

CHESHIRE CRICKET BOARD LIMITED
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT CHESHIRE FA OFFICES, MOSS FARM COMPLEX, NORTHWICH
FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM 10.00am

1. Attendance: Nigel Muirhead (Chair), Di Totty (Vice Chair), Richard Newton (Managing Director), Neeruj Luthra (Independent Non-Executive Director), Helen Nicholson (Non-Executive Director), Scott Elliott (Management Group Chair and Senior Independent Non-Executive Director), Joanna Seddon (Non-Executive Director), Sarah Hallas (Non-Executive Director), David Humpage (Clubs), Jim Law (County Club), Paul Brown (CYC), Julie Rafferty (County Safeguarding Officer – Invited for Agenda Item 8), Nick Brooks (Secretary).

Apologies: David Sharp (Secretary), Mike Guest (Treasurer), Lauren Forrester (Independent Non-Executive Director).

2. Board Personnel Changes. At Nigel's invitation, Nick outlined recent Board personnel changes.

- Nick has joined the Board as Clubs & Compliance Officer and therefore ceases to be Board Safeguarding Lead (BSL) and a Non-Executive Director.
- A Nominations Committee (NC) led by Nigel and Di had identified Sarah Hallas as a suitable candidate for the role of Board Safeguarding Lead. The NC interviewed Sarah and subsequently recommended that the Board approve her appointment as Non-Executive Director and Board Safeguarding Lead. This recommendation had previously been agreed by the Board and was further ratified at the meeting. Sarah had been invited to the meeting and was welcomed to the Board.
- David would be stepping down as Secretary and would be replaced by Nick Brooks. This proposed appointment had previously been notified to the Board and was ratified and confirmed at the meeting. David would also step down as a Director, but would continue to offer business support to the Board's day to day activities. For the avoidance of doubt, it was confirmed that the Secretary does not need to be a director. Nigel recognised and paid tribute to David's pivotal role over an extended period with the Cheshire Cricket Board, expressing the Board's collective gratitude and thanks for his invaluable personal contribution to both the Cheshire Cricket Board and cricket in Cheshire generally. All members of the Board echoed this recognition and shared their appreciation and sincere thanks for David's contribution.
- It was confirmed that Mike would be retiring as the Treasurer and would cease to be a director at the 2027 AGM. The importance of ensuring effective financial oversight for the Board was discussed, and Scott referenced the requirement to succession plan for the role of Treasurer/Finance Director in the time available. It was agreed that succession planning represented a key Board requirement moving forward, a point also referenced in continuing Governance work.

3. Minutes of the meeting 22 May 2026. The minutes were agreed and signed by the chair as a true record:

4. Matters arising from the meeting 22 May 2026.

4.1 CPA Governance (item 5.2 of 22 May meeting minutes refers – Governance Group would discuss the best way to present aspects of the accreditation scheme and Governance to others on the Board at a virtual meeting (to be arranged)). Nick explained that this matter remained under review. Building on David's impressive work on Governance over an extended period, detailed review of CPA and County Governance Framework Requirements was continuing and hoped to be concluded by the end of October. Actions and reviews were being progressed and key points identified included External Accreditation requirements. It was noted that an update on Governance would be shared later in the meeting and that the Governance and Risk Group would continue to review options for cascading information and briefing the Board (including convening a Governance focused Teams meeting) as the continuing review is progressed.

5. Management Group (MG). Richard referred to the minutes of the MG meeting held on 27 August 2026 which had been circulated to the Directors and Member representatives prior to the Board meeting.

5.1 The Hundred – Richard highlighted that the CCB Facilities officer continues to seek potential projects for consideration for support from the sale of the Hundred (Building Belongings), each aligned to the CCB Facilities Strategy. This process was continuing and the focus was to identify projects which benefit cricket and clubs in Cheshire.

5.2 Finance – Richard highlighted the banking updates included in the MG Minutes (Section 4. Finance) and the intention to prepare draft accounts for approval at the next Board meeting.

5.3 Staff and Officials – Richard highlighted new staffing appointments, including investment in the role of Clubs and Compliance Officer to provide dedicated resource for Governance work and work with Clubs, the latter requirement being highlighted by impending Club Accreditation requirements. The sharing of further detail and processes regarding Club Accreditation requirements was expected soon, with 4 clubs having completed a pilot scheme and over 90 clubs to accredit and likely to require Board support or input.

5.4 CCB Countywide Strategic Plan Quarterly Progress Report – Richard shared a slide presentation reviewing the 5 CCB Strategic Priorities, associated Progress Reports and associated Enablers. The Report confirmed a good overall position, with success measures on track or ahead of schedule.

- 6. Governance/Risk.** The Governance/Risk working group met on 1 May, and notes of the meeting had been circulated prior to the Board meeting (see **Appendix 1**).
- 6.1 Personnel Matters and Appointment of new Director.** See item 2 above. In addition, it was noted that Scott, Nigel, Di and Lauren would be scheduled for reappointment at the AGM in February 2027.
- 6.2 County Governance Framework and Gold Accreditation scheme.** Nick updated the Board that a detailed review is being conducted and finalised in respect of CPA2 and related County Governance Framework (CGF) Requirements. The continuing review is focusing on Gold, Silver and Bronze tiered accreditation criteria and related evidential requirements including CCB Policies, Role descriptions, Committee Terms of Reference and related matters. It is planned that the Review will be finalised by the end of October 2026 and Nick highlighted that it is probable that Directors will be asked by the Governance Group to assist with updates of key documents as necessary, including role descriptions and Terms of Reference. Key issues identified include the requirement for an external Board Effectiveness Review of its own skills and performance, which it is intended will be discussed with the ECB, the CGF Gold tier requirement that each organisation shall publish an annual update on its work to improve its governance and Gold and Silver tier requirements regarding the role of the Nominations Committee, including issues involving Succession Planning, Skills Audit and Induction processes. Nick further updated that the CPA2/CGF framework for assessing compliance will be based on a submission and review of a self-assessment of bronze and silver tier requirements, and a self-assessment of Gold-tier requirements which would be reviewed by I Trust Sport using score definitions. In addition to the paper-based review, interviews would be conducted with a minimum of 2 individuals, likely including the Executive and Non-Executive Governance leads. It was again agreed that an exercise to brief Board members on key Governance requirements and updates would be beneficial as the continuing review progresses and Helen indicated that an online briefing may constitute the preferred option for achieving this. This requirement would be kept under review, and the Board would be updated further. Helen also highlighted the importance when conducting continuing Governance review work of ensuring that Governance processes are appropriate and serve the Cheshire Cricket Board model and wider requirements in addition to ECB requirements.
- 6.3 Amendments to Board's Rules.** Proposed changes to the CCB Rules based primarily on identified CGF requirements and highlighted in a revised version of the Rules circulated to Board members prior to the Meeting (listed in **Appendix 1**) were formally adopted.
- 6.4 Risk Register (RR).** The RR would require further review and agreement at the next Board meeting to meet biannual review requirements.
- 7. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).** A list of current EDI Initiatives was circulated prior to the meeting (see **Appendix 2**). Neeruj updated that the EDI Strategy Group is planning to meet in October and that a further update would be provided at the next Board meeting. The continuing initiatives highlighted include the appointment of 2 new coaching officers to support Board activities including EDI initiatives and the Board welcomed the additional benefits of the expanded CCB Player Ambassador Scheme. An EDI Census had been circulated to staff and non-executive directors and required completion by 7th October. It was agreed that the e-mail covering the EDI Census link would be resent and it was requested that it be completed ahead of the deadline.
- 8. Safeguarding.** Julie had been invited to attend the Board meeting, and her Safeguarding report (see **Appendix 3**) had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 8.1 CPA Update –** Julie updated that Ellie White, Cricket Regulator County Safeguarding Advisor had visited Cheshire in July 2026 attending the second Dynamos Finals Day at Warrington Sports Club. This has been a useful opportunity to meet staff and for key updates on safeguarding activity to be shared, including safeguarding cases, reporting and recording practices; the Mental Health Club Champions programme and wider mental health initiatives and updates regarding Player Ambassadors and the Young Cricket Collective; The effective management of safeguarding threshold cases and lower-level concerns was acknowledged, together with the continuing development of safeguarding-related projects across Cheshire. The next check-in will be October/November 2026.
- 8.2 Policy Development.** An updated CCB Safeguarding Policy Statement and a Trauma Informed Low Level Concerns Policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Board reviewed and approved both documents for adoption. In addition, Board members reviewed and signed an updated Code of Conduct for Board members.
- 8.3 Training and Development.** Julie provided updates regarding Safe Hands (Level 3) training for Club Safeguarding Officers, Safeguarding in the Talent Pathway training and Board Safeguarding Training, which is in the process of being updated for delivery. Julie further updated plans in respect of CSO Network Meetings in October and reported on Mental Health Club Champion (MHCC) network meetings held in June, together with plans to train additional MHCCs in 2027.
- 8.4 Player Ambassador Programme.** Julie provided further details of the Programme and the role of Henry Dobson who had provided informed input regarding mindset and mental health. There had been numerous positive examples of “you said, we did” including warm-ups and sports psychology input. The potential role of

Player Ambassadors and links to the Young Cricket Collective in clubs were discussed and potential benefits for personal and club development acknowledged.

8.5 Club Visits. Julie provided an update on a programme of 15 visits focused on activities and safeguarding culture.

8.6 GDPR. Julie highlighted the invaluable support of Lauren in managing a recent GDPR related case, which had served to highlight the importance of compliance with GDPR and related requirements, and associated risks to the Board and clubs. In addition, it was identified that there had been legislative changes which required further review and action. It was agreed that the Board needed to focus on developing expertise/access to skills in this area. Sarah highlighted that she had worked in a GDPR space previously.

8.7 Safeguarding Cases and Panel Activity. Julie provided an update on Threshold and Low-Level Concerns since the last meeting, including recurring themes and issues. These included inappropriate and aggressive behaviour toward junior players and instances of increased aggression generally and the risk of “learned behaviour”. Julie worked closely with League Discipline Officers and identification of cases featuring under 18s identified training and development needs. It was agreed that Julie would produce a Comparative Report of the number and categories of Safeguarding Incidents and Cases to inform Board review and consideration.

8.8 Congratulations. Nigel congratulated Julie on the successful completion of her postgraduate Leading Culture Change and Safeguarding qualification course and the positive benefit for the Board and safeguarding generally.

9. Women and Girls. Joanna referred to the Women and Girl's Report which had been circulated prior to the meeting (see **Appendix 4**), setting out details of a successful season, key results and league/cup outcomes.

9.1 League Results and Highlights. Joanne summarised key results and updates from the CWCL season, including some outstanding performances and finishes in leagues and cup competitions, both within the CWCL and externally, including national competitions and the Thunder Cup meaning a CWCL club had won the competition in both seasons. Key headlines were fewer rearrangements, some new names and clubs (including Whalley Range) and shared success and the wide number of clubs engaging. Detailed results are published in The Dazzler regularly and the Board acknowledged the work of Martin Saxon for the excellent job he does in keeping all of us updated with progress.

9.2 Cheshire Pyramid. Joanna highlighted the potential for the 2nd division to stabilize and grow in size, representing a pathway into division 1 and the growth throughout the pyramid, with the offer of different playing formats and positive impacts on the numbers of clubs and teams now participating. Women's Cricket in Cheshire has remained in a strong and stable position, with growth in playing offers and fixtures, and increased numbers of sections, teams and fixtures,

9.3 Fixture Scheduling. Multiple commitments including the Thunder Cup, National T20 knockout, Tier 3 games and age group cricket continue to present challenges for the CWCL existing set-up for league scheduling and for clubs to manage fixture clashes whilst trying to field competitive teams and maintain a high standard of cricket. In effect, Thunder Cup and Nationals fixtures (when teams progress) cannot be fully accommodated within the 24 Sundays of the season together with 14 league fixtures in Division 1. Joanna explained that the Thunder Cup competition is under review and that that it remains to be seen how this will sit alongside the existing CWCL competitions and whether clubs end up being in a position where they have to choose one competition over another. This matter remains the subject of discussion between CWCL, LCF and clubs and the Board will be updated accordingly and appropriately.

9.4 Girls. 2026 has seen a significant growth in girls' cricket in Cheshire, based on a targeted approach to club development, combined with the profile of the ICC Women's World Cup. In 2025 Cheshire had 34 girls' sections, in 2026 it has 56, an increase of 22 sections. The corresponding number of girls teams has risen from 78 in 2025 to 108 in 2026. The impact of this expansion is further reflected in fixture volume.

10. Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee. David referred to his CCCC Report (see **Appendix 5**) circulated prior to the meeting, setting out details of a successful season, key results and league/cup outcomes.

10.1 Proposed Merger. A meeting of the CCCL and CCL regarding the proposed merger of the Leagues will be held on 12th October. The league will continue to be called the Cheshire County Cricket League, and clubs will consider a proposal for the merged league to be run on an open basis. The initial structure of the new League therefore remains subject to a vote and agreement.

10.2 Facilities. There is continued pressure on facilities with grounds being in constant use throughout the week and at weekend, impacting access to facilities and the ability for volunteer groundsmen to work on pitches.

10.3 Umpires. The shortage of umpires is also an issue, with problems with umpire recruitment and appointing panel umpires across the Leagues. A working party has been proposed post season to examine ways of covering games. The appointment of panel umpires to the Women's Division 1 games has been a success with all games covered, however there were continuing concerns and pressures regarding the numbers of panel umpires generally.

11. Cheshire Youth Cricket. Paul referred to his CYC Report (see **Appendix 6**) circulated prior to the meeting, setting out details of a successful season for boys and girls representative sides including key results and respective competition outcomes. The performance of the Girls under 16s with 10 wins out of 10 in their T20

competition a season highlight. Dave Atkinson will be meeting with the junior leagues to review the 2026 season.

11.1 District Programme. Gavin Colebourn and his team have delivered a much-expanded District programme to reflect the lack of CAG fixtures below the under 13s, although there were a number of “best of” representative fixtures for the under 11 and under 12 age groups toward the end of the season. This represented an extended commitment for staff/resources.

11.2 Altrincham Boys. The Board recognised the achievement of Altrincham Boys Grammar School including CYC representative players as the inaugural winners of the Knight-Stokes cup, winning the final at Lords.

11.3 Cheshire Schools Cricket Association. David Hill (President, Cheshire Schools Cricket Association) has contacted Gavin Colebourn to understand how CYC can assist or support the running of the Association. These discussions are continuing.

11.4 CYC Treasurer. Work is continuing to identify a successor as Treasurer for when Mike Guest retires.

12. Cheshire County Cricket Club. Jim referred to his Report (**see Appendix 7**) which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

12.1 First Eleven. The season featured extensive travel and white-ball cricket provided the seasons main playing highlights, with the team reaching the national final of the 50 over competition before losing to Berkshire in Ipswich, and progressing to the Super 12s in the T20s. The red ball fixtures had seen 2 draws followed by defeats to Cornwall and Wales. Additionally, an entertaining Showcase fixture was held at Nantwich versus a good Derbyshire side. The extensive travel requirements this season would impact on budgets and finances. It appears that the first eleven has finished in 7th place in the NCCA county ratings, which represented a good outcome.

12.2 Second Eleven. The Second Eleven had played a number of competitive fixtures and there was clear evidence of a motivation to progress from the Pathway into National Counties Cricket. Further players notably Liam Clorley and Jack Collett as examples had stepped up into the first eleven and performed impressively, and the second eleven management team was determined to maintain and develop progress.

12.3 Cheshire Host Grounds. Feedback from other counties highlighted the quality of playing facilities which have hosted first and second eleven fixtures in Cheshire, and appreciation and thanks to all host clubs this season was recorded, notably Alderley Edge, Bowdon, Chester Boughton Hall, Didsbury, Macclesfield, Marple, Neston, New Brighton, Nantwich, Oxton and Toft.

12.4 Management Structure. A new management structure had responded with flexibility, enthusiasm and good humour to a range of challenges with secretarial work, financial management and budgeting, membership, team organisation, scoring and communications overseen effectively throughout the season.

12.4. Pete Babbage. The passing of Pete Babbage, Cheshire CCC President was a huge blow and a sad loss to all. Pete/s funeral was held in Bramhall in August and was attended by many of his cricket friends and bore fitting testimony to the affection in which he was held and his enormous contribution to Cheshire CCC. On behalf of the Board, Nigel paid tribute to Pete and the fact that he would be sadly missed, referencing the massive gap his sad passing has left behind.

12.5 Jim Law. Jim confirmed that he will be stepping down from his Cheshire CCC role and responsibilities. The Cheshire CCC AGM will be held in November 2026, and a successor will be identified. On behalf of the Board, Nigel formally thanked Jim for his 20+ years of service and his input, involvement and commitment to Cheshire Cricket.

13. AOB.

13.1 Veterans Cricket. The representation of Veteran's Cricket (Cheshire representative over 50s, 60s and 70s) was discussed. It was noted that these groups are effectively self-managed and that veteran's cricket is continuing to grow. It was noted that the governance and representation of Cheshire's veteran representative teams should be subject to further review, whether this sat with the Cheshire County Cricket Club or representation on the Board. In the first instance the matter would be discussed at the management group meeting with a recommendation to discuss at the December Board meeting.

13.2 ECB NED Induction Sessions. Nick would re-circulate an email received from the ECB offering places at opt-in Development sessions for Non-Executive Directors. There were 2 online sessions available, and the focus was Governance, Board effectiveness and strategic direction.

14. Remaining 2026 meeting.

Friday 4 December 2026 10am at Cheshire FA Office, Moss Farm Complex, Northwich.

Signed

Appendices follow below.

Appendix 1 – Highlights of Governance group meeting – 11th September 2026 and Note of Proposed Rule Changes

Present – Richard Newton, David Sharp, Nick Brooks, Gareth Moorhouse

Personnel Matters and Appointment of new Director. Nick Brooks has joined the Board as Clubs & Compliance Officer and will cease to be Board Safeguarding Lead (BSL) and a Director.

A Nominations Committee (NC) led by Nigel and Di had identified Sarah Hallas (Deputy County Safeguarding Officer) as a suitable candidate for the role of BSL as a Non-Executive Director. The NC has interviewed Sarah and believed her to be a very able candidate. The NC has recommended that the Board approves the proposal that Sarah is appointed BSL. It was agreed that the Board Members would be formally notified and asked to confirm agreement/objections to the proposed appointment by close Monday 14th September.

David Sharp was intending to step down as Board Secretary and will also cease to be a Board Director. David would continue to offer business support to the Board's day to day activities. It was planned that Nick Brooks would assume the role of Secretary to the Board. It was noted that the Secretary does not need to be a Director and Members of the Board would be notified and asked to advise if any objections to this proposal.

Mike Guest will be retiring as CCB Treasurer at the 2027 AGM. Mike will also cease to be a Director.

The following Directors are scheduled for re-appointment at the 2027 AGM: Scott, Nigel, Di and Lauren. Subject to the continuing appointment process, the Board Directors from February 2027 will be:

Nigel Muirhead	Chair
Di Totty	Vice-Chair
Scott Elliott	Independent Non-Executive Director, Chair of the CCB Management Group and Senior Independent Director
Richard Newton	Executive Director (Ex Officio), Managing Director
Joanna Seddon	Non-Executive Director, Women & Girls Lead
Neeruj Luthra	Independent Non-Executive Director, EDI Lead and Marketing Lead
Helen Nicholson	Non-Executive Director, Governance Lead
Lauren Forrester	Independent Non-Executive Director, Legal Lead and Governance Group
Sarah Hallas	Non-Executive Director, Safeguarding Lead

The Board Membership as above is consistent with CPA2 requirements.

County Governance Framework and Gold Accreditation scheme. A detailed review is being conducted and finalised in respect of CPA2 and related County Governance Framework Requirements and Gold Accreditation Scheme. A number of further amendments and updates to the CCB Rules had been identified and will be outlined

in a separate document for review by the Board. Note - It will be recommended that the Board agrees the aforementioned amendments/additions to the Rules at the September Board meeting.

In addition to the CCB Rules, the continuing review is also focusing on the Gold, Silver and Bronze tiered accreditation criteria and related evidential requirements including CCB Policies, Role descriptions, Committee Terms of Reference and related matters. It is probable that Directors will be asked by the Governance Group to assist with continuing reviews and updates of key documents as necessary, including role descriptions and Terms of Reference. Key issues identified include -

- 13.2 Gold Tier - Every four years the Board will undertake an external Board Effectiveness Review of its own skills and performance. This requirement and the continuing CPA2 External Accreditation requirements will be reviewed and discussed with the ECB.
- 14.2 Gold Tier – Each organisation shall publish an annual update on its work to improve its governance.
- 9.1-9.4 Gold and Silver Tier requirements regarding the role of the Nominations Committee. The County Governance Framework details potential Nominations Committee involvement in issues including several other Gold Tier requirements, including Succession Planning, Skills Audit and Induction processes.

The CPA2/CGF framework for assessing compliance (the Gold Accreditation Scheme) will include -

- CCB - review prior submissions of bronze and silver self-assessment to confirm continued compliance and up to date; completion of a self-assessment relating to the Gold scoring criteria and provision of relevant evidence and explanation and completing a Statement of Compliance.
- I Trust Sport – externally review each of Gold requirements against score definitions, calculate scores and review (not score Bronze/silver). Interviews will then be conducted (minimum two conversations) with Executive Governance Lead and the Non-Executive Governance Lead. An additional INED and/or Chair may also be invited for interview. Questions will focus on understanding compliance with Gold requirements and last no more than 30 minutes. Final scores will be calculated based on the same scale as the desk review and finalised scores will be the average of the desk review and interview scores.

It was noted that the continuing review work will contribute to both elements of this framework.

Risk Register review. The CCB Risk Register was reviewed by the Board in May 2026. In accordance with the CPA2 requirement for biannual review, the Risk Register will be subject to further formal review in the November Board meeting.

Cheshire CB Governance – Suggested additions and CCB Rule Updates 2026

‘Further amendments and additions to the CCB Rules are recommended based on continuing Governance review conducted further to CCB internal requirements and CPA2 and County Governance Framework tiered requirements.

Article 16 of the CCB Articles of Association (copy attached) provides for the directors to make such rules “as they consider necessary or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Company and for the purposes of prescribing the classes of and conditions of membership” (Article 16.1(a)). The Rules of the Cheshire Cricket Board state “a resolution to amend these Rules may be made at a Board meeting” (Rule 1.3).

Further to review of the CCB Rules, the following amendments in red (or otherwise explained) are presented for the Board’s approval.

Amendment of Rule	Rationale/explanation
Definitions and Interpretation – Pages 3 to 6	Addition and amendment of definitions applied in the Rules, which reflect definitions in the CPA2/County Governance Framework’ or which are intended to assist interpretation of key terms.
3.2.3 Page 7	Incorporates reference to compliance with key ECB and CR requirements.

4.1.1 Page 7 - EDI	Inserts updated reference to EDI Action Plan and Anti-Discrimination Regulations.
5.1.1 – 5.1.6 - Safeguarding	Amendments update references to Safeguarding
9.2.2 – Insert “A minimum of 25% Non-Executive Directors who are Independent from the organisation, one of whom may be appointed as Senior Independent Director”.	Applies Gold Requirement 2.4.e) CGF Final Framework
9.2.3 – Insert “A minimum of 25% Non-Executive Appointed Directors who are appointed through a Nominations Committee and ratified by the members where relevant”.	Applies Silver Requirement 2.4.b) CGF Final Framework
9.2.4 – Insert “two Ex-Officio Executive”	Applies Gold Requirement 2.4.c) CGF Final Framework
9.2.7 – Insert “In exceptional circumstances, a Director may be co-opted onto the Board if this is necessary to ensure that the Board has the skills and/or experience necessary to fulfil its role”.	Applies Bronze Requirement 2.4.d) CGF Final Framework
10.5 – Insert “The Board and Managing Director, led by the Chair, shall undertake, maintain a record of and act upon, an annual evaluation of its own skills and performance, both as a collective and as individuals. The evaluation of the Chair shall be led by the Senior Independent Director”.	Applies Silver Requirement 13.1) CGF Final Framework
10.10 – Insert “ In particular, before a Director is appointed, they shall sign a letter of appointment to confirm that he/she is not prevented or restricted from acting as a Director; and understands the role and responsibilities he/she is expected to fulfil”.	Reinstates previous Rule wording and reflects appointment process. Mirrors wording for Chair in Rule 11.2.2
10.11 – Insert “The Board shall adopt a Code of Conduct that amongst other things, requires all Directors to act: a) In the best interests of the organisation b) with integrity, selflessness, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership c) in a manner consistent with their legal duties”	Applies Bronze Requirement 11.1) CGF Final Framework
20.2 – Insert “membership (which may include Non-Executive Directors, executive staff and independents),”	Applies Silver Requirement wording 4.3) CGF Final Framework

25.1 – Insert “25.1 In addition to the Annual Report referenced in Rule 3(2)(6) above,”	Provides clarification in respect of the distinction between reporting requirements.
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Appendix 2 – Note of Current EDI Initiatives (Neeruj Luthra)

- **EDI Strategic Fund (£60,000)** - Awarded by ECB for initiatives which promote equity, diversity and inclusion in Cheshire Cricket. Fund runs April 2026 to March 2027, with some of the associated activities discussed below.
- **New staff** - CCB employed two new coaching officers, Emily Page and Nevan Maisuria, to support board activities including EDI initiatives.
- **Communities Outdoor League** - Expanded from 8 to 10 teams, with fixtures played at Lymm CC and Kingsway School. 100 unique participants and a weekly average of 80. Participants will be surveyed about their experience to help shape plans for 2027. End of season write up needed for CCB website.
- **Communities Indoor League** - Due to recommence in October 2026. League has expanded from 18 to 24 teams (144 weekly participants) - our biggest ever community initiative.
- **ECB Umpire Course** - To support the sustainability of the above leagues, teams have been allocated a free place on an upcoming ECB Umpire Course, which will be staged before the Indoor League commences.
- **Debayan Day** - New panel umpire Debayan Dey was featured on the CCB website, showcasing his development opportunity at a [Hundred match at Headingley](#). Wisden are also interested in the story.
- **Disability District Festival** - For the first time in 2026, CCB ran a Disability District Festival. This took place across 3 venues (OPCC, Bramhall, New Brighton) with 26 participants from our Super 9s and Super 1s programmes.
- **Super 1s numbers** - have grown, with 87 unique participants across our six community hubs.
- **CCB Player Ambassador Scheme** - 21 children involved this year (up from 2 previously!). Ambassadors engaged in collecting feedback from fellow players and driving positive change across the Pathway. A rewards day was held at Old Trafford on August 9th, where Ambassadors were certificated.
- **EDI staff training** - In September, all CCB attended mandatory EDI training modules on 'bystander intervention' and 'banter and microaggression'. We have now completed 4 out of 6 training courses, with the remaining sessions to be completed by end of 2027.
- **EDI Census** - A copy of the 2026 EDI Census has been circulated to staff and non-executive directors - this needs to be completed by 7th October (19 replies to date). The census involves a survey with a range of questions about who you are (e.g., your gender and ethnicity) but it also asks how you feel about inclusion and fairness in our organisation.
- **What's coming up?** Next meeting of Board's Inclusion Strategy Group scheduled for October. CCB to update EDI Action Plan / Impact Report before end of calendar year in line with CPA requirements

Appendix 3 – Safeguarding Report (Julie Rafferty)

1. CPA update - Cricket Regulator County Safeguarding Advisor Visit

The Cricket Regulator County Safeguarding Advisor, Ellie White, visited Cheshire on 14 July 2026, attending the second Dynamos Finals Day at Warrington Sports Club. She commented positively on the strong turnout and the organisation of the event.

The visit provided an opportunity to meet staff and for the County Safeguarding Officer (CoSO) to provide an update on key areas of safeguarding activity, including:

- Safeguarding cases, reporting rates and recording practices;
- The Mental Health Club Champions programme and wider ongoing mental health initiative
- Player Ambassadors and the Young Cricket Collective.

Ellie acknowledged the effective management of safeguarding thresholds and lower-level concerns. She also responded positively to the continued development of safeguarding-related projects and initiatives across Cheshire, particularly those designed to strengthen support available to clubs and young players.

The next “check-in” is scheduled for October/ November 2026

2. Policy Development

Current policy development work includes:

- CCB Safeguarding Policy statement has been reviewed and amended, in line with the update from the ECB (circulated before the meeting)
- Low Level Concerns Policy has been reviewed and amended, to be more trauma informed (circulated before the meeting)
- Mental Health & Well-being Policy is still in development. When the draft is ready this will be circulated for wider consultation with a view to the policy being implemented before the start of the 2027 season

3. Training and Development

Safe Hands (Level 3) – Club Safeguarding Officers

Dates and venues are currently being finalised for the delivery of Safe Hands courses from November 2026 to April 2027. It is anticipated that at least 6 courses will be delivered to accommodate CSO's whose qualifications will need renewing as well as CSO's who are standing down from role.

Safeguarding in the Talent Pathway

Most CCB staff and volunteers involved in the District and County Age group programmes will need Safeguarding in the Talent Pathway training in 2027. The course is currently being updated by the Cricket Regulator. It's expected that this course will be delivered to CCB staff and volunteers in either December 2026 or February 2027.

Board Safeguarding Training

The Board Safeguarding training is currently being updated by the Cricket Regulator, once this is made available, training will be delivered to all board members.

CSO Network Meetings

Online 'End of Season' CSO network meetings are currently being organised for dates in October 2026. These will provide the CSO's an opportunity to discuss the challenges and the successes of the season, as well as the CoSO outlining the cases reported throughout the season, themes and the good practice taking place in the clubs.

Mental Health Club Champions (MHCC) network meetings

Five online MHCC network meetings took place in June. With nearly 60% attendance, it was an opportunity for the MHCC to discuss their role and what steps that had taken to start to embed a better culture at the club relating to attitudes towards mental health. There were some great examples offered by the MHCC's, including a dedicated area in one club of resources and support and a buddy bench has been introduced at several grounds.

Support will continue for the MHCC's, with the hope of further funding to train additional MHCC, to create a bigger network of MHCC's for 2027.

4. Player Ambassador Programme

Activity and contact with the Player Ambassadors have continued throughout the season, with online forums and questionnaires taking place on a monthly basis. Their efforts and dedication were rewarded by being offered the opportunity to attend a county cup game at Old Trafford on 7 August. At least a third of the Player Ambassadors were able to attend, together with the young people who completed the Young Cricket Collective volunteering programme.

The Player Ambassador programme will continue and hopefully expand to include more young people, with more opportunities to lead and have a voice about cricket in Cheshire.

5. Club Visits

Club visits have taken place between June and August. Clubs have appreciated the opportunity to discuss concerns and cases face to face with the CoSO, as well as outlining the club profile, developments and activities.

The purpose of the club visits has been to help and support all clubs with their safeguarding processes and create a healthy safeguarding culture, encouraging them to complete the club safeguarding self-assessment, providing an outline of their status and any further work that needs to be completed

6. Safeguarding cases and panel activity

Since the last board meeting the following has been reported:

Threshold - 6	Low level concerns - 27	Panel Activity - 1
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Appendix 4 – Women and Girls Report (Joanna Seddon and Jess Lewis)

Cheshire Women's Cricket League

League results and highlights

After a season of mostly sunshine and wonderful weather, all but one of the outcomes of the CWCL fixture program have now been concluded. This Sunday 20th September sees a title deciding game for the Division 1 title challengers (Stockport Georgians) vs Leyland – a win (or significant points from an abandoned match) would see them crowned Division 1 champions, just beating defending champions Lindow to the title. Whilst we wait to see the outcome, the closeness of the race shows just how competitiveness in the division continues to grow. In Division 2, Nantwich finished as worthy winners, following their relegation from Division 1 last season, having been pushed all the way by Hayfield. Division 3 titles went to Chester 2s and Whalley Range, and Division 4 to Crewe, Didsbury 3s and Lindow 3s.

Cup and T20 competitions also progressed well this season with thankfully no postponements for weather. Nantwich won the T20 competition in the first year of its new league format; Stockport Georgians won the Senior T20 knock out cup, and Chester 2s won the development T20 knockout cup.

In external competitions, Leyland successfully defended their Plate title in the National T20 knock-out competition, with Lindow progressing to the last 4 in the cup competition. In the Thunder Cup, Lindow defeated Leyland in the final at Farington, meaning in both years of this competition a CWCL team has emerged as the winner.

Detailed results are published in The Dazzler regularly with credit to Martin Saxon for the excellent job he does in keeping all of us updated with progress.

Continuing challenges and dilemmas

Fixture scheduling

Thunder Cup, National T20 knock-out, Tier 3 games and age group cricket continue to present challenges for the CWCL existing set-up both for league scheduling and for the clubs to manage fixture clashes whilst trying to field competitive teams and maintain the high standard of cricket. Thunder Cup and Nationals fixtures (when teams progress through the competitions) cannot be fully accommodated within the 24 Sundays of the season alongside 14 league fixtures in Division 1. The Thunder Cup competition is currently under review – options include a mix of 50 and 20 over cricket and range from a full “premier league” proposal through to a repeat of the current 50 over cup format. It remains to be seen (a) how this will sit alongside the existing CWCL competitions and (b) whether clubs end up being in a position where they have to choose one competition over the other. More to come in the next few weeks as discussions continue between LCF, CWCL and clubs.

Division 2

Much improved vs previous season in terms of a reduced number of conceded games (only one) and a total of 7 teams in the division. However, travel distances remain challenging (Nantwich, Hayfield, Greenfield and Upton at relative extremes of the county) and the difference in standard between top and bottom of the division being particularly noticeable. Whilst the 2027 league structure remains to be finalised, there is potential for the division to grow further to comprise 8 teams and extend the cricket on offer for this group.

West of county and softball to hardball transition

Growth of the teams in the west of the county continues to be a focus, with ambition to grow Div 3 and Div 4 West over the coming seasons. Good progress is being made with teams continuing to progress from softball to hardball now the division 5-7 structure becomes embedded and established.

AOB CWCL

CWCL awards evening is currently planned for Saturday 3rd October at Sale Rugby Club, which should be an excellent opportunity to celebrate female cricket across Cheshire as well as recognise some outstanding individual performances.

2027 planning will start shortly after that with the CWCL AGM and following captains and rules meetings to come in the next few months.

GIRLS

2026 has been a phenomenal summer for girls' cricket in Cheshire. A targeted approach to club development, combined with the profile of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, has driven significant growth in girls' sections across the county. In 2025 Cheshire had 34 girls' sections. To date we have 56, an increase of 22 sections in a single summer, with projections indicating we will reach 58 by the end of the season.

As expected with this growth, the number of girls teams has also risen from 78 in 2025 to 108 to date, with further increases anticipated as additional fixtures and festivals are recorded.

The impact of this expansion is reflected in fixture volume. As reported in May, entries into the CGCL increased this summer, resulting in more girls' fixtures being played. To date there have been 314 fixtures compared with 263 at the same point last summer.

Women's Cricket

Women's cricket in Cheshire has been in a strong position for some time, and it is encouraging to see continued stability in team numbers alongside growth in playing offers and fixtures. In 2025 we had 70 women's sections, rising to 71 in 2026. Team numbers have increased from 118 in 2025 to 122 this year.

Fixture volume remains high, with 757 women's fixtures recorded to date compared with 744 at the same point last summer. These figures do not yet include women's softball festivals being added to Play Cricket, meaning the final total will rise significantly before the end of the season.

County Cricket Girls

The Girls County Age Group season delivered a mix of results across the age groups. The U14 and U16 girls enjoyed very successful campaigns, showing strong progress and consistency throughout. The U13 girls focused primarily on player development rather than results, which is reflected in their outcomes but has provided a solid foundation for future years. The U18 girls faced a challenging season, largely due to ongoing availability issues.

Individually, there have been many standout performances across the programme, and we expect positive news in the coming weeks regarding EPP selections, Academy places and Rookies contracts.

Cheshire Women County

Cheshire Women had an excellent start to their season, coming close to qualifying for T20 finals day and finishing third in their group. In the 50 over competition, they placed fifth, with availability challenges in the latter part of the season having a noticeable impact on results.

Appendix 5 – Cheshire Clubs Cricket Committee Report (David Humpage)

The season has come to an end after a very dry summer, ironically ending in rain which spoiled the final games of the season.

Cheadle clinched the CCCL Premier League with a victory over Nantwich in a game decided on Duckworth Lewis as the rain set in. A remarkable achievement by Cheadle in their first season back in the Premier Division and beating their four closest rivals in the last four games of the season. Bollington and Widnes won the promotion spots in Division 1 and will replace Bramhall and Brooklands in the 2027 Premier League.

Haslington won Division 2 and Ashton-on-Mersey Division 3. Middlewich and Mobberley were the two lowest placed sides in the CCCL, whilst Trinity and Barnton filled the two top spots in the CCL.

Elworth were the highest placed club in the North Staffs and S Cheshire League, and Wallasey the highest placed Cheshire club in the Liverpool Competition.

The Cheshire Cup was won by Hyde who beat Bollington in the final.

Much talk off the field has been about the proposed merger between the CCCL and the CCL and it seems that this is likely to go ahead in time for 2027. A meeting of both leagues will be held on 12th October to formalise the merger.

The new league will continue to be called the Cheshire County Cricket League. At the same time the clubs will consider a proposal for the merged league to be run on an open basis. This is a much more questionable proposition and the outcome of the vote is hard to predict. The principal has support but the proposed initial structure is another matter.

What of the game looking forward. Pressure on facilities continues to be a major problem as I have said previously. The expansion of women and girls cricket will only add to those pressures. Grounds are in constant use throughout the week and at weekends, and groundmen are having to slot their work in between matches. Not so easy for part time groundsmen.

Shortage of umpires is also an issue. Even the CCCL is struggling some weeks to allocate two umpires to each game and there are real problems in the Liverpool Competition. I have suggested a working party post season to examine all possible ways of covering games in the future.

I will, as always, leave Di and Jo to report in detail on the Women's League, but suffice to say that side of the game continues to grow. The appointment of panel umpires to the Women's Division 1 games has been successful with all games covered.

The County Grant Fund was almost immediately fully taken up by clubs. We have distributed around 190K to deserving club schemes, and are still hopeful of an increase in funding as other counties, somewhat remarkably, do not take up their allocation of funds.

Finally the now customary thanks to Gareth, Jess and Dave - well deserved.

Appendix 6 – Cheshire Youth Cricket Report (Paul Brown)

A brief report this time as we have yet to hold our season end meeting – this was scheduled for 30 September but has been postponed as it clashes with Ian Strachan's funeral.

Boys County Age Groups/District cricket

Another successful year for the boys' representative sides. In terms of the competition age groups:

Under 14s achieved a mid-table finish in their national 50 over competition group, the highest place national county

Under 16s reached the National 50 over quarter final, losing to Staffordshire

Under 18s reached the National Counties 20-20 knock out final, again losing to Staffordshire. They achieved a mid-table finish in the three day group

Gavin and the team have delivered a much-expanded district programme to reflect the lack of county age group fixtures below under 13s although there were a number of "best of" representative fixtures for the under 11 and under 12 age groups towards the end of the season to give the boys a taste of county cricket.

Girls cricket

Jess will no doubt provide a detailed update but in terms of competitive age groups

Under 14s – the girls finished top of their one-day group, finishing ahead of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire

Under 16s – in the T20 competition the girls also finished top of a group including Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire – 10 wins out of 10 is an outstanding record matched by their record in the group stages of the 50 over competition, the girls losing in the first knockout round to Durham

Under 18s – the side finished 5th and highest place national county in a very strong 20 over competition group. The side also finished 4th in an equally strong 50 over competition group.

Club junior leagues

Dave Atkinson will be meeting with the junior leagues in due course in order to review the season

Schools cricket

Altrincham Grammar School, with an under 15 side including a large number of CYC representative players, were proud winners of the inaugural Knight-Stokes cup for state schools, beating John Hampden Grammar School in the final at Lords

[Altrincham Grammar make history as they win national cricket title at Lord's](#)

Elsewhere, David Hill (president of the Cheshire Schools Cricket Association) has reached out to Gavin to understand how CYC assist him and the team in improving the overall running of the association which seems to have gone awry. Gavin is in discussions with David to see how we might be able to support.

Appendix 7 – Cheshire County Cricket Club (Jim Law)

At a glance

- White ball excelled over red: the 1st XI: reached the NCCA Knockout Trophy final and T20 'Super 12s' before 'wooden spooning' in the championship
- Full programme for 2nd XI with several players progressing to 1st XI cricket
- New team management process bedded in successfully
- Club President Pete Babbage sadly passed away
- Jim Law to step down as Chair

Commentary

1st XI

If travel broadens the mind, we'll sail through any end-of-season geography tests.

2026 took Cheshire to all points north, south, east and west, with July and August alone bringing trips to Keswick, Newcastle, Ipswich, Wimborne, Wolverhampton and Redruth.

Once again, white-ball cricket provided the season's highlights, although two impressive campaigns ultimately ended in disappointment.

A fine KO Trophy run took Cheshire all the way to the national 50-over final against Berkshire at Ipswich. The highlight en route was a superb semi-final victory over Cumbria, featuring an outstanding spell from Andy Jackson (10-8-3-5). Sadly, after performing well with the ball in the final, Cheshire badly misfired with the bat.

The T20 campaign followed a similar pattern. A dramatic double victory over Northumberland secured a place in the Super 12s at Wolverhampton. Alas, a below-par performance saw the side lose narrowly to Lincolnshire and miss out on Finals Day.

Red-ball cricket - now limited to just four Championship fixtures - again produced contrasting fortunes.

'Winning' draws with Dorset and Shropshire were followed by defeats to a strong Cornwall side and to Wales NC. An under-strength team never recovered from a difficult opening day in what was effectively a dead rubber, leaving the county bottom of Western Division 2.

The season did, however, include an entertaining showcase fixture against Derbyshire at Nantwich, another valuable opportunity to promote county cricket in Cheshire.

2nd XI and player development

The 2nd XI evolved into a young, hungry side and enjoyed an active programme including hosting the MCC. Frustratingly there were late cancellations by Lancashire and Cumbria.

Most encouraging was the determination of players to push for 1st XI cricket. Several made significant strides, notably Toff's U18 captain Liam Clorley and Sandbach's Jack Collett.

Clorley ended the season behind the stumps for the 1st XI and batted admirably, including 99 at Nantwich. Collett added some much-needed pace to the senior attack.

Another major positive was the emergence of Lindow slow left-armer Isaac Brooks, who also made the step into 1st XI cricket.

The progress of a young group was testament to a strong age-group pathway and the dynamic leadership of Messrs Brooks (senior!), Colebourn and Dufty. Team changes were not simply about filling gaps created by senior players' increasing club commitments; there was a genuine desire among the next generation to earn their opportunity.

And, remarkably, the sun shone...

The season in numbers

	P	W	D	L	C/A
1st XI					
50 over	7	5	-	2	-
T20	9	4	-	5	-
Championship	4	0	2	2	-
Showcase	1	-	-	1	-
2nd XI	9	2	-	4	3

An extraordinary amount of cricket was played. As well as several midweek dates, the programme accounted for 16 Sundays - a significant commitment at a time when the demands of club cricket continue to increase.

Grounds

I believe the quality and variety of our home grounds are second to none.

We were delighted to arrange matches at Alderley Edge, Bowdon, Chester Boughton Hall, Didsbury, Macclesfield, Marple, Neston, New Brighton, Nantwich, Oxton and Toft.

Our thanks go to all those clubs and their volunteers for hosting Cheshire cricket and for the considerable work that goes into staging county fixtures.

Our People

- **Pete Babbage**

The passing of our President, Pete Babbage, was a huge blow to the Club and a deeply sad loss to us all.

Pete's funeral was held in Bramhall in August and attended by many of his cricketing friends - fitting testimony to the affection in which he was held and to his enormous contribution to Cheshire CCC across so many roles.

He is greatly missed.

- **Management Committee / Captains**

2026 brought a new management structure and, as ever, our committee responded with flexibility, enthusiasm and good humour. Aided by the enthusiasm of 1st XI skippers Sam Perry and David Wainwright, match organisation seemed far slicker.

I'll expand further at the AGM, but suffice to say that secretarial work, finance, membership, team organisation, communications and the many other expected - and unexpected - duties of running the Club were taken in their stride.

There are never enough hands on deck, but a more willing group you couldn't wish for.

We remain hugely grateful for the significant support provided by a small group of benefactors and by our county members.

Our thanks also go to the Cheshire County League and Cheshire Cups committees for their cooperation, particularly in arranging earlier starts to some league fixtures to assist county travel and in accommodating changes to Cheshire Cup matches.

- **Jim Law**

After a great 20-odd years with the Club, the time has come for me to move on.

There've been various roles along the way and, latterly, four years at the helm. I've thoroughly enjoyed it, but there are now a few other things I'd like to do.

If I start compiling my thank-yous now, they should just about be finished in time for our AGM on 23 November.

Suffice to say, it's been great.

Finance

Final costs for 2026 are still being calculated but are expected to be broadly in line with projections, resulting in a small loss.

Last year's 'swing', with fewer matches and limited travel, has become this year's 'roundabout' following a much fuller programme and significantly greater travelling commitments.

We also await confirmation of the NCCA Performance Awards, through which counties receive financial rewards based on performances across the various competitions.

Cheshire's finishing position of 7th out of 20 counties in the overall rankings should therefore provide a useful financial return.

The Club's 2025 accounts are available on our website.

Senior, Women's and Disability sides are covered elsewhere.

END.