



## THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

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### CACO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 – Moss Farm

#### Present

Martin Roberts, Brian Horrocks, Ian Greensmith, Peter Hayes, Graham Church, Graeme Rickman, Barrie Burns, Barry Harwood, Emma Mallinson, Sandra Mason, Inge Bevers, Julie Rafferty

#### Apologies

Derek Barnett, Parth Kapoor

#### Meeting Opened – 7.00 pm

#### Chairmans Welcome

As this was the first meeting of the newly formed CACO, a round table set of introductions was completed welcoming Emma Mallinson for a first taste of CACO action.

#### Chairman

Martin's report had been pre-circulated and is re-attached with these minutes We went through this quickly, during discussion noting:

- Non-standing umpires could be Associate members in trying to avoid the need for a DBS. ECB has however, confirmed that anyone involved in developing others through assessment and mentoring would need a valid certificate. Julie commented that there should be no need for a DBS where the contact is adult/adult. Martin to seek clarification from ECB.
- New ECB directives do affect clubs more directly, during recent club forums early indications are that they are slow to take this up. Officials should be aware of the requirements and be aware that clubs and captains may be less well informed than we would like.
- Our advice to umpires this season will be to retain team cards for 3 years (the maximum for any possible personal injury claim).
- Intentions to use WTU (Who's the Umpire) for appointments continue into a third season and will extend to other competitions. Further use of the software for Captains marks and Fair Play have been investigated and most likely to be carried out. In the case of Captains marks we are aware of the desire to share marks and/or comments with umpires more regularly. This will be made more possible with WTU.
- We will tighten up the rules in respect of single scorers this season. Whilst there is still discussion on the topic in safeguarding circles, we are advising clubs to ensure that a young scorer is not left in an enclosed area without chaperoning. In open areas such as a club house, outside or otherwise common shared area with access for all this would not be the



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case. In enclosed areas e.g. as scoreboard away from the public areas, then care must be applied.

- It was confirmed that match expenses for umpires would remain at last years value (£70 premier division, £60 others divisions in both leagues). More emphasis to be placed on expenses being paid before the match.
- Numbers of umpires remain low. Despite this we are aware of the need (duty of care) to ensure that members are still capable of standing – sure in their movement, and in possession of the necessary faculties to ensure their safety. It is confirmed that ECB will support a process where off-field independent assessments are used to recommend members should stand down for any reasonable cause for concern.
- A communication had been received in the last 48 hours to suggest the possible closure of the Winnington Park facilities. At the moment, the club are in discussions with the owners and other interested parties to assess what can/will happen this season.
- The officials pre-season meeting will take place at Toft Cricket Club on 15<sup>th</sup> April. It is hoped all materials will be available for distribution then.

**Action – Send out invite for this meeting to all members - Graham**

Secretary

Correspondence was summarised from the following areas:

- ✓ CYC fees and communications – Martin
- ✓ County ACO Chairs – Martin
- ✓ Membership and grading – Martin
- ✓ Meeting arrangements – Brian
- ✓ New ECB directives, cards – Inge
- ✓ Scorers course advert - Sandra
- ✓ Note concerning the constitution - Brian
- ✓ Womens cricket officiation - Martin
- ✓ 2025 umpiring intentions from existing umpires - Ian
- ✓ Recruitment potential from courses - Inge
- ✓ Cheshire Cricket Board web site usage – Brian
- ✓ Next of kin thoughts – Graham
- ✓ Meeting attendees – Brian
- ✓ Meeting with David Ward concerning WTU – Ian
- ✓ Pre-match boundary inspections across leagues – Graham
- ✓ Working with ‘at risk’ umpires – Graham
- ✓ Newsletter – Graham
- ✓ Handbook entries
- ✓ Umpires cards – Graham
- ✓ Female umpiring network
- ✓ Regional funding - Barry
- ✓ Cost of travel, expenses etc
- ✓ Match expenses for young officials – Graham
- ✓ Female umpire networking and development workshop – Martin
- ✓ DBS - Graham
- ✓ CCB website usage - Brian



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Under other secretarial business we covered:

- We will be reminding clubs that boundary safety levels have been changed and that the 1 metre gap between the boundary and the nearest object would now be 2.74 metres. This will cause problems on some grounds. Umpires are recommended to move a boundary if possible, and use match reports to highlight where it has proved not possible. It is a club responsibility to provide this gap.
- We confirmed that 7.00 start times were preferred and Moss Farm to be the venue of choice. We will continue to provide pre-circulated reports where desired but not mandatory.
- We are confident about the impact of GDPR and our response to it. Graham will be the single point of contact for full member communications using Bcc to make others details invisible. To further enhance security it is advised to use alias email addresses such as SecretayCC@Gmail.com

**Action – Propose suitable CACO alias addresses - Brian**

### Treasurer

Barry covered the following:

- Consolidated accounts were prepared in October
- Officials membership fees should now be collected. The fee will be unchanged at £5. Traditionally the fee is taken at the pre-season meeting. This year we will publish the account detail for members to pay by bank transfer. We will also collect (where offered) the fee at the pre-season meeting.

**Action – Provide bank details for Graham to use in the pre-season invite – Barry**

- There is a process for claiming legitimate CACO expenses. This is something that the Education team have used in the past but can be operated by others on the executive. Barry will provide the process should we have a need to use it. Inge has a form that has been used in the past.

**Action – Sketch the process to be used to claim expenses – Barry**

### Membership

Graham had circulated his report in advance and it is re-attached here. Graham has hit the ground running in a very busy period. There are various communications underway including a further newsletter. His pre-circulated report is re-attached with the minutes. Additional points made in the meeting were:

- It has been decided to advise umpires to have a card or some other simple method to record Next of Kin details. These should be readily accessible in the very rare event of something



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going wrong. The details need to be in a place that someone can find easily at the ground.

The umpire's bag is recommended. Graham will include this in his pre-season notes and we will cover it at the pre-season meeting.

- DBS processes have changed and we now need to ensure that new umpires know they need to approach the association in order to have a DBS application submitted on-line (there are no paper application forms any more). From there the process follows its previous route with ECB approved verifiers (who may be safeguarding people at clubs or from officials e.g. Cheshire Cricket Board.) selected by the applicant. New umpires thus processed should be made aware that the Level safeguarding training is mandatory for them available on the Eportal training area of the ECB ACO web site.

### Appointments

A copy of Ian's report is attached. Ian reports a concerning shortage of umpires available to the two leagues. Numbers coming out of training should roughly equal those members retiring or otherwise not umpiring any more. Currently more leave than join. This emphasises the need to continue our campaign the make clubs responsible for feeding the pipeline. Consequently, the first few weeks of the season will mean first team cricket without umpires. We are hopeful for an improvement in availability beyond that. Ian's report s attached.

### Education

Inge had pre-circulated her report, re-attached to these minutes. No additional topics were raised.

### Umpire Development

Barrie reported that ECB were holding back some of the plans for our umpires who wish to pursue the pathway. A lack of observers will be a hindrance. Umpires wishing to officiate at Womens matches cannot necessarily use their Mens cricket grading to justify the level of qualification. It may be a separate qualification exercise is needed. This will be explored more in the coming months. In 2026 it is intended that the Womens top flight would use panel umpires, this will mean suitably qualified umpires.

### Scorers

Sandra has some notes which are attached to the minutes. The principal discussion was about education. There are numerous scoring courses in the pipeline at varying levels and it is requested that Graham publicise these through his membership list. Additionally, the league web sites have already provided this service and can continue to do so.

Looking to the future, club Captains appear to want to have a panel of scorers (similar to umpires). That may be a fine notion but the likelihood is low given that scorers are usually aligned very closely to a specific club. Some clubs do have regular scorers; however, many matches take place



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with either only one, or no scorers. League penalties for this are frequently discussed.

It is expected that we will pursue the establishment of club scoring representatives. These people would be required to attend courses and in turn deliver training within the clubs.

### Women's Cricket

This is very much an up and coming part of Cheshire cricket with much attention at Board level. Fixtures for the new season are now being circulated. The Leagues are taking shape although there are leavers as well as joiners. Umpires will remain to be club appointed in 2025 but a decision to try for panel umpires in the top flight has been taken for 2026. The earlier comment about umpires graded for mens cricket not being graded automatically for womens cricket remains an issue to resolve. The captans meetings for the Womens league is on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### BAME

No report in Parth's absence

### Disability cricket

No report available as we are yet to appoint a representative.

### Safeguarding

Julie reiterated the report given last week to the 4Cs. Key takeaways were

- Umpires should be doing the new L2 course and speciality module
- Scorers do not need DBS
- All active umpires need enhanced DBS checks
- The earlier discussion concerning under age scorers being chaperoned in enclosed spaces being the clubs responsibility. Umpires can observe and report concerns to Julie
- Changes to the DBS processing system
- Recently released ECB regulations concerning under age players in Open Age cricket stipulate a minimum of 12 years old and in Year 7 whereas league rules require 12 years old and in year 8. League rules will always take precedence.
- Umpires are encouraged to stamp out sledging of young players despite senior clubs believing it is part of the game and in some strange way good for the young players development. It clearly is not!

### Board Perspectives

Most of the Boards topics had been discussed in the above detail. Education and Development Plans were the key areas highlighted.



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### AOB

Peter mentioned the NCJ final postponed in September. Graham will be appointing for the rearranged fixture.

### Next Meeting

We will target quarterly meetings for the moment with the next one in June – Date and Location TBC.