

# CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

Executive Committee Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 Moss Farm 7. 00 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting Opened 7.00 p.m.

### Present:

David Humpage (Chairman), Brian Horrocks (Secretary), Martin Roberts (Officials), Gareth Moorhouse (Cheshire Cricket Board), Selwyn Stephenson (Cheshire Cricket League), Caroline Sheridan (Women's Cricket), Duncan Anderson (Facilities), John Petch (Cheshire County Cricket Club), Barry Harwood (Treasurer)

### Apologies for Absence

Dave Atkinson (Grants), Andy Horsfield (Grounds), Brian Boys (Cheshire County League), Julie Rafferty (Safeguarding), David Gane (Cheshire Cup)

### Previous Minutes:

The previous minutes were accepted as a true record with a review of the outstanding actions as follows:

#### **Action – Review the Development Plan for discussion at the next meeting – All**

This had been circulated and the June meeting configured around the topics. See AOB later

#### **Action – Provide Chairman support in dealing with the three clubs specified at the meeting - Selwyn**

Further work has taken place within the Cheshire Cricket League clubs. Julie is asked to confirm closure of the concerns

#### **Action – Ensure the League Club Chairmen are aware of the under 16 parameter in Play Cricket and amend to under 18 – Selwyn, Brian B**

This has been dealt with pre-season

#### **Action – Send proposed wording for league handbooks to Gareth – Brian B, Brian H**

Handbooks for 2025 reflect the Board wording

### Chairman (David Humpage)

No further observations needed at this time

### Treasurer (Barry Harwood)

Barry reports a quiet time in accounts. The status is healthy. Whilst there have been indications of requests for funding, none have materialised so far.

# CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

## Secretary (Brian Horrocks)

- Correspondence covered the following areas all of which have been completed or were handled in the meeting

Request for contact details of Mike Hasprey (Brian Birtles)  
Pitch Advisor visits (Gareth) see later  
Umpires pre-season meeting (Martin) completed  
Web site publication (David Sharp) last minutes  
Affiliation fees collection (Barry) confirmation – see later

## Safeguarding (Julie Rafferty)

- Julie had offered apologies being currently on holiday. A Safeguarding report will be circulated shortly upon return.

## Facilities and Grants (Duncan Anderson, Dave Atkinson)

- Dave had pre-circulated his report (included with these minutes also)
- Gareth commented that some counties had not been consuming their allocations of ECB grants in full. The potential for some of this to be re-routed to Cheshire (who have accounted for our entire allocation) is being monitored.
- Un-used or under-used facilities at Lindow and Stockport Georgians are being worked on to convert them into additional cricket areas.
- The use of Cheshire cricket grounds by Greater Manchester clubs on Sundays is an increasing concern. Our long-term strategy is to encourage Cheshire clubs to develop their own cricket functions to grow into using these facilities e.g. new ladies softball, new junior teams, new senior teams etc. Whilst clubs may have additional facilities now the lure of extra revenue means they will accommodate these clubs. Creating additional teams within the host clubs may in time lead to greater financial stability. This is a topic we will come back to. Affiliation fees for these teams are generally paid into Greater Manchester and not Cheshire.
- Where Cheshire based and affiliated clubs have extra capacity, these clubs need to discuss the potential for development with the Board (via Gareth)

## Senior Leagues - Cheshire County Cricket League (Brian Boys)

Duncan substituted for Brian B in summarizing the CCCL. A good start to the season facilitated by good weather sees a positive position. A relatively small number of disciplinary issues is being handled by the Disciplinary committee.

## Senior Leagues - Cheshire Cricket League (Selwyn Stephenson)

- Selwyn summarised the CCL. His many travels around the grounds are aimed mainly at gaining a ground level perspective of the appetite for further regionalisation (seen as essential for future prosperity). It is clear that the opinions expressed by club league reps do not always reflect the opinions of those playing the game on a Saturday. We continue to seek ways to get a better perspective. A mid-summer meeting of clubs is due soon at which we can continue this task. The use of micro-forums as employed pre-season by the county league is an idea CCL find attractive. Elsewhere, we regret that Weaverham were forced to drop their second team due to lack of player numbers. Bredbury are in the process of re-developing the square after their recent works revealed some errors in the first attempt three years ago funded by ECB.

# CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

## Senior Leagues – Women (Caroline Sheridan)

- Caroline confirmed that Who's the Umpire was being lined up for next season umpire appointment in division 1
- Experiences in the Lancashire thunder event were not up to the level hoped for
- The number of clubs with Softball teams surprised a few people – numbering 61. The desired process is to get hardball progression through this start point.
- Development of the women's game through involving youngsters in Dynamos continues.

## Clubs Development Manager (Gareth Moorhouse)

- Gareth reflected on current affiliated numbers. All affiliation tasks were complete for 2025 with 109 clubs on the books including South Liverpool who now play in Cheshire.
- Recent experiences with ECB had proved frustrating, particularly with pre-season policy changes. This has impacted the leagues who needed to adopt late change pre-season.
- One policy in particular has challenged us. The Anti-discrimination code has been hardened to become regulation. It is important we recognize this important change in case of challenging legal cases where it is quoted. All clubs must be aware of the specific policy involved and the disciplinary committee are working now with the new legislation.

### **Action – Confirm league web sites quote the correct links to the new legislation – Brian B, Selwyn**

- CCCL have invited the new ECB representative Justin Preston to join them for a mutual discussion concerning ECB relationships. David H will report back to this group when we have some information.
- Gareth and the team were at Old Trafford earlier in the day to present the Development Plan for Cheshire to the ECB. This was well received.
- The process for facilitating friendly cricket is still operating successfully.

## Officials (Martin Roberts)

- Martin was happy to report that WTU is now working well for the association. This includes, recently, the arrival of new custom reports giving CCCL and CCL analysis of Captains and Umpires reports as completed post-match
- Umpire numbers remain a concern. Martin has written a discussion paper that will be aired in the next CACO meeting in July. Subject to their approval we will take that paper into the leagues to seek further support. The paper identifies practical measures to try to improve the recruitment position.
- Early season discipline is not bad in terms of numbers of reports. However, there are isolated incidents of poor attitude towards officials. To counter this, we are looking at a system of deploying Premier umpires into lower divisions. To counter the gaps left we will be asking umpires with good marks to step up to division 1 on a trial basis to test their potential for pathway promotion.
- The discussion paper mentioned will also cover new or enhanced policies for officials. We encounter a few (but none is the target) incidences of umpires wishing to choose where to stand, and who to stand with. A refusal to stand at any particular venue or with any particular colleague will not be tolerated.
- We are looking at understanding umpire performance as trends facilitated by the marking system. Whilst the numeric analysis has some value, it is still relatively subjective. The verbatim comments are of much greater value and we are looking at ways to enhance this. This will allow us to act (over a longer period) upon information to direct the 'career' of the

# CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

official, including retirement if it is in the interests of the clubs and the individuals. The notion that we are short of numbers cannot allow a Quality versus Quantity compromise.

- We are always conscious of the potential for more imaginative penalties for disciplinary concerns. The leagues appreciate this input. Recent knowledge of an approach adopted by Yorkshire may be a way to improve the process adopted to penalize offenders and offer (well behaved) competitor clubs some advantage. We continue to learn of these other approaches and will discuss them with the leagues.

## Cheshire Cup (David Gane)

The following brief report was sent in by David pre-meeting

Round 2 of the Cheshire Cup has now been completed.

Round 3 (last 16, 8 games) takes place this Sunday, June 22.

Round 4 will take place on July 13 with

Semi-finals in August and Final early September.

## Grounds (Andy Horsfield)

- Andy was unavailable for a report, however, Gareth confirmed that 30 plus pitch reports were planned for 2025 some of which were facilitated by 4Cs funds.
- Recent workshops had been well attended. A new workshop is planned for Oulton Park in August. All Cheshire organizations will be asked to advertise (as usual). Additionally, three young groundmen's courses were being planned.

**Action – Speak to David Sharp about the potential for Cheshire Cricket Trust assistance with bursaries for these events. – John P**

## Cheshire County Cricket Club (John Petch)

- John had pre-circulated his report (attached again to these minutes) and summarized for the meeting. Thanks were recorded to Toft, Nantwich and Didsbury for their support in hosting Cheshire Cricket Club matches.
- Paul Bedford was said to be retiring from post. It is unclear what the replacement policy is with regard to the National Counties.

**Action – Check the details of the contract between National Counties and ourselves - Gareth**

## AOB

- Brian H posed a question to the meeting concerning an experimental approach to the agenda. The agenda had been issued in a slightly different format to normal. Up to this point past meetings have adopted a traditional approach of listing the officials and receiving a report from them – largely what we have done in the past and has always achieved its aim.

Recently we have published a Development Plan (part of a wider set of Development Plans

# CHESHIRE CRICKET CLUBS COMMITTEE

adopted by the Board to manage cricket in the county headed by the County plan delivered to ECB at Old Trafford earlier on the day of the meeting). An alternative agenda would be to plod through the Development Plan line by line.

The chosen approach for this meeting was to adopt a hybrid in that each official took their normal turn but had specific line items for which they are responsible identified. This meant in practice that (as an example) during the discussion in Gareth's section (Clubs Development Manager) he could cover any business he felt required in addition to identifying any specific Development Plan changes he felt were of note. In principle this means we don't manage the Development Plan by revisiting it once every couple of years as an exercise, but we manage it on an on-going basis.

The attendees felt that it was a good and informative meeting which may (or may not) have been a result of the agenda. Any post-meeting comments are welcome. It was an experiment, with which we can continue or revert to tradition, or try something different. I will need to know for the October meeting of preferences.