



THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

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CACO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 19th January 2026 – Moss Farm

Present

Martin Roberts, Brian Horrocks, Ian Greensmith, Peter Hayes, Graham Church, Barry Harwood, Emma Mallinson, Sandra Mason, Parth Kapoor

Apologies

Inge Bevers, Derek Barnett, Barrie Burns, Julie Rafferty

Meeting Opened – 7.05 pm

Previous Minutes

These were accepted as a true record. A review of the actions yielded the following carry over actions

A nomination for a disability representative remains outstanding	AJ
New umpires to the panel should be offered the support of a mentor in their transition	Barrie

Chairman

- ECB changes to regulations and guidelines were promised by the turn of the year. Nothing significant has changed. Age cricket remains a topic for Cheshire to get to grips with. CCL intend to adopt ECB wording intact. CCCL still wish to have a modified form involving year 7 and 8 pupils.

Clarify and oversee the wording chosen for handbooks	Martin
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- John Farrell has moved on within ECB circles to a national role. It is proposed that Michael Grosset will replace him. However, he is based in Wales and there are concerns over the scope of the (now) 3 regional officer's roles.
- A potential merger between the two Cheshire senior leagues (CCCL and CCL) is actively being discussed. Four workstreams are evaluating that potential for a 2027 implementation. Early indications are that it could succeed.
- Given the potential above, it has been decided to recommend we hold umpires expenses at last year's rates (£70 premier, £60 elsewhere, and £35 for T20. We will be requesting uplift in expenses to the merged league in 2027..



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- CYC expenses should also remain unchanged with the exception that back to back T20 matches should incur expenses of £55. Schools expenses would ideally follow CYC.
- John Edmonds is leaving the area resulting in the loss of a Cheshire Developer.. We have been unsuccessful, to date, in attracting any new developers leaving us critically short. We are able to buy in external resources; however, we should provide it through our own county resources. The search continues.
- We have a potential sponsor for a blue jacket specifically for T20 cricket. If we are successful in this venture then we can clarify the policy as White jackets for red ball cricket and blue jackets for pink ball. At this stage we are uncertain whether the proposals will include Ladies jackets.

Establish the potential for both Ladies and Mens fit jackets
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Martin

Secretary

Correspondence was summarised from the following areas, all of which was covered to some degree in the agenda:

- ✓ Requests for umpires (Graham C)
- ✓ Query about pitch markings in CCL (Graham C)
- ✓ Umpires expenses protocol (Geoff Douse)
- ✓ Live streaming (various)
- ✓ Social Media Policy
- ✓ Umpire performance (Martin)
- ✓ DBS trials and tribulations (various)
- ✓ Women's cricket discussion paper (Emma)
- ✓ Sandra scoring at Old Trafford (various)
- ✓ End of season meeting (various)
- ✓ ECB changes to DBS (ECB)
- ✓ Umpire training survey results (David Elworthy)
- ✓ Umpiring course (Gareth Moorhouse)
- ✓ ECB regulations update (Gareth Moorhouse and Martin)
- ✓ Richie Beckett sad news (Richie Beckett)
- ✓ Teas at Woodford (Peter Hayes)
- ✓ Membership list (Graham)
- ✓ Panel invitation (various)
- ✓ ECB personnel changes

Under other secretarial business we covered:

- AGM dates were summarised for the various cricketing bodies that affect us. CCL will be 4th February at Holmes Chapel, CCCL 11th February at Bowdon, 4Cs on 18th February at Moss Farm and our own CACO on 24th February at Moss Farm.

Prepare AGM papers for circulation

Brian



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Treasurer

- Barry summarised the financial position, with the accounts having now been externally audited.
- The ECB funding status remains unresolved. ECB are seeking to have county organisations contributing more where bank accounts can fund it. We are waiting to hear the latest funding recommendation from ECB.
- Membership fees for 2026 will remain at £5 for umpires payable by BACS or cash at the AGM. Scorers are free.

Membership

- Graham reported the latest membership figures which number over 200. The active umpires list is 103 strong. As usual, there are some ‘border’ issues to sort out for umpires who have addresses outside Cheshire.
- The level of correspondence to members was reported as being satisfactory and welcomed.. However, a request has been made for quarterly publication., but Graham cannot commit to this. In addition, Graham has requested articles for inclusion from the membership but these are not forthcoming, hence Graham communicates only when there is need to do so. The good news is that the newsletter is appreciated.
- Score card designs have been drafted. There is a possibility that existing stocks (from CCCL) may cover our needs in 2026. The cards are ‘neutral’ in that they do not specify CCL or CCL.

Check stocks of cards and confirm there is no need to purchase in 2026	Martin Graham
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- We still experience some issues with DBS. Neither Graham nor Martin are able to resolve these issues but will continue to support and advise the membership. We will send out a reminder about the process with the AGM papers

Add the DBS process to the AGM papers as a reminder	Graham Brian
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Appointments

Ian has sent out 103 invites to join the 2026 panel. At the time of writing 65 have replied offering to umpire both senior leagues. 22 wish to umpire in CCL only. We have a single umpire who can only commit to T20. One umpire is a women’s and youth only. There are still outstanding replies. Additionally the invitees were asked to support women’s cricket as division 1 will be officiated by independent umpires in 2026.



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Education

Inge had pre-circulated her report and it is reproduced here

- Umpiring courses – completed and scheduled (we have no umpire courses planned other than the CPD sessions; hopefully with an increasing number of new panel umpires, this will make an umpire course similar to the previously used Stage 3 viable - I have been informed that this course is 'next' on the development list for the ACO education group)
- outside of our remit but information available: CCB has scheduled and confirmed 2 ECB New Umpire Training Courses (1 on 18/1 if the eventual number is sufficient to make it viable, and 1 on 14/3); as far as I'm aware they are aiming for 5-6 per calendar year - in 2025 there were 4; February, May (all women), June, August while there was a change in roles at CCB)
- Scoring courses – a series of scoring courses has been advertised on CCB and league web sites.
- CPD policies and approach in 2025/26 (this is known and has been discussed last meeting. To date 6 umpires have registered. Due to illness, Graham could not send the information before Christmas - it had been relayed to him for distribution on 18 December.
- I will send a separate email to candidates of the Umpire Training Courses held in 2025 to invite them to register for the UDC variant that includes the zoom session)
- ECB training survey overview – this was discussed showing the various preferences for receiving training. The majority favour face to face training for the peer group interaction. On-line training will have many uses and we should expect to see this form of training regularly. The note from ECB is attached to the minutes.

Umpire Development

No report

Scorers

Sandra reported on the new and recently implemented ECB scoring courses. We are taking every opportunity to emphasise scoring within the leagues. The AGM is a further window for this. .

Add a note about scoring courses to the AGM notices	Graham Brian
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Women's Cricket

- Eight teams will compete in division 1 of the Cheshire Women's Cricket League. Independent umpires will be used. We will not ask the captains to utilise WTU just yet for submission of captains reports. However, WTU will be used fully for appointments. The clubs are still to finally ratify this, in which case Ian and Emma will need to move quickly to set up WTU. Out of county teams and out of county umpires might cause some concerns in



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the set up so time will be of the essence.

- Umpires wishing to develop along the women's pathway (W4) will need to stand in 7 fixtures (assuming criteria for ECB umpire pathway remains same as for 2025 season) along with achieving the requisite marks in the Intermediate Laws exam and submitting supporting evidence.

Establish the exact position and trigger the setup of WTU	Emma Ian
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- Where umpires travel out of county to officiate, we are suggesting that an extra £10 flat fee is added to the match expenses to cover travel costs.

BAME

Parth reported on several opportunities to attract officials who would need to do the training courses

Disability cricket

No report available

Safeguarding

No report available.