



THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

Chairman
Martin Roberts
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com
07831320516

Secretary
Brian Horrocks
cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com
07772558761

Treasurer
Barry Harwood
bazccl@icloud.com
07901648435

CACO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 21st July 2025 – Moss Farm

Present

Martin Roberts, Brian Horrocks, Ian Greensmith, Peter Hayes, Graham Church, Graeme Rickman, Barrie Burns, Barry Harwood, Emma Mallinson, Sandra Mason, , Derek Barnett, Parth Kapoor and special guest Chris Rigg

Apologies

Julie Rafferty, Inge Bevers

Meeting Opened – 7.00 pm

Matters Arising and Actions for Previous Minutes

ACTIONS	WHO

Chairman

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

- We reflected on the untimely passing of our colleague Graham Cookson
- Martin thanked Graham Rickman for his short but worthy contribution to this exec. Graham takes up a coaching position at Birkenhead School in September.
- We are also still looking for a disability representative which Graham R offered to take back to the Board – Graham R

Action – Contribute to finding a successor for Board representative role and Disability role – Graham R

- ECB and national ACO are still sorting out a new conversion course to get officials ready for league action. It will be available in September. The debate appears to be whether it is a 1- or 2-day course.
- The CACO development plan will be reviewed in Q3 such that 2026 is properly represented. An element of the plan relates to finance which we have fared quite well with this year. Whilst we did not receive a full allocation of our request we have a significant portion which allows us to plan most if not all our desired activity. ECB were complimentary towards Cheshires submission and our operation. We should now be ensuring that requested funds



THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

Chairman

Martin Roberts

martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com

07831320516

Secretary

Brian Horrocks

cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com

07772558761

Treasurer

Barry Harwood

bazccl@icloud.com

07901648435

are spent wisely.

- Martin summarised his pre-circulated discussion paper. This contains much food for thought in the whole context of officiating. The age profile, in particular, is a cause for concern. Officiating needs to be generally a younger profile. Younger scorers are more in evidence than younger umpires. The key is likely to be with clubs, who are governed by leagues. We

are at the point of approaching the leagues to discuss a strategy which could follow a principle of 'carrot and stick'. There are examples around the country of awarding points for provision of officials. There are also examples of penalties for clubs who fail to provide them. Thoughts around the room included: direct approaches to older players, no umpire provision in WTU to clubs who fail to supply one in a season. Seminars at season end to encourage 2nd team umpires to make the leap to panel officiating. Points deduction for clubs who do not provide umpires, award of extra match points for those that do provide umpires

Action – Draft accompanying letter and final discussion paper for presentation to the leagues – Martin

- Discipline was discussed with the help of our full disciplinary team (Derek and Chris). Examples of real instances were presented, with a hypothesis that umpires are reluctant to operate the process correctly. New umpires seem reticent to do so. There have been 26 senior reports so far in 2025 and one junior report. The majority of these are at level 1. 2nd eleven cricket remains a concern in that no umpires will be present, and third-party reports are more difficult to corroborate. The discussion then led into seminars and refresher courses.
- There are several umpires who have not attended any kind of refresher or new law courses for several years. It is incumbent on all officials to remain up to date with law changes and seek improvement through continual learning. One option suggests that umpires who continue to avoid any kind of update training should not be invited to be on the panel. The perennial problem of timing a course(s) so that everyone can attend remains. There are clearly instances when physical presence on a course is impossible e.g. holidays. Counter to this argument is that CPD sessions are run on several week nights during the close season so unless an umpire is out of the country for a few months there should be an opportunity. This remains a topic for us to consider.
- We discussed a branch of training for umpires that is becoming more popular in many business and sports environments – Mental resilience training. This will be a topic for future discussion.
- Emma praised the 'Buddy' system used this year. IT comes as a recommendation for all umpires in their first year. This may or may not be the same as the Mentor concept. It is something for which we can develop a firmer concept with potential for policy. Barrie can advise on the mentor position in the County.



THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

Chairman

Martin Roberts

martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com

07831320516

Secretary

Brian Horrocks

cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com

07772558761

Treasurer

Barry Harwood

bazccl@icloud.com

07901648435

Secretary

Correspondence was summarised from the following areas:

- ✓ CYC fees and communications (Martin)
- ✓ Concussion Rules v Laws of cricket (Phil Lowe)
- ✓ New umpire on-boarding (various)
- ✓ Single umpire policy in second eleven (Irby CC)
- ✓ Funding (various)
- ✓ Rewarding long service (Peter Hayes)
- ✓ WTU set up and subsequent requests (various)
- ✓ Umpire appraisals (various)
- ✓ Drinks regulations (Cliff Hall)
- ✓ Toft meeting (various)
- ✓ Teas (various)
- ✓ ECB membership request (Martin Roberts)
- ✓ Umpire Performance (Martin Roberts)
- ✓ All female team umpiring (Emma Mallinson)
- ✓ Publicity opportunity of above (Inge Bevers)
- ✓ Umpire appointment refusal (Martin Roberts)
- ✓ Graham Rickman (Martin Roberts)
- ✓ Discussion Paper (Martin Roberts)
- ✓ Conversion courses – purpose (Martin Roberts)
- ✓ Invitations to umpire youth and other matches (Graham Church)
- ✓ August availability (Ian Greensmith)
- ✓ New email address for Ian Goldstone (IG)
- ✓ Wilmslow CC ball type usage (Wilmslow CC)

Under other secretarial business we covered a few policies

- We will look through the existing policies and either add to it or create something new. Policy areas discussed were: Clothing (colours for white, pink, red ball), Co-ordination of umpires dress, Live-streaming cannot be used for decision review, Umpire responsibility to accept appointments and not decline on the basis of location, experiences with clubs/individuals, teas or no teas (yes we have had one), clubs (or captains) refusing to accept specific umpires based on past performance, acceptance of qualified umpires in 2nd eleven cricket to stand at both ends – clubs cannot refuse to accept this.

Action – Draft potential policy - Brian and Martin

Action – Re-issue the letter warning of live streaming abuse - Martin



THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

Chairman

Martin Roberts

martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com

07831320516

Secretary

Brian Horrocks

cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com

07772558761

Treasurer

Barry Harwood

bazccl@icloud.com

07901648435

Treasurer

Barry covered the following:

- Barry summarised the financial position as being in good shape. He re-iterated the need to spend the budget allocations we had received from ECB. 20 people had not yet paid their membership fees and they will now be chased vigorously. It is a pre-condition that all umpires must have joined the association to receive appointments.

Action – Pursue outstanding memberships – Barry

Membership Secretary

Graham has pre-circulated his report. Topics discussed were:

- Umpire scoring cards for 2026 will be subject to a re-design to reflect the new single association. 2025 cards were taken from old CCCLUSA and CCLUSA stocks. The only observation we have to date is that the card is flimsy in poor weather. Graham will seek other opinion shortly.

Action – compile a requirements list for card design – Graham C

- Graham's key concern lay in the clash of fixtures caused by T20 matches on the same day as CYC fixtures. We do not have enough people willing to do both, and when on the same day, logistically very difficult to manage. It was suggested that the Board might have a responsibility to ask members of the coaching team to do some officiating
- A second newsletter will soon be issued. Graham has this in preparation. It is our intention to publicise the all-female team who recently stood in an open age senior match (Carol Ingham and Emma Mallinson)
- Peter has recently suggested that long service be rewarded with a thank you in the form of lunch. This will be upon retirement of a colleague with more than 25 years' service. The association will fund the venture.
- For future reference we have had some feedback following the meeting at Toft in March. It was generally too noisy and difficult to hear from the back of the room. We will take note of that; Toft is a good venue but we would need to consider room arrangement and acoustics. Other venues could suffer the same issue if a theatre style presentation is used.

Appointments

Ian summarised as follows:

- August is a very difficult month for availability. Having said that, we will be considering promotion and relegation issues and directing officials to key matches.
- Single umpires are being used sparingly, and usually caused by late withdrawal.



THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

Chairman
Martin Roberts
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com
07831320516

Secretary
Brian Horrocks
cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com
07772558761

Treasurer
Barry Harwood
bazccl@icloud.com
07901648435

- Division 3 of the CCL rarely receive umpires

Education

Inge had provided a brief report which was included in the agenda and repeated here.

- ✓ *We will resume with Thundering Thursdays 2nd Thursday of October. The program will be using a few ECB ACO CPD sessions as well as a session on LBW and one on Discipline/Reporting. We will again alternate between CBH and Sale if they can accommodate us. Refresher sessions will be again in March/April and I will coordinate with*

Barrie regarding a course styled on the former Stage 3 course for those who haven't had a chance at that course and have been seeking/getting promotion to M or W 3/2 since the 2024 season and including people who might be doing so in 2026.

- ✓ *ECB with Cricket Board have put up 2 courses during the season so far, evening courses.*
- ✓ *At Lindow a women's only - 3 candidates and 1 of them someone who will be doing some umpiring on the women's pathway but in Lancs.*
- ✓ *At Woodley a course that after struggling for candidates ended up with 17 men from the greater Manchester area predominantly.*

Umpire Development

Barrie summarised:

- Pathway colleagues were having their completed.
- Observers are occasionally less experienced than those they are observing (to be avoided) which causes a problem for scheduling

Scorers

- Youngs scorers may be a problem area for us. We have several under 18 scorers who could be a safeguarding concern in certain circumstances. Sandra fears that clubs are ignorant of the safeguarding regulations, and state they have had no knowledge of them. This is incorrect, all clubs have received briefing on the subject.

Action – Consult with Julie over the specific concerns already identified -Sandra

- The level 1 course has been successful. 8 people have identified their next desire to reach level 2. Courses for level 2 may be more difficult to find; a course advertised in Yorkshire maybe available. Sandra is establishing whether a level 2 course could come to Cheshire.



THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

Chairman

Martin Roberts

martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com

07831320516

Secretary

Brian Horrocks

cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com

07772558761

Treasurer

Barry Harwood

bazccl@icloud.com

07901648435

Women's Cricket

- Emma is in consultation with the first division teams to discuss 2026 progression. Independent umpires are proposed using WTU. The clubs do see that the league is responsible for provision of umpires (see earlier discussion). They will be given the same concept that umpires need to come from clubs. The feeling of the meeting is that female umpires are highly prized as organised individuals who can become excellent officials. The clubs could be a rich source of talent in this respect.
- WTU usage is agreed for appointments. However, the other trappings of a formal match are captains reports and official s reports both of which will be expected via WTU. The teams will be expected to comply with this.
- It is expected that formalisation of Women's cricket will progressively be introduced starting in 2026 with a first cut. Details of levels of official qualification, day of play (likely to be Sunday) as a conflict for resources are issues to sort out progressively.
- Emma will be seeking an appointments secretary in an equivalent position to Ian Greensmith.

BAME

- Parth is canvassing several sources to improve the take up of BAME officials. The Board are active in this area also. It is encouraging to see several potential officials emerging from the Trafford MV club. There was a suggestion that the Whalley Range club (Manchester) might also be a likely source. Widening that out, it was suggested that contact with Ian Herbert of the GMCL might be worthwhile.

Disability cricket

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

Safeguarding

- Julie had sent apologies for the meeting needing to deal with an urgent meeting at a club. She did report as below:
- There had been issues with scorers and behaviour. I have had a productive meeting with the CSO at Cheadle CC this afternoon and talked about this issue and he is very clear about what the club's responsibilities. I will be sending an email to all clubs reminding of their obligations and the safeguarding considerations around junior scorers.
- The main issue from a safeguarding perspective is supporting umpires and scorers to report incidents and challenge behaviour. There have been quite a few incidents over the last few months involving players, spectators, seniors, juniors.
- It was noted in the meeting that our youngest (under 18) umpiring recruit was unaware that he should not change in a room with an adult colleague. He has been suitably briefed along with his parents.



THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

Chairman

Martin Roberts

martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com

07831320516

Secretary

Brian Horrocks

cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com

07772558761

Treasurer

Barry Harwood

bazccl@icloud.com

07901648435

Board Perspectives

Most of the Boards topics had been discussed in the above detail. They have seen the Development Plan and are supportive of our intentions.

Meeting closed 9.45