dynamos? With the success of All Stars and Dynamos and growth in the Women & Girls game, Board members commented that it was important that cricket continues to offer all participants options to retain their interest in the game. Maybe a Board 'game changeover initiative' for secondary school children?

10. Cheshire County Cricket Club. Jim's report was circulated prior to the meeting (**see Appendix 5**).

10.1 On line player registration. A new NCCA on line system for player registration has been introduced.

10.2 Membership. County membership and 200 Club records and administration are being integrated onto the website for online usage by members.

10.3 Weather. Wet weather has had a significant impact on the start of season with unfit grounds across Cheshire and beyond prompting venue changes and abandonments.

11. Clubs Committee (4Cs). David H's report was circulated prior to the meeting (**Appendix 6**).

11.1 Weather and switching venues. The Clubs Committee has urged officials to use flexibility and innovation to ensure that as much cricket is played as possible.

11.2 Umpires. The search for new umpires goes on unabated. The CCCL/CCL now have a joint pool in excess of 80 umpires.

11.3 Groundsmen's Association (CAG). The Groundsmen's Association continues to organize training courses, assist clubs with problems, and promote recruitment. Job vacancies are advertised on the CAG and Board's websites and social media.

12. AOB

12.1 ECB AGM 14 May. Nigel and Richard are scheduled to attend the AGM in Cardiff on 14 May. Nigel is unavailable and unfortunately there were no Directors available to attend in his place. ECB will be informed.

12.2 Leisha Hawkins Managing Director ECB Recreational Game. Nigel has invited Leisha, the recently appointed MD of the ECB Recreational Game, to attend our Sept or Nov* Board meeting.

13. Next meeting. Friday 20 September time tba at Hartford House, Moss Farm. Remaining 2024 meeting:

Friday 29 Nov* at Hartford House, Moss Farm time tba.

*29 Nov is a change from earlier notifications. The meeting room is unavailable on Fridays in December this year.

Signed

Appendix 1. Safeguarding Report (Julie Rafferty)

1. Safeguarding CPA update

Richard Newton, Nick Brooks and Julie Rafferty met with the ECB County Safeguarding Advisor, Fiona Holden on Thursday 18 April 2024 to discuss the progress of the CPA and other safeguarding matters.

The Cheshire Cricket Board has made good progress in all areas of the safeguarding standards within the CPA.

Fiona made the following comments:

“JR is clearing working on some excellent proactive initiatives. Good work Julie!” (relating to working with clubs and leagues)

“Feedback from the case management team was positive and the detail and process JR undertakes throughout the referral process should be commended”

The next meeting is planned for 31 July 2024.

The main actions from the meeting were:

Action	Detail	Update
1	Uploading documents to the CPA Smartsheet portal	Julie R working with Gareth M to upload relevant documents/ evidence onto the CPA portal
2	Working with CAG leads to support the appointment of Youth Player Ambassadors	Player Ambassadors have been identified. Julie R is working with Jess L and Gavin C to welcome them and support them in the role. An assessment of impact will be conducted at the end of the season.
3	Discuss and draft a youth engagement plan with identified key people and junior players	This is to be progressed with the support of the player ambassadors, information from clubs and key CCB staff
4	Continue to use the Low-Level Concerns (LLC) ECB Smartsheet	LLCs continue to be added although an interim solution
5	Review risk assessments for CAG	Currently being reviewed with CAG leads
6	Delivery of Safeguarding considerations within the Talent Pathway training (following meeting on 5 March 2024 at Edgbaston)	Julie R is delivering face to face training for all paid and volunteer staff involved in the Talent Pathway on 3 September 2024
7	Adult Safeguarding e-Learning (Ann Craft Trust) has been made widely available to CCB paid and volunteer staff free of charge	Julie R to contact paid and volunteer staff, to encourage completion of the training (access via the Cricket Regulator)

2. Safe Hands Training Courses (Level 3 – Club Safeguarding officers)

Four (4) Safe Hands courses have been delivered from February to April 2024 by Julie Rafferty, Sarah Hallas and Andy Margeson, with over 45 Club Safeguarding officers trained, mostly from Cheshire affiliated clubs, although some CSO's were from other areas due to them being unable to access a course in their own area (Wales, Lancashire, Staffordshire)

All Cheshire affiliated clubs now have at least one trained CSO, which supports clubs to achieve safeguarding compliance on the Safe Hands Management System and have a greater understanding within a club setting.

There are **192** CSO's associated with Cheshire cricket clubs and **187 (97%)** of which have attended a Safe Hands course. 4 of the CSO's are additional (2nd or 3rd) CSO's and couldn't attend a course, but they will continue to support the fully trained CSO for their club. The remaining CSO is from a non-affiliated club, Merseyside Sport & Cultural CC, based in the Wirral area who play in the Liverpool & District Cricket League. Julie R and Gareth M are attempting to engage with the club.

3. Policy development

The CCB has now updated and agreed the revised CCB Safeguarding Policy Statement, which has now been published on the CCB website.

The following policies are due to be reviewed annually, although the content has remained the same.

Board members are asked to access the policies via the CCB website and provide feedback for amendments and/ or additions to David Sharp and Julie Rafferty by the end of May 2024:

- Whistleblowing
- Safer Recruitment
- Anti-bullying

3. Cricket Regulator Recognition and Reward Scheme

To recognise the hard work and commitment shown by Club and County Safeguarding Officers throughout cricket, the Cricket Regulator has launched the Rewards and Recognition Scheme.

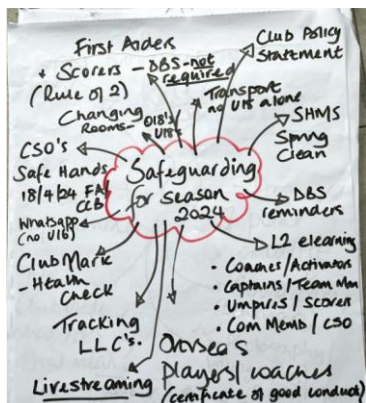
Boards are being encouraged to nominate Club or County Safeguarding Officers for their outstanding efforts and commitment to safeguarding. Nominees will have a chance to win tickets to an ODI or IT20 in September this year and the winners will be announced in mid-August!

All nominations need to be received before **1st August** and should be submitted using the attached nomination form:

<https://app.smartsheet.eu/b/form/6d49eaace3164e6e9fb1030f89bd279e>

Julie Rafferty has identified several club safeguarding officers who are deserving of a nomination, and she is happy to discuss further nominations from the Board.

5. Attendance at Cheshire County Cricket and Cheshire Cricket league meetings



Julie Rafferty attended the two main Cheshire leagues meeting in April 2024. The attached image shows the flipchart used to deliver key safeguarding messages to the club representatives.

The information was well received and generated much discussion and questions both during and after the meeting, with some follow-up emails from clubs, clarifying information and guidance.

6. Safeguarding Themes

Since the last Board meeting there have been several safeguarding issues and cases being reported including low level concerns. The general themes are as follows:

- **Club Coach and captain subject to an interim suspension following an accumulation of low-level concerns being reported** – the case was discussed at an independent safeguarding panel and subject to the completion of certain conditions, including a discussion with the County Safeguarding Officer, the suspension will be lifted, and they will be allowed to coach and captain.
- **Player has been released from prison having served a lengthy sentence for a serious offence wants to play cricket** – now subject to an interim suspension pending an investigation and risk assessment by the Cricket Regulator
- **Captain has been arrested and interviewed for a serious sexual offence** – now subject to an interim suspension pending an investigation and risk assessment by the Cricket Regulator.
- **Player had been previously investigated for child sexual offences** – referred to the Cricket Regulator for investigation and risk assessment. There was no further action taken by the police and little evidence to support a restriction by the Cricket Regulator. The player can continue to play cricket.
- **Non- playing member of a cricket club is a registered sex offender** – referred to the Cricket Regulator for assessment. Due to their lack of involvement with cricket the matter was referred to the club to deal with. The club committee met, and the person's membership was terminated.

- **Concerns reported about a child at a cricket club, who is being exposed to domestic abuse in the home.** Referral made to the local children's social care
- **3 x low level concerns** reported regarding coach and club official behaviour towards children.

Appendix 2. Governance

Rules review (item 7.2 of Feb meeting minutes)

Gold standard items

The rules were re-written in line with the ECB CPA and include GOLD standard items. GOLD items are compulsory for first class counties but optional for county boards.

Some of these Gold standard rules we already meet. Some rules we do not yet meet but are realistically attainable. However, there are some rules which we consider impractical and unrealistic. Two of those are copied below and we seek the Board's approval to remove them from section 10 of the rules.

- *The Board, led by the Chair, shall undertake, maintain a record of, and act upon, an annual evaluation of its own skills and performance, both as a collective and individuals. The evaluation of the Chair shall be led by a relevant Board member.*
- *Every four years the Board shall undertake an external evaluation of its own skills and performance.*

Directors' term of office (item 7.4 of Feb meeting minutes)

Currently the term is four periods of two years with a maximum continuous service of eight years.

We propose the term be one, two or three years with a maximum continuous service of nine years.

This will allow more flexibility and help to prevent a scenario of several Directors having to leave the Board at the same time.

It does not apply to the Chair and ex officio Directors

GDPR (item 7.3 of Feb meeting minutes)

From the Feb minutes - 'Our Data Protection/Privacy Policy (dated 2018) needs reviewing and updating. A sub-group had met with Steve Kenny of Assured Privacy and in view of the complexity and importance of this area of activity it was agreed to engage Steve as our nominated Data Protection Officer and to review our Data Protection/Privacy Policy documents.'

Following the Feb Board meeting we continued discussions with Steve and he has provided a quotation for his involvement. We have since alerted ECB to the overall situation and have asked for help and advice.

See also item 3.4 from Board Management Group 30 April meeting minutes item 3.4

Foundation status for County Boards (item 4.5 of Feb meeting minutes)

Board members were invited to attend two (virtual) workshops during March arranged by ECB to enable County Boards to consider Charity/Foundation status.

At the Board Management Group meeting on 30 April (see item 3.3 of the minutes) it was recommended that the Board retains its status as a company limited by guarantee and does not seek charity/foundation status. Notwithstanding any benefits which may be derived, the management implications are considered too onerous at the present time.

Appendix 3 Women and Girls

Girls Leagues. 59 teams officially entered the CGCL for the 2024 season with another 10 clubs wanting to enter teams into festivals and friendlies. We currently have 3 girls festivals planned and are hoping to book more in during the season which is an increase on last years entries.

27 teams have entered the soft ball division and 21 teams entered the Knock Out Cup. The league numbers have remained the same however some teams have transition to hard ball and some new teams have entered the soft ball league.

Women's Softball Festivals. There are currently 18 WSFs planned for the summer.

Schools. This summer we are delivering in 27 secondary schools across Cheshire and have 9 secondary schools competitions planned to help to transition girls from playing during PE lessons to actual matches.

Girls County and District squads. Squads have been selected and will soon be published. 47 players have been selected in the 4 main age group squads and another 120 across the district and development teams. The girls U18 girls have already progressed to round 2 of the KO Cup.

Metro Bank. The Metro bank funding for girls cricket will be released to the public on Thursday 9th March 2024. Cheshire are set to run 2 pilots in summer 2024.

Cheshire Women's Cricket League. As with most cricket across the region, the start to the CWCL season was impacted by the weather and challenges to ground readiness. Only a handful of league games have been played to date, with the top divisions particularly impacted. With the added challenge of National Knockout Cup fixtures for some teams, fitting all fixtures in successfully will be challenging this season. This is further impacted as many clubs will struggle with ground availability Sunday 15th September due to the rescheduled men's 1st weekend league games.

In those fixtures that have been played, the issues highlighted at the previous board meeting are beginning to materialise – travel distances (linked to non-Cheshire clubs) and concessions are already impacting division 2, and the concern on this functioning well as a bridging division to the top of the league remains. Despite these challenges, it is worth noting that there remains high demand for additional games and hardball friendlies in the centre of the region, with the #getthegameon group already very active.

Appendix 4 Cheshire Youth Cricket (Paul Brown)

Hub Club initiative. Dave Atkinson is working to develop a "Hub Club" initiative as part of the County facilities strategy. The plan is to create partnership arrangements with a number of clubs to host age group county matches, recognising the increasing difficulties in securing grounds particularly for Sunday matches.

The partnership is to be underpinned by a service level agreement for potentially 15- 20 games per club. The clubs would be paid with an indicative overall cost of £6k. The SLA would cover location of the pitch on the square, provision of tea and coffee and ensuring club staff/volunteers were available on the day.

We expect there may be some pushback from other clubs, either because of the loss of county games or where other clubs host but were not paid. However, the increasing challenges mean there were limited other options to secure grounds.

There also a suggestion the ECB may push for arrangements to use school cricket grounds for matches. CYC are currently exploring a partnership arrangement with King's Macclesfield.

We have agreed that Dave should continue to work up the proposal including developing a draft SLA to be considered by the committee.

Early Engagement strategy. Gavin Colebourn attended a session on the ECB's new "early engagement strategy." The thrust of this is that each county would select its under-12s squad in August/September and then provide them with free coaching through the winter. This raised fundamental questions about the impact of this approach on the CYC Pathway and in particular the extent to which parents would be prepared to send their children on courses when the age groups had already been selected.

Player Ambassadors. CYC is exploring the possibility of one or two previous CYC cricketers who had gone on to the professional game to act as a player ambassador and share insights and also to be involved in marketing activities. They would be invited to attend meetings but this would not be essential to the role. In the first instance it was agreed that Tim would speak to Rob Jones and Jess to Liv Bell to gauge their interest.

Support for disadvantaged families. There is a clear drive to get available funding to support the right parents (the parents of the two Afghan refugees on the pathway being an example). The team are liaising with local safeguarding leads to identify those children who would benefit most from the funding

ECB push for County cricket to start at U13. The ECB were pushing for all counties to start Junior Age Group county cricket at Under 13s level but there was still a very mixed picture across the country.

Girls selected for NW Rep Team. 5 or 6 girls had been selected to play in the North West representative team – a further reflection of the quality of talent in the squads.

Junior Leagues. While the junior cricket leagues continue to be strong, reporting was to be introduced where clubs conceded matches to try to identify clubs which may be struggling.

Dave Atkinson continues to be in close contact with the various leagues. Work is under way to get all of the leagues on Play Cricket. All Leagues were represented at meetings which Dave held 3 or 4 times a year – the pre-season meeting having been held around three weeks before the committee meeting.

The next CYC meeting is to be held in September.

Appendix 5 - Cheshire County Cricket Club (Jim Law)

Eventually we're up and running for 2024, but not the best start for the 1st XI, eliminated in the T20s.

In brief:

- Wet weather having significant impact on start of season with unfit venues across Cheshire and beyond
- T20 washout in first double header at Checkley, two losses to powerful Cumbria side at Toft, a win and defeat v Northumberland at Oxton
- National Counties T20 Final's Day to be held at Chester 29 May 2024
- Gavin Colebourn and Stewart McCleod have finalised 2nd XI fixtures including two home games at Northwich
- Seniors creaking into action but again, weather affected
- Database upgrade undertaken and will be live shortly with online payment system
- Member communications issued
- 200 Club relaunched with enhanced processes
- Limited sponsor success; a couple of low key discussions underway
- Additional sponsors sought – 'Partnership' brochure produced
- Participation in CPA II discussions at Worcester
- ECB Showcase game: Cheshire v Derbyshire at Nantwich CC, 21 July

Appendix 6

Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (David Humpage)

Now that the rain finally seems to be easing off (hopefully) and the sun is getting stronger we are slowly getting the season underway.

For only the second time in its history the CCCL has postponed the games scheduled for the first week of the season, and are planning a double header on the final weekend. The CCL have also postponed the first week's games, but have added a week to their season. This option is not easily available to the CCCL due to clashes with other sports on some grounds.

The second week's games went ahead, with only 8 of the 24 1st XI games in the CCCL being cancelled due to ground conditions. Sounds a lot, but given the amount of rain a real tribute to the groundsmen to get so many on. Week 3 showed little change with at least 10 grounds in the CCCL unavailable, including 3 Premier League grounds. My concern is that now the effects are being felt in Sunday fixtures, Women's games and very importantly Junior fixtures. I have urged our officials to use flexibility and innovation to ensure that as much cricket is played as possible. Changes of venue, switching of dates, etc must be considered until hopefully we get a spell of dry and warm weather and the grounds affected dry out.

We saw the first week of the new "win/lose" format in the CCCL and there does not seem to have been too many problems, except for a huge swell in the number of wides in 1st XI games as the umpires applied the new "legside wide" rule. Extras dominated the scoring in several games, but hopefully this will reduce going forward. I personally have reservations about the new points systems, and no doubt this subject and indeed others will be debated during the season and that improvements will be implemented for 2025.

The Derbyshire and Cheshire League also cancelled the first week's games until a later date, but then decided to treat all games in week two as being cancelled, irrespective as to whether the pitches were fit or not. Interestingly they voted over the winter to allow the payment of players by clubs.

I will leave Di and Jo to report on women's cricket – much cancellation I suspect.

Nothing to report on the possibility of clubs joining the structure from outside. These matters are slow burners, but I will be keeping in touch with the small number of clubs that have indicated a possible interest.

The search for new umpires goes on unabated, and there are quite a few new faces in the umpiring lists for the season. The CCCL/CCL now have a joint pool in excess of 80 umpires, however not all are available each week, but Ian Greensmith who organizes the appointments is confident that we can provide two umpires to 1st XI games down to and including CCL Division 2 most weeks.

As previously reported the three umpiring bodies in Cheshire (ACO, CCCL Umpires Association, CCL Umpires Association) have now agreed in principle to merge into one body, and this will take place in time for the 2025 season. Will the two leagues follow suit? – 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. There are several vacancies for groundsmen at clubs and the training and recruitment of groundsmen is becoming a serious and urgent matter.

The revised CCCC Constitution has now been agreed subject to some minor amendments suggested by Helen. Many thanks to John Petch for his work in this field.

The County Grant Fund opened and closed quickly this year as the money from ECB has already been allocated to a number of deserving causes. We await to see if there will be any more funds forthcoming, as we have a number of good applications waiting in the wings.

We have arranged for 3 Club Grant Workshops to be held across the county delivered by Steve Wright. The first of these in on 9th May.

Our next formal meeting is scheduled for mid-June. Much to discuss.

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

END