

**CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED**  
**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT CHESHIRE FA OFFICES, MOSS FARM**  
**ON FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2025 – 10am**

**1. Attendance:** Nigel Muirhead (Chair), Di Totty (Vice Chair), Scott Elliott (Management Group Chair), Richard Newton (Managing Director), Mike Guest (Treasurer), David Sharp (Secretary), David Humpage (Clubs), Jim Law (County Club), Nick Brooks (Independent Non-Executive Director), Neeruj Luthra (Independent Non-Executive Director).

**Apologies:** Paul Brown (CYC), Lauren Forrester (Independent Non-Executive Director), Helen Nicholson (Independent Non-Executive Director), Joanna Seddon (Independent Non-Executive Director).

Nigel conveyed the Board's best wishes and congratulations to Lauren on the birth of a daughter Ava Rose.

**2. Minutes of the meeting 12 Sept 2025.** Agreed and then signed by the chair as a true record.

**3. Matters arising from the meeting 12 Sept 2025**

**3.1 Sale of The Hundred (item 4.2.1 of 12 Sept 2025 meeting refers).** The Board discussed possible projects for investment of anticipated income from the sale of The Hundred alongside the prospect of funding from the Game Changer Fund and in line with our Countywide Plan. Richard clarified that suitable projects for the Game Changer Fund with a contribution of up to 50% from ECB were dependent upon Boards securing third party sponsorship. Board members were asked for ideas in sourcing social value pots which may be available within the private and public sectors.

**4. Management Group.** Members of the Management Group (MG) referred to items from the minutes of the MG meeting held on 3 November 2025 which had been circulated to the Directors and Member representatives prior to the Board meeting.

**4.1 CCB children's courses.** A summary of the numbers of children attending our courses since 2019 had been circulated. Whilst numbers on the Advanced, Excellence and District courses remained high, attendance on the Summer and Autumn courses had fallen and an effort to improve this situation would be made for 2026. It was suggested that the summary should include a split of boys and girls rather than a total number of children.

**4.2 Coaching in schools.** The possibility of a transformative project linked with the ECB Game Changer Fund would provide a stimulus in this sector where a reduction in funding is presenting challenges (see item 3.1 above).

**4.3 Accounts 2024/25.** The draft accounts for the year to 30 September 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion the accounts were formally approved. Proposed by Di Totty. Seconded by Neeruj Luthra. The approved accounts will be submitted to Companies House by Murray Smith, our independent accounts examiner. The accounts are formally adopted at the Board AGM on ..... after which the filleted version is circulated and made available on the Board's website.

The accounts show a small surplus following a deficit in 2024. The forecast for 2026 shows a break-even situation.

**4.4 Government consultation.** The government consultation on reforming the role of statutory consultees in the planning system in England runs until 13 January 2026. The proposal could undermine current protections for cricket pitches, increasing the risk of them being lost to development. We are asking all partner organisations and clubs to respond to the consultation and sign the petition brought forward by the Sport and Recreation Alliance. A strong response is essential to encourage the UK Government to reconsider.

**Consultation in full** - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforms-to-the-statutory-consultee-system/reforms-to-the-statutory-consultee-system>

**Sport and Recreation Alliance's petition:** <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/735586>

**5. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).** Neeruj continues to monitor all output from the ECB for EDI leads. He remains convinced that we are not 'missing any trick' with regards to EDI, but always retains an open-mind to ensure zero complacency in this area.

**5.1 Our EDI group** (Neeruj, Julie Rafferty, Richard, Gareth Moorhouse, Chris Edwards and Reehan Rather) met on 24 October. It is hoped that a representative from the Women's league will soon join the group.

**5.2 The 2025 EDI census.** The results had been shared with the Board and were discussed at the meeting. Results were shared. Overall the results were positive. We are seeking clarity on whether the results covered CCB employees only or if board members were included.

**5.3 Communities Indoor League.** This year 18 teams are taking part, an increase from 12 teams last winter.

**6. Safeguarding.** Nick referred members to the Safeguarding report prepared by Julie Rafferty and circulated to Board members prior to the meeting (see **Appendix 1**).

**6.1 Proactive Support Plan 2026 (Cricket Regulator/ County Safeguarding Advisor).** The Cricket Regulator /CSAs will introduce a "check in" process for their visits, and for support from a CSA within the Education & Support Team we have been graded as Standard Support Level (see **Appendix 1 item 1 for details**).

**6.2 Serious case review.** This review of a historic case involving a coach from the north east highlights the importance of culture, vigilance and leadership (see Appendix 1 item 2 for details)

**6.3 Safeguarding training.**

**6.3.1 Level 3.** A series of Safe Hands courses for Club SOs is taking place over the winter. And a Safeguarding in the Talent Pathway course will be delivered in early 2026 to new and existing staff members requiring the training.

**6.3.2 Anti-Discrimination.** Clubs will continue to be encouraged to complete the online 'Introducing the Boundary' and 'Youth Boundary' training packages available via the CCB website.

**6.3.3 Board members.** The evening video conference meeting to provide Board members with the appropriate level of safeguarding training will be arranged early in 2026.

**6.3.4 Mental health first aid training (MHFA).** Staff training has been arranged for 19 December 2025, and training for clubs will take place before the start of the 2026 season. Di confirmed her offer to help with club visits if needed.

**6.4 Safeguarding Steering & Support Group (SSSG).** The Board sub-group met on 25 November. The SSSG revised draft of its terms of reference was approved by the SSSG at that meeting. Claire Ashworth has joined the group representing Women and Girls cricket. For the record the SSSG comprises:

Nick Brooks, Board Safeguarding Lead

Julie Rafferty, County Safeguarding Officer

Sarah Hallas, Deputy County Safeguarding Officer, Club Safeguarding Officer Hawk Green CC

Richard Newton

Gavin Colebourn and Jess Lewis - Cheshire CB Performance and Pathway

Sam Smith - Club Safeguarding Officer, Stockport CC

Liz Barrett - Club Safeguarding Officer, Alvanley CC

Claire Ashworth, Safeguarding Officer, Cheshire County Women's League

Lystra Landon, Designated Safeguarding Officer, Cheshire Football

**6.5 Referrals and Low-Level Concerns (LLC).** Nick referred to the referrals and LLCs mentioned in Julie's report (see appendix 1, item 6).

**7. Governance/Risk.** The working group (David, Helen, Richard, Nick, Lauren – supported by Gareth Moorhouse and Mike) met on 21 November and a report was circulated prior to the meeting (see **Appendix 2**).

**7.1 CPA Governance Framework.** The Board delegated authority to the working group to take any actions to conform with the CPA Governance Framework including making changes to our Rules.

**7.2 Skills matrix.** Board members have been invited to complete a skills matrix used to identify any gaps in our skill sets.

**7.3 Directors' identity verifications.** Directors are asked to go through an identification process, a new legal requirement for Directors to verify their identity under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency (ECCT) Act 2023 to reduce the risk of fraud and improve transparency.

**7.4 AGM 2026 Elections/Re-appointments.** Following our exercise to achieve staggered rotation, four Directors are scheduled for re-appointment at the February 2026 AGM: Helen, Joanna, Neeruj and Nick.

**8. Cheshire Women's Cricket League (CWCL).** In Joanna's absence Di referred members to the CWCL report circulated prior to the meeting (**see Appendix 3**).

**8.1 CWCL AGM.** A growth in the number of clubs participating in the hardball divisions (1-4) was finalised. Aligned with that growth a number of additional volunteer officers were appointed.

**8.2 Div 5 and below.** A refreshed lower division structure will strengthen the base of the pyramid and adds further opportunities to support the transition from softball to hardball. Thank you to Jess and the team.

**8.3 2026 Fixture scheduling.** Scheduling fixtures needs to balance league focus and growth with competing priorities.

**8.4 CWCL rules.** A meeting will take place on 14 January when team eligibility, overseas eligibility, rescheduling rules and player loan system will be discussed. The divisional structure may again need to be reviewed with the growing number of clubs and progression of teams through the divisions as performance levels rise. CWCL thanks the CCCL exec for its input on league structure and other topics.

**8.5 2025 season awards.** The award winners have been finalised and are listed in November issue of The Dazzler viewed on the Board's website.

**9. Cheshire County Cricket Club.** Jim referred members to the County Club report circulated prior to the meeting (**see Appendix 4**).

**9.1 Peter Babbage.** Peter Babbage stepped down this year as Head of Cricket. He had worked tirelessly for many years ensuring the best available players were selected each week. Peter is not being replaced. There are plans to share the load in 2026 as Peter takes on the role as President.

**9.2 2025 AGM.** The Accounts to 30 Sept 2024 were approved at the recent AGM and showed a modest surplus.

**9.3 2026 Fixtures.** The fixtures for the 2026 season are being finalized and are available to view on the website.

**9.4 Seniors.** The men's Over 50s competition will no longer be funded by ECB. This means that from 2026 all men's seniors cricket will be self-funded.

**10. Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee (4Cs).** David H referred members to his Clubs Committee report circulated prior to the meeting (**see Appendix 5**). David H referred to the following:

**10.1 County League/ Cheshire League merger.** The CCCL and the CCL have meetings at the end of November when one of the items will be to seek the approval of the clubs for a merger of the two leagues. If approved, the aim is to have one organization from the start of the 2027 season.

**10.2 Girls' teams.** ECB has announced that countrywide all teams in Premier Leagues and Division 1s must have a girls' team that has played at least one game recorded on play-cricket by the end of March 2026, and that any club without a formal girl's team cannot play in either of those divisions from the end of the 2026 season. Gareth and Jess are working with those clubs that currently do not comply, and it is hoped to achieve full compliance by the deadline.

**10.3 Clubs' well being.** A number of smaller clubs are under pressure both playing wise and financially. Leagues and Board officers are working to tackle the issues. On the flip side some clubs are expanding and offering assistance and shelter for those in need.

**10.4 ACO (for Umpires and Scorers).** At a time when the majority of games played across the leagues are umpired by the players the Cheshire ACO is working to try to attract more umpires. With the plan to have panel umpires for Division 1 of the Women's League from 2026 it is important the qualification level for umpiring in Men's and Women's do not conflict with one another.

**11. Cheshire Youth Cricket (CYC).** In Paul's absence Richard referred members to the notes prepared by Paul from the recent CYC Committee meeting and circulated prior to the meeting (**see Appendix 6**).

**11.1 Youth Ambassadors.** It is proposed to appoint an ambassador for each of the age group teams in 2026.

**11.2 Girls representative cricket.** Players moving onto representative cricket would no longer be on a regional basis and there is no longer an expectation for Lancashire to provide access to an EPP programme in Cheshire for regional players.

**11.3 District age-group matches 2026.** Some matches in the district festivals would see coaches also acting as umpires to give feedback to players on a real time basis

**12. AOB.**

**12.1 Over 50s.** Nigel advised that the ECB will not be funding the men's 50s competition on 2026 (see 9.4 above for neatness)

**13. 2026 meetings.**

10am Friday 20 February 2026 at Booths Park, Chelford Road, Knutsford WA16 8GS – AGM followed by Board meeting. **Venue to be confirmed**

Friday 22 May 2026, **time and venue to be advised** – Board meeting

10am Friday 18 September 2026 at Hartford House – Board meeting

10am Friday 4 December 2026 at Hartford House – Board meeting

Signed .....

Appendices referred to above are not available on this version of the minutes.