



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

Secretary
Brian Horrocks
cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com
07772558761

Treasurer
Barry Harwood
bazccl@icloud.com
07901648435

MINUTES OF CACO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

12th November 2025 7.00 pm Toft CC

Present Barrie Burns, Sandra Mason, Ingeborg Bevers, Julie Rafferty, Graham Church, Parth Kapoor, Peter Hayes, Ian Greensmith, Barry Harwood, Martin Roberts

Apologies Brian Horrocks, Emma Mallinson, Derek Barnett, Andrew Jackson

Chairman welcomed attendees.

- MR was pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Jackson as CCB representative succeeding Graeme Rickman. A nomination for Disability representative remains outstanding. **AJ**
- Tutor fees have not increased for several years and need a review. The committee agreed to increase expenses to £35(evening/ half day) and £60(full day).
- Following significant non-attendance at CPD and refresher sessions, despite confirmed registrations, the committee debated whether to charge a nominal sum for attendance. It was agreed that there should be no charge for 'Thrilling Thursday sessions', but CPD and Refresher courses will be charged for. We should not increase the administrative burden for the treasurer. Investigate if it is possible to register for all five sessions with a single charge. **IB**
- MR had previously circulated the ECBACO Membership categories effective in 2026 to the committee. The document is scheduled to be circulated to all members w/c 10th November. For active umpires annual membership fee will increase to £35. Associate membership will be withdrawn, and non-standing umpires will be offered free membership. It is understood that ECB will be responsible for managing the change including cancellation of Direct Debits. We should include guidance to members in the next Newsletter. **GC**
Scores will pay an annual fee of £20 but there will be no additional costs to attend courses. However, courses will only be available to ECB ACO scorer



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members. The committee agreed that scorers should not pay a CACO affiliation fee in 2026.

- MR reported that the discussion document on increasing umpire and scorers numbers has been circulated to league chairs. He was not optimistic of the recommendations being adopted but needs to progress. **MR**
- North Regional Conference is hoped to be a F2F meeting sometime in Q1 2026. After the meeting MR was informed that due to cost restraints this will a ZOOM meeting.
- Documents to assist new umpires joining the panel have been uploaded to the website: [Umpires Resources | Cheshire Cricket Board](#)
- MR reported that ECBACO has brought forward the application process for County ACO funding to Q4 and requested that CDO, CSO and CEO get their plans to him ASAP.
- Development Plan to be reviewed. Q4/25, Q1/26
- Committee agreed to hold the AGM early in Q1 2026.
- MR appraised the committee of the proposed merger of the two leagues. The proposal had received unanimous support from both leagues executive committees and a meeting is scheduled for 4/12/25 to progress matters.
- Match Expenses 2026. A number of the committee expressed the view that they should remain unchanged in 2026. However, we need to recognise that there is competition from surrounding leagues. Request Regional Chair (Barry Oliver) to survey Northern leagues of their match expenses to allow an informed decision to be taken. **MR**

Secretary – Correspondence and secretarial

- ✓ WTU requests (various)
- ✓ Officials' appointment requests (Graham mainly)
- ✓ Disciplinary issues (various from Discipline team)
- ✓ Training (various)
- ✓ Social Media policy (Martin)
- ✓ Requests for information/guidance (various)
- ✓ Captains WTU reporting (various)
- ✓ DBS process difficulties (a few)
- ✓ Emma's proposal for Womens cricket (Emma)
- ✓ End of season meeting (Graham and I)
- ✓ Regional meeting (Martin)
- ✓ 2026 funding submission (Martin)



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✓ Membership query with ACO

Treasurer

- BH reported that with the assistance of GC and IG he had collected 97% of local subscriptions for the 2025 season. We should encourage umpires to pay their subscription by BACS by 31/03/26 so that cash collection should be minimal at the pre-season meeting.
- He reported a healthy end of year financial balance. Provisional accounts suggest a surplus of £1,239.60 compared with £331.45 in the previous year.
- Committee agreed to donate £100 to Toft CC for the use of their premises for meetings during the 2025 season.

BH

Membership Services Secretary

- GC reported that he was making progress in the design and specification of the scorecard for 2026. He has also identified printing companies. MR reported that the cost to the CCCLUSA for 5000 cards in 2024 was £410.40, but it is recognised that these are quite flimsy especially when wet. IB agreed to provide GC with contacts from other leagues that could assist.
- PK asked whether it would be possible to have stand alone T20 Scorecards. The committee felt that this was an unnecessary additional cost and we should wait for GC to report at the next meeting. PH believes the CCL may be in possession of T20 scorecards and will check with BrH.
- It would be advantageous if the ECBACO and WTU membership listings could be aligned. We identified, post season, standing umpires in WTU who are not members of ACO and, therefore, should not have been appointed. Need to conduct a sanity check ahead of 2026 season.

IB

PH

IG/GC/MR

Appointments Secretary

- IG reports that he had received a request from a New Zealand couple, who retain a house in Chester, wanting to umpire/score in our leagues in 2026. Seek guidance from ECBACO on how to accommodate this request recognising issues experienced with Steve Scott.
- IG has also received a request from Jez Clein to transfer to us from MCUA.
- Martyn Corrin and Darren Sutcliffe have also indicated their intention to join the panel in 2026. Ben Murray (scorer at SGCC for 25 seasons) has successfully navigated his way across to qualifying as an umpire including securing his DBS through ECBACO. Ben will become one of our younger

IG/MR



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panel members.

- Recognising that the number of appointments that need to be made by CACO in 2026 it was agreed that we should seek to recruit additional resources to assist in 2026 under the chairmanship of IG.
- Panel invitations will be sent out late December/ early January and in addition. to CCCL, CCL, CYC and Disability fixtures will be extended to include CWCL

IG

Education Officer

- IB advised that she has prepared the programme covering UTC, UDC, Refresher and CPD sessions. She is aware of 2 UTC courses being held in January and March (organised by CCB using ECB Tutor Consultants). She has sent a draft schedule for CACO activity to AJ for feasibility check.
- 'Thrilling Thursdays' are underway. Attendance Oct session -16, November session- 22 registered.

Development Officer

- BB has identified and written to 26 umpires who will seek progression from M6/M4 or M5/M4 in 2026(including W). Some were reluctant to engage until advised that failure to progress may limit the level of matches to which they are appointed.
- Candidates for M4/M3 yet to be identified but likely to be two candidates.
- New umpires to the panel should be offered the support of a mentor in their transition.
- BB advised the meeting that John Edmonds is likely to be moving out of the area, and we will lose his resource as umpire, tutor and developer. We will, therefore, only have three certified developers in the county- BB, GC and IB. We need to recruit and train Developers so that we can meet progression expectations.

BB

ALL

Scorers Officer

- SM advised the meeting that she, IB and James Emmerson had attended a CSO and tutor meeting in Leeds on 9/11. The new ECB Scorer pathway (S5 Team Scorer – S1 Professional Game Scorer) and training courses are to be released on 26/11/25. An online scorer course is already available. CPD modules in Scoring Techniques, DLS, Linear scoring, Statistics and PCS Pro are to be delivered by County ACO Tutors. Courses are available FOC to ACO members. ECB's goal is to increase scorer members. 'Grandfather rights' will



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be available to existing ACO members provided scoring and CPD training records can be proven. ECB will award gradings which can be challenged.

- ECB ACO want counties to appoint individual County Lead scorer Appointments, Education and Development Officers. CACO has agreed that these roles will be performed by a single County Scorers officer (SM)

Women's Cricket Representative

- EM's Discussion paper was discussed in her absence.
- CACO is supportive of providing panel umpires to Division 1 fixtures. Whenever possible, clashes with Cheshire Cup fixtures should be avoided for the first two rounds. The support of Martin Saxon in inputting fixtures to WTU is appreciated. There are a number of other issues to be highlighted:
 1. When appointing to out of county fixtures it is considered fair that umpires should be able to claim mileage in addition to match expenses.
 2. Out of county ACO members if wishing to be appointed need to provide us with ACO Membership Number and DBS expiry date.
 3. Any current club umpires who wish to umpire must be ACO members. If not then they need to undertake the UTC course, CPD sessions and get on the Umpiring Pathway.
 4. CACO will support the development of Cheshire based umpires only.

BAME representative

- PK reported that he had contacted Ian Herbert and others on how best to engage the BAME community in umpiring activities. He will continue to progress.

Disability Cricket Representative

- Awaiting nomination from CCB

AJ

Safeguarding

- JR provided her report encompassing Safe Hands Management, DBS, Training and safeguarding cases. JR suggested that completion of the Safeguarding and 'Introducing the boundary' online training modules should be mandatory for officials. Links to the modules: [Introducing the Boundary | Cheshire Cricket Board](#) and [Safeguarding Level 2 | Cheshire Cricket Board](#)
- JR reported on the value of reporting low level concerns. The more LLC's reported may prevent a serious safeguarding issue in the future and we should encourage all officials to report cases to their clubs and/or to Julie direct.



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- The rule of 2 for underage scores was again aired. It is the club's responsibility to develop and implement the risk assessment. Officials should not be hesitant in reporting non-conformance to Julie.
 - Regarding on field behaviour across all games- junior and open age- Julie reminded the meeting that 'Culture is set by the behaviour you accept' and as officials we have a large part to play in setting standards.
 - In view of membership offering change and EDI/Safeguarding regulations ever changing, Julie offered to update our Code of conduct to reflect current best practice.

JR

The meeting closed at 9.45pm. Given the significant changes currently ongoing the next meeting must take place no later than Jan 2026.